



SHLB Coalition USF Congressional Policy Meeting Notes

9.9.25

Action Items

- SHLB filing USF comments on Monday - thank you for your feedback!

I. SHLB/ALA/EdLinc FCC Meeting

- A. Met with Chairman Carr's staff on Tuesday 9/2 ([Summary](#))
 - 1. Our position is in strong support of RHC and E-Rate Programs. We also referenced our suggestions in the Delete, Delete, Delete docket.
- B. Meeting with Commissioner Trusty and Gomez's staff on Wednesday 9/10
 - 1. We will be having a similar conversation with Trusty and Gomez's staff tomorrow.

II. School Bus Wi-Fi & Hotspot Lending Programs

- A. [Chairman Carr asking Commission to vote to overturn two items:](#)
 - 1. Circulating a declaratory ruling that would overturn school bus Wi-Fi
 - 2. Circulating an order on reconsideration that would reverse the hotspot lending program
 - a) We believe our advocacy helped keep the hotspot CRA from coming to a vote in the House.
 - b) We are focused on the 2024 funding (for bus wi-fi) and the 2025 applicants (bus wi-fi and hotspots).
 - (1) We would want 2025 to still be funded and for this to not go into effect until 2026
 - (2) We do not want the 2024 bus wi-fi funding to be clawed back - perhaps as an improper payment.
 - (3) Instead of a Declaratory Ruling, can the Commission draft an Order and NPRM? The language could allow applicants to have proper notice of the change (rather than having it go into effect in the middle of the funding year)
 - 3. Questions and Comments:
 - a) -: If Schools own and operate buses, can those be considered classrooms?
 - b) -: On School bus wifi for 2024, how much of that money has already been spent?

- (1) The answer is some, the whole amount is about 48 million in 45 states. The vast majority of funds have been spent. However, all of the invoices have not been paid. USAC is paying those invoices slowly and with a lot of review.

III. USF Working Group Comments

- A. Draft circulated for member review - feedback due by COB Tuesday, 9/9
 1. Shoutout to Kristen Corra for drafting these comments!
 2. There is a lot of emphasis and storytelling to reiterate the importance of USF and the programs themselves (specifically about RHC and E-Rate).
 3. The bulk of our writing falls within the questions about transparency and enhancements of the four programs.
 4. FCC's statutory authority to add additional services to the E-Rate and RHC programs
 - a) We are going to add in a paragraph about the FCC's ability to add additional services to the E-Rate and RHC programs
 - b) In the Supreme Court State decision, footnote 9 and Justice Gorsuch's dissent questioned the FCC's authority around two subsections of section 254 (that allows the FCC to add services for School, Libraries and Healthcare clinics). In the opinion, the Court did not decide the statutory question when it comes to these particular sections. This case is at the 5th circuit on remand.
 5. Contribution Reform
 - a) We are not looking to make a change from our position in 2023, so we are revising the language to match what we previously stated.
 - (1) We will be citing the paper that we helped to commission with INCOMPAS a couple of years ago
 - (2) We are not taking an express position on edge providers.
- B. Questions and Comments:
 1. -: Maybe add a sentence to put into context about how the provider's financial planning and structure is intrinsically tied within this decision.
 2. -: I found this document from the Department of Labor
<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/OPA/newsreleases/2025/08/Americas-Talent-Strategy-Building-the-Workforce-for-the-Golden-Age.pdf>
 - a) They talk about Community Job Centers which is an interesting idea for an Anchor.

SHLB's next USF Congressional policy group call will reconvene on October 14, 2025 at 2:00 pm ET.

CHAT

14:00:48 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

SHLB/ALA/EdLinc FCC Meeting

Met with Chairman Carr's staff on Tuesday 9/2 (Summary)

Meeting with Commissioner Trusty's staff on Wednesday 9/10

School Bus Wi-Fi & Hotspot Lending Programs

Chairman Carr asking Commission to vote to overturn two items:

Circulating a declaratory ruling that would overturn school bus Wi-Fi

Circulating an order on reconsideration that would reverse the hotspot lending program

USF Working Group Comments

Draft circulated for member review - feedback due by COB Tuesday, 9/9

14:03:55 From to Everyone:

We have been having problems with these programs on our webinars too.

14:04:15 From to Everyone:

Replying to "We have been having problems with these programs o...":

Oof.

14:17:24 From to Everyone:

Sorry to join late--has any link to draft comments been posted during this call?

14:18:16 From to Everyone:

Replying to "resending agenda: SHLB/ALA/EdLinc FCC Meeting Met ...":

Thank you!

14:18:29 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

This is where the agenda for the FCC's meeting will be posted:

<https://www.fcc.gov/September2025>

14:19:46 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

For FY24 - \$48 million in over 45 states

14:19:56 From to Everyone:

Or Service Provider reimbursements for SPI

14:20:29 From to Everyone:

Or they COMAD to recoup disbursed funds

14:22:36 From to Everyone:

<https://www.shlb.org/anchornets-2025>

14:22:45 From to Everyone:

for more info on AnchorNets this year!

14:22:55 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

706 Comments:

https://assets.noviams.com/novi-file-uploads/shlbc/ALA_and_SHLB_Comments_on_706_NOI.pdf

14:24:29 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

(Draft USF comments sent via email - let me know if you need a copy)

14:39:09 From to Everyone:

Carr strongly supports making edge providers contribute.

14:42:44 From to Everyone:

Replying to "Carr strongly supports making edge providers contr...":

I don't disagree personally. The lifeline program is \$2.9Billion a year. Perhaps they should be contributing enough to support that program since they are the ones who benefit the most from home users having access.

14:44:04 From to Everyone:

🔴 tomorrow

14:44:19 From to Everyone:

<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/OPA/newsreleases/2025/08/Americas-Talent-Strategy-Building-the-Workforce-for-the-Golden-Age.pdf>

14:44:25 From to Everyone:

Replying to "🔴 tomorrow":

Looking forward to it! Haha

14:48:10 From to Everyone:

I look forward to seeing everybody at AnchorNets!

14:48:35 From to Everyone:

I wish i could go!

14:49:05 From Kristen Engebretsen to Everyone:

You can register at AnchorNets.org