

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**USAC Releases First Commitments for Funding Year 2011
in the Schools and Libraries Program**

Record Commitment of Almost \$398 Million and Nearly 18,500 Applications

Washington, D.C. – The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) will release a record wave of funding commitment decision letters (FCDLs) to Funding Year 2011 (FY 2011) school and library applicants on June 23, 2011. USAC will send almost 18,500 letters committing almost \$398 million in Universal Service Fund support. The FCDLs will notify applicants of funding commitments for Priority One services (telecommunications and Internet access) for all discount bands from 20% to 90%.

Included in this first wave are Vicksburg District Library in Michigan, Winnett School District in Montana, Assembly Christian School in Louisiana, and the Midland County Education Service Agency in Michigan, the first applicants to successfully file their FY 2011 applications. More applicants will receive funding commitment decisions in this wave than any other wave in the program history. USAC will issue waves of funding decisions each week until all decisions have been processed.

“These funding decisions are especially important now, at a time when so many deserving schools and libraries are working hard to continue providing services at their current levels,” stated Anne Campbell, Chair of the USAC Schools & Libraries Committee.

On April 12, 2011, USAC reported to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that \$4.31 billion in requested funding has been estimated for schools and libraries seeking discounts for FY 2011, an increase of \$394 million from the prior year. This estimate is based on the dollars requested in 44,139 applications received, or postmarked, by March 24, 2011, the close of the Form 471 application filing window.

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About the Universal Service Administrative Company

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) is an independent, not-for-profit corporation created in 1997 to administer universal service programs and the universal service fund. USAC collects FCC-mandated contributions from telecommunications carriers and distributes funds across the four universal service programs—High Cost, Low Income, Rural Health Care, and Schools and Libraries—pursuant to the requirements of FCC rules. Universal service is the federal policy of helping provide communities across the country with affordable telecommunications services. For more information, please visit: www.usac.org.