

3/25/2015

Letter of Appeal
Schools and Libraries Division - Correspondence Unit
100 S. Jefferson Rd
P.O. Box 902
Whippany, NJ 07981

Re: Letter of Appeal of Administrator's Decision on Appeal – Funding Year 2015-2016

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am submitting this letter of appeal to USAC regarding denial of E-rate FY 2015 funding request for e Internal Connections on the grounds that, the filed amounts were not within the entities' Category 2 budgets.

Appellant Name:	Erate Exchange, LLC
Applicant Name:	Evansville
471 Application Number:	1013540
Billed Entity Number:	132947
FRN:	2777562;
Service Provider:	Heartland Technology Group

SLD Explanation for denial: *"... you have not authorized sufficient modifications to Category 2 funding requests to bring this BEN within its allowable Category Two budget."*

Firstly – this is a resubmission of a previous appeal to USAC that was submitted before the 60 day FCDL postmark. This appeal was submitted to SLD on 11/20/2015. See attached confirmations. Non response receipt has prompted this to be resubmitted after the 60 days.

The issue in this case boils down simply to this: The denial of funding is based on the USAC claim to have not received proposed breakdown that keeps the entities within budget. A response with proper documentation to bring the entities under budget was sent to the PIA reviewer on 10/15/15. The attachments give the breakdown of costs to the entities.

Common practice from other PIA reviewers is if there is a problem with the submission, to bring it to the attention of the applicant, and this however was not despite a request in the submission to please alert us if there were any issues with the submission. Even so, the submission was fully in compliance with the budget and should have been implemented, not denied.

Given that the denial of funding in this case was based on an administrative error from USAC, and that the original appeal was needed because the USAC reviewer mistakenly pushed this application through to the approval stage, we respectfully request the original appeal request be enforced, and funding be restored to the FRN. Not doing so would be harmful to the district as they spent thousands of dollars on Category 2 equipment and this would severely indebt them if they do not get the support they deserve.

Furthermore, I respectfully suggest this application be given full attention as this was already submitted to SLD on 11/20/2015 without receipt from USAC. This has been an ongoing issue with submissions that needs to be resolved as it jeopardizes funding for applicants that have fully followed program rules

We respectfully request that you overturn the denial and restore full funding of the FRNs. Thank you for reviewing this appeal. Please use the contact information below.

Sean Cuskey, Director of Operations, E-rate Exchange, LLC, PO Box 451, Syracuse, NY 13206, Tel. 315.422.7608, stc@e2exchange.com

Sincerely,
E-rate Exchange, LLC

Sean Cuskey
Director of Operations

Enclosures: E-mail submission of PIA response dated 10/15/15; Appeal confirmation receipt dated 11/20/2015; USAC Appeal; Vendor Documentation from Heartland Group