



## April 2026 RHC Monthly Newsletter

April 2, 2026

### Latest News

#### Funding Year (FY) 2026 Filing Window Closed April 1, 2026

The filing window for FY2026 closed April 1, 2026. Learn more about [filing windows](#). On April 18, 2024, the FCC released Order [DA 24-366](#), directing USAC to allow health care providers to submit funding requests for the RHC program for up to 30 days after the close of the application filing window. If the FCC grants a waiver of the application filing deadline for your application, USAC will process the funding request as if it was timely filed prior to the close of the application filing window. USAC will dismiss the funding request if there is no request to waive the application filing deadline or if the FCC denies the waiver request.

For more information, please read FCC Order [DA 24-366](#). For information about the appeals process, please see the USAC [Appeals](#) page.

#### Key dates for FY2026:

## Rural Health Care Program: **Funding Year 2026**

**FY2026: JULY 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2027**



#### Submit RHC Program Post-Commitment Change Requests in RHC Connect

There are several actions that may be required outside of the regular application process. The following post-commitment change requests must be submitted by the service delivery deadline, June 30 of a given funding year:

- Site and service substitutions
- Service delivery deadline extensions

For more information, please visit the [Healthcare Connect Fund \(HCF\) Program Post-Commitment Actions](#) and [Telecommunications \(Telecom\) Program Post-Commitment Actions](#) webpages.

### Telecom Program

The following post-commitment change requests are now available in RHC Connect for Telecom Program applicants.

- Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) changes (corrective and operational)
- Site and service substitutions
- Invoice filing deadline extensions

For more information, visit the [Post-Commitment Actions](#) webpage on the USAC website as well as specific webpages for [SPIN Changes](#) and [Service Substitutions](#). A step-by-step [Post-Commitment Change Request](#) user guide is available to help you submit these requests correctly.

### HCF Program

The following post-commitment change requests are available in RHC Connect for HCF Program applicants:

- SPIN changes (corrective and operational)
- Site and service substitutions
- Service delivery deadline extensions for non-recurring charges
- Invoice filing deadline extensions

For more information, visit the [Post-Commitment Actions](#) webpage on the USAC website as well as specific webpages for [SPIN Changes](#), and [Site and Service Substitutions](#). A step-by-step [Post-Commitments Change Request](#) user guide is available to help you submit these requests correctly.

### Commitments for FY2025

To deliver funding decisions quicker, the RHC team began reviewing funding requests before the filing window closed. The first FY2025 funding commitments were issued on July 2, 2025, 30 days after the close of the filing window. To date, RHC's processing status is as follows:

- HCF Program: 96.85 percent of FCC Forms 462 are committed (Approved, Denied or Withdrawn)
- Telecom Program: 100 percent of FCC Forms 466 are committed (Approved, Denied or Withdrawn)

As of 3/27/2026 RHC has processed 97.2 percent of applications received and 86.1 percent of total funds requested for both the Telecom and HCF programs.

## New! RHC Connect System Enhancements

RHC is committed to continually improving the stakeholder experience in RHC Connect. The following system enhancements were deployed in the system on March 20, 2026:

### Anytime decommitment applicant submission and view

We are delivering a complete decommitment experience for HCF applicants, allowing them to start, submit, view, and withdraw decommitment requests. Applicants will be able to:

- Select an FCC Form 462 for partial decommitment from a list of eligible FCC Forms 462.
- Reduce a specific line item's commitment amount.
- Select one or multiple FCC Form 462 applications for full decommitment from a list of eligible FCC Forms 462.
- View an explanation when an FCC Form 462 is not available for decommitment.
- See the funding details of the selected FCC Forms 462.
- View the details of submitted decommitment requests.

The [Post Commitment Change Requests](#) user guide has been updated to reflect these upcoming changes.

### Invoicing and post-commitment controls

To prevent inconsistent or conflicting requests, we are implementing additional controls around invoicing and other post-commitment actions when decommitments have been submitted or processed. In particular, the system will:

- Restrict invoicing and other post-commitment actions on an FCC Form 462 while a related decommitment request is in submitted status.
- Update the commitment amounts available for invoicing after a decommitment has been processed.

### Email notifications

Emails will be automatically sent to HCP users when the decommitment request is:

- Submitted
- Processed
- Including a decision PDF
- Including a revised FCL for approved partial decommitments
- Withdrawn

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## New! RHC Wants to Hear from YOU!

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The RHC outreach team strives to provide useful and timely online resources. Your feedback is crucial to ensure our systems are user-friendly, and that applicants and service providers have appropriate resources available. Would you take a moment to share your thoughts in response to the following question:

- What is the biggest challenge you face when submitting the FCC Form 466? Do you have suggestions for improving the FCC Form 466 in RHC Connect?

Please send your feedback, questions, and/or insight to [RHC-Outreach@usac.org](mailto:RHC-Outreach@usac.org). We appreciate your commitment to the RHC program's continued success.

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## Online Tools

### Open Data Platform

As part of USAC's Open Data initiative, RHC program data is open and accessible to the public. Anyone is free to access and utilize the raw data submitted by Universal Service participants. Please note, data sets are regularly updated to include 10 years of information to avoid lowering the performance of USAC systems. The following data sets are available on the Open Data platform:

- [Rural Health Care Commitments and Disbursements \(FCC Form 462/466/466A\)](#) – This dataset contains data about funding decisions, total committed amounts, and total disbursement amounts for the RHC program.
- [RHC Posted Services Tool](#) – This tool allows service providers to view service request information by individual HCPs and consortia applying for funding through the RHC program.
- [Rural Health Care Posted Services \(FCC Form 461/465\)](#) – This dataset allows service providers to view service request information provided by the RHC program. The data is collected from FCC Forms 461 and 465, which includes the service request information.
- [SPIN Lookup Tool](#) – This tool can be used to view and export service provider profile data found in RHC Connect. This data includes important information regarding the service provider, such as contact information and details regarding the FCC Forms 498 and 499.

Need Help? [Contact Us!](#)

**Note:** Some users have reported issues with downloading or opening some documents in Open Data. We have improved the situation, but if you have a problem, please try to copy and paste the URL into a new tab in your browser. If the new browser window does not resolve the problem, please reach out to the [RHC Customer Service Center](#).

### Invoice Filing Deadlines

The [RHC Invoice Filing Deadline Tool](#) allows service providers and health care providers (HCPs) to look up the deadline to submit invoices for funding commitments. The tool allows users to avoid having to set up specific Excel

configurations to find their deadlines.

## FCC News

### FY2026 Telecom Program Rural Rates

On November 18, 2025, the FCC released order [DA 25-954](#). This order applies specifically to Method 3. The order waives the FCC's rules to permit the use of previously approved rural rates from FY2023 – FY2025 for funding year 2026 that would otherwise require approval of a cost-based justification for FY2026 under Method 3. Rural rates for the Telecom Program should be calculated using Method 1, or, if you cannot satisfy the requirements, then Method 2. If neither of these methods is feasible, then you must use Method 3.

For more information, read FCC Order [DA 25-954](#). Please use the [FY2026 Rural and Urban Rates tip sheet](#) as a resource.

## RHC Connect Updates

### My Portal Decommissioning

The decommissioning of My Portal has been pushed back to the middle of calendar year (CY) 2026. The RHC outreach team previously informed applicants that third-party authorizations (TPAs) will not be migrated to RHC Connect. Letters of Agency (LOA) and Letters of Exemption (LOE) must also be moved to RHC Connect. **Applicants were required to move all their TPAs and LOA/LOEs into RHC Connect by November 30, 2025.**

**NOTE:** Third-party account holders will not have access to HCPs that do not have an active TPA submitted in RHC Connect. In addition, consortium account holders will not have access to member sites if they do not have an active LOA/LOE stored in RHC Connect.

### Submit Third Party Authorizations in RHC Connect!

If you are an HCP participating in the HCF or Telecom Program, and a consultant or other third party (i.e., anyone who is not employed by the HCP) will file forms on behalf of your site, you must file a TPA with USAC. A TPA provides written authorization to USAC, allowing the third party to complete and submit forms on behalf of the HCP or consortium in the HCF or Telecom Programs. RHC program participants may now submit third party authorizations in RHC Connect. Please use the following resources to submit your TPAs:

- [Third Party Authorization webpage](#)
- [RHC Connect - Third Party Authorization User Guide](#)

### Submit LOAs and LOEs in RHC Connect

As a reminder for consortia applicants, LOAs and LOEs are also submitted in RHC Connect. Please use the following resources to submit LOAs and LOEs:

- [Letter of Agency](#)
- [Letter of Exemption](#)
- [RHC Connect LOA/LOE User Guide](#)
- [Sample LOA](#)

The RHC outreach team will continue to provide information about important deadlines and the decommissioning of My Portal.

### RHC Connect Updates – FCC Form 469

The FCC Form 469 is now available in RHC Connect. The FCC Form 469 is the new Telecom Program invoicing form. Per [FCC Order 23-6](#), the new Telecom Program invoicing process is similar to the invoicing process in the HCF Program. One key difference is that the service provider submits the FCC Form 469 in RHC Connect, the applicant receives an email alerting them of the submission, and the applicant officially submits the form to USAC by certifying and signing the form.

### RHC Connect for Service Providers

As you submit the FCC Form 463 and FCC Form 469, please keep in mind that the General Contact on the FCC Form 498 is the only user for the company who can create additional logins for other users in that company. This is done within

RHC Connect.

If you have trouble accessing RHC Connect, it may be a result of outdated information on the FCC Form 498 (Service Provider and Billed Entity Identification Number and General Contact Information Form). To correct the issue, please update your FCC Form 498 as soon as possible and, if applicable, your Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) on the [SAM.gov](#) webpage. For more information, please visit the [Manage Your 498 ID](#) webpage on the USAC website.

An [FCC Form 463](#) user guide as well as a [FCC Form 469](#) user guide, both specifically for service providers, are now available on the [Step 5: Invoice USAC](#) webpage in the RHC service provider section of the USAC website.

### Service Provider Webpage Updates

USAC's RHC and E-Rate programs have updated the [RHC Service Provider Process](#) and [E-Rate Service Provider Process](#) webpages to better support your participation in the Universal Service Fund (USF) programs. These updates:

- Ensure titles and descriptions of the service provider enrollment process reflect the key activities within each process step.
- Simplify page content where process requirements are similar.
- Continue the tradition of incorporating link-accessible resources to reduce page scroll.

Additionally, a new resource for Tribal service providers is now available:

- [Registering for a Service Provider Identification Number \(SPIN\) Checklist for New Tribal Service Providers](#)

These updates aim to improve ease of participation by aligning the steps that service providers must take to participate in the RHC and E-Rate programs – especially for small and rural service providers that are new to USAC.

### SAM.gov UEI Requirement

Beginning August 2026, USAC will begin using SAM.gov banking information to remit payment for all USF invoices. All service providers must have an active SAM.gov UEI on their FCC Form 498 and must have a valid bank account associated with their UEI. For more information, see the [SAM.gov UEI Requirement webpage](#).

### Invoicing Best Practices

Please keep in mind that once you receive an approved funding commitment, you should follow the necessary steps to invoice prior to your invoice filing deadline(s). Please be sure to respond to any invoicing Information Requests by the 14-calendar-day deadline listed in the email.

As a reminder, when a service provider does not certify an invoice, USAC sends an Information Request to remind it to do so. USAC has no role or involvement in disputes between health care providers and service providers. Healthcare providers should work with their service providers to resolve any issues.

## Important Reminders

### Information Request Tips for the RHC Program

- For FY2026 FCC Forms 462 and 466, an auto-generated email will be sent directing HCPs to RHC Connect to respond. HCPs should respond through RHC Connect only. Please use the [Information Request Tip Sheet](#) to help you navigate Information Requests sent through RHC Connect.
- Use only Chrome, Firefox, or Microsoft Edge Internet browsers when using RHC Connect.
- When uploading a document as a response, the file must be limited to 10MB, and its file name should not contain any special characters – only letters and numbers.

### Reminders for Account Holders

Per RHC program rules, a primary and secondary account holder for an individual HCP must be an officer, director, or authorized employee of the HCP. For consortium applicants in the HCF Program, the Project Coordinator must be an officer, director, or other authorized employee of the Consortium Leader. If you are an HCP participating in the HCF or Telecom Program and a consultant or other third party will file forms on your behalf, you must file a [TPA](#).

Per FCC Order 19-78, if you are a consultant, you must obtain a consultant group registration number when logging into

RHC Connect. In My Portal, the system automatically assigned a number. However, in RHC Connect, the registration number is only assigned once the simple registration process is complete. Please follow the steps shown in [RHC Connect – Third Party Authorization User Guide](#) , starting on page 9, to complete your consultant group registration and obtain the registration number.

**Note:** The primary account holder is responsible for all activities associated with submitting and certifying forms and for all activities in the RHC program for their HCP site.

### **Duplicate Funding Prohibited**

Please remember: FCC rules prohibit duplicate funding for the same service, for the same location, during the same period, from more than one FCC program. This includes the RHC programs (HCF and Telecom) and the Connected Care Pilot Program (CCPP).

### **Reminder: Certifications Requirements for National Supply Chain**

As a reminder, when service providers log in to RHC Connect, two Supply Chain certifications included in the FCC Form 463 and Telecom Program invoice will be displayed. The first certification affirms compliance with the [Section 54.9](#) prohibition on specified transactions with companies deemed to pose a national security threat. The second certification affirms compliance with [Section 54.10](#), which prohibits the use of any federal subsidies on any communications equipment and services on the [Covered List](#).

**Note:** If you requested services or equipment that provide or contain components of products produced by any company on the [Covered List](#) , or any of their parents, affiliates, and subsidiaries, you cannot invoice for these funds. Instead, you should immediately request a [service substitution](#) prior to invoicing to ensure complete program compliance. In addition, as you proceed with competitive bidding, please ensure you are not requesting funding for services or equipment from listed covered companies or any of their parents, affiliates, and subsidiaries. USAC updated the [Supply Chain](#) webpages to include three subpages: [COVID-19 Broadband Programs](#), [Audits](#) , and [FAQs](#).

### **Need Help? Contact Us!**

For questions about the Rural Health Care Program, email [RHC-Assist@usac.org](mailto:RHC-Assist@usac.org) or contact the RHC Customer Service Center (CSC) at (800) 453-1546 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET Monday through Friday for assistance. Use the [RHC CSC Tip Sheet](#) to learn about how the RHC CSC can and cannot help you.