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To: TechMIS Subscribers

From: Charles Blaschke

Subj: E-Rate Funding Alert: List of Districts Receiving Funding Commitment Letters
Which Could Be Used to Purchase Non-Eligible E-Rate Products and Services

Enclosed is a list of districts receiving E-Rate funding commitment letters for prior years which might offer TechMIS subscribers opportunities for purchases of non-eligible E-Rate products and services such as software, staff development, and computers. The 2002 and 2003 year commitments might have been a result of appeals made over the last three years which have been found to be "meritorious" by the SLD. In these cases, the E-Rate applicants might have paid the pre-discount price for eligible products and services and hence, could request a check in lieu of a credit for the discount amount, if it went through the Form 472 BEAR reimbursement process. If a potential customer is interested in purchasing a product but does not have adequate funding, these potential customers should be advised to contact the district E-Rate office to determine whether the Form 472 BEAR process has been used to request a "check" in lieu of a "credit" and, if so, to explore the possibility of such discount reimbursements to be used to purchase the product. We wish to emphasize that, in some cases, the district may have waited until the results of the appeal were known before purchasing the product and obviously would not have paid the prediscount price and be eligible to proceed with the BEAR process.

The attached list presents commitments of E-Rate funds to school districts and libraries that did not fall within the regular funding waves. Only commitments in excess of \$50,000 have been listed. The list represents commitments made in the fourth quarter of the School and Libraries Division's year (which corresponds to the calendar year) -- October through December 2004. These commitments cover funds from 2002 and 2003 and include E-Rate reimbursements that were not committed during the regular funding waves because of late applications, appeals, etc.

For more information go to www.sl.universalservice.org/.