

December 3, 2007

### **E-Rate update regarding the State Master Contract for Cisco Equipment**

Please be advised, the State Master Contract, Ameritech3, for the purchase of Cisco equipment and services will be extended to March 24, 2008 while an RFP for a new master contract is posted and the subsequent contract is eventually awarded.

Any E-Rate eligible entity that is also eligible to utilize the Cisco contract must follow guidelines set forth by USAC (the Universal Service Administrative Company) for the purpose of applying for E-Rate funding in the Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance service categories via a *state master contract that expires before the beginning of a funding year*. Please reference this guidance on the USAC website at:

<http://www.universalservice.org/si/applicants/step04/state-replacement-contracts.aspx>

This guidance contains a requirement for the State to properly file the E-Rate Form 470 when the competitive procurement process begins. This form was filed by the Illinois Century Network on November 21, 2007 in conjunction with the posting of the RFP.

This Form 470 number is: 794510000632007. The form can be viewed utilizing the search tools located on the USAC website.

2008 E-Rate funding year applications submitted for funding support under the Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance categories that reference a replacement state master contract for the purchase of Cisco equipment and services must conform with these guidelines if they are to be successful in gaining USAC approval.