



Administrator's Decision on Appeal – Funding Year 2015-2016

October 29, 2015

Linda Sittloh
Adtec, Inc
P.O. Box 97
Centerville, IN 47330

Re: Applicant Name: EAST CENTRAL ESC
Billed Entity Number: 130590
Form 471 Application Number: 1015960
Funding Request Number(s): 2757616, 2757635
Your Correspondence Dated: August 25, 2015

After review of the information and documentation provided, the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has made its decision in regard to your appeal of USAC's funding commitment decision for the FCC Form 471 Application Number and funding requests number(s) FRN(s)) referenced above. This letter provides an explanation for USAC's decision. The date of this letter also begins the sixty (60) day time period for appealing this decision. If your Letter of Appeal included more than one FCC Form 471 Application Number, please note that you will receive a separate decision for each funding application.

Funding Request Number(s): 2757616, 2757635
Decision on Appeal: **Denied**
Explanation:

- Your FCC Form 471 1015960, funding request numbers 2757616 and 2757635 included costs for data plans and/or air cards for mobile devices which are, except under limited circumstances, ineligible for funding. USAC has given you an opportunity to provide documentation demonstrating that the data plans and/or air cards are the most cost-effective option for providing internal broadband access or that installing a wireless local area network is not physically possible. You failed to demonstrate that data plans and/or air cards for mobile devices requested in both these FRNs should be considered eligible due to one of the two above specified reasons. Accordingly, your funding request was denied. In your appeal, you did not show that USAC's determination was incorrect. Consequently, your appeal is denied.

- FCC rules provide that funding may be approved only for eligible products and services. *See* 47 C.F.R. secs. 54.502. The USAC website contains a list of eligible products and services. *See* Eligible Services List posted in the Reference Area of the SLD section of the USAC website. FCC rules further require that if 30% or more of the applicant's funding request includes ineligible products and/or services, then the funding request must be denied, otherwise the funding request will be reduced accordingly. *See* 47 C.F.R. sec. 54.504(b). The FCC's Aiken County Public Schools Order directed USAC to permit the applicant 15 calendar days from the date of receipt of notice in writing by USAC to revise its funding request to remove the ineligible services or allow the applicant to provide additional documentation to show why the services are eligible. *See* Requests for Review of the Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Aiken County Public Schools, Aiken, South Carolina, et al., Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, File Nos. SLD-397612, et al., CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 22 FCC Rcd 8735, FCC 07-61 para. 11 (May 8, 2007). Data plans and air cards for mobile devices are eligible for E-rate support only in instances when the school or library seeking support demonstrates that individual data plans are the most cost-effective option for providing internal broadband access for portable mobile devices at schools and libraries. In order to ensure that individual data plans are the most cost-effective option, applicants that seek funding for individual data plans must be able to demonstrate either that installing a WLAN is not physically possible, or must provide a comparison of the costs to implement an individual data plan solution versus a wireless local area network solution. The cost comparison may be established through the competitive bidding process by seeking and comparing bids on both internal wireless networks and individual data plans. *See* In the Matter of Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket No. 13-184, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 14-99 para. 151,153 (rel. Jul. 23, 2014).

If you wish to appeal this decision, you may file an appeal pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart I. Detailed instructions for filing appeals are available at:
<http://www.usac.org/sl/about/program-integrity/appeals.aspx>.

We thank you for your continued support, patience and cooperation during the appeal process.

Schools and Libraries Division
Universal Service Administrative Company

cc: Larry Williams