## HCF Program Funding Request Office Hours

April 16, 2025



# Housekeeping

- Use the "Audio" section of your control panel to select an audio source and connect to sound.
  - Turn on your computer's speakers, or
  - Use the call-in instructions in your confirmation email.
- All participants are on mute.
- Use the "**Raise Your Hand**" button to be unmuted and ask a question to the team!



#### **Meet Our Presenter**



#### **Blythe Albert**

Advisor of Program Management | RHC Outreach

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Program Updates
- Submitting Forms in RHC Connect
  - RHC Connect Updates
  - Submitting the FCC Form 462
- Best Practices
- Resources

## **Introduction – Office Hours**

- Subject matter experts are available to answer live questions from program participants.
- Today's presentation will focus on the HCF Program.
- Send FRN or HCP-specific questions to the RHC Customer Service Center at <u>RHC-Assist@usac.org</u>.
- Raise your hand or ask your question in the questions box.
- Please note, recordings of Office Hours webinars are not posted to the USAC website.
- You can download a PDF copy of the slide deck from the handout section on the GoToWebinar dashboard.

# Glossary

Acronym	Definition
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
HCF	Healthcare Connect Fund
FY	Funding Year
НСР	Health Care Provider (your site)
HCP Number	Number associated with your site
PAH	Primary Account Holder
FCL	Funding Commitment Letter
NCW	Network Cost Worksheet
BAN	Billing Account Number
SPIN/498 ID	Service Provider Identification Number

#### **Program Updates**

#### HCF Program Funding Request Office Hours

#### **FCC Order DA 25-224**

- On March 13, 2025, the FCC released <u>Order DA 25-224</u> extending the deadline for the FY2025 application filing window to June 2, 2025.
- This means all funding requests (FCC Forms 462 or 466) must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on June 2, 2025.

#### Milestones to Apply for Funding for FY2025: Recommended Last Day to Submit Forms NOT using a Request for Proposal (RFP)

HCF & Telecom Program Form	Last Day to Submit for Individual HCPs NOT using a Request for Proposal (RFP)
FCC Form 460	March 10, 2025
(Eligibility)	Recommended Date
FCC Form 461 & 465	April 14, 2025
(Request for Services)	Recommended Date
FCC Form 462 & 466	June 2, 2025
(Funding Request)	<b>Deadline to Submit</b>

Please note that the FCC Form 460, 461, and 465 submission dates are not mandatory deadlines, but rather recommended milestones to ensure that the FCC Forms 461 and 465 are posted to USAC's website early enough for a minimum 28-day competitive bidding period before the deadline to submit an FCC Form 462 or 466.

#### Milestones to Apply for Funding for FY2025: Recommended Last Day to Submit Forms using a Request for Proposal (RFP)

HCF & Telecom Program Form	Last Day to Submit for Individual HCPs using a Request for Proposal (RFP)
FCC Form 460	March 4, 2025
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FCC Form 461 & 465	April 10, 2025
(Request for Services)	Recommended Date
FCC Form 462 & 466	June 2, 2025
(Funding Request)	<b>Deadline to Submit</b>

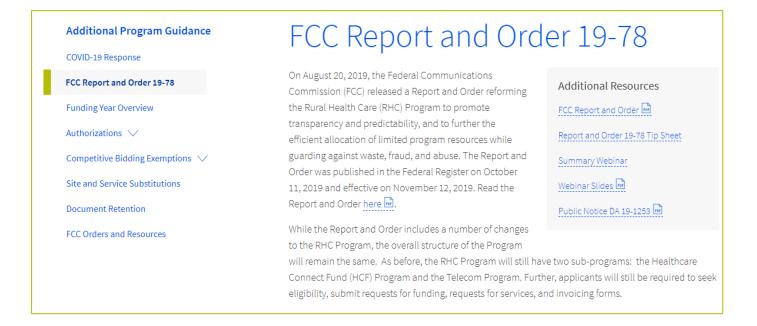
Please note that the FCC Form 460, 461, and 465 submission dates are not mandatory deadlines, but rather recommended milestones to ensure that the FCC Forms 461 and 465 are posted to USAC's website early enough for a minimum 28-day competitive bidding period before the deadline to submit an FCC Form 462 or 466.

## **Reminder – FCC Order 23-110**

- <u>FCC Order 23-110</u> improves RHC program administration and facilitates participation in the program by allowing health care providers that expect to become eligible during a funding year to complete the processes required to request funding.
- The order permits health care providers to be granted conditional eligibility, thus allowing them to initiate competitive bidding and request funding while awaiting a final eligibility determination.
- Adopts the FCC Form 460 for eligibility determinations in the Telecom Program, which will eliminate the need for Telecom Program participants to seek an eligibility determine every time they engage in competitive bidding.

### **Reminder: FCC Report and Order 19-78**

• <u>FCC Report and Order 19-78</u> webpage summarizes the Report and Order's major changes.



## FCC Report and Order 19-78 (continued)

- **Consortia Majority Rural Rule (HCF Only)** Every consortium participating in the HCF Program must consist of more than 50 percent eligible rural sites.
  - Example If there are five member sites, three must be rural.
- **Consultant Registration** USAC will issue a unique registration number to the consultant or outside expert and that number will be linked to the HCP's organization.
  - <u>RHC Connect User Guide Third-Party Authorizations</u>

## **Reminder: FCC Report and Order 19-78 (continued)**

#### • SPIN CHANGES

- A corrective SPIN change is made when the SPIN associated with a Funding Request Number (FRN) is not correct. This occurs when:
  - The applicant or USAC made a data entry error,
  - SPIN has changed due to the merger of companies or the acquisition of one company by another; or
  - The applicant has not initiated the change (e.g., where the service provider declares bankruptcy).
- An operational SPIN change is a request to change the actual service provider associated with an FRN.
  - The change in service providers is the result of a deliberate decision by the applicant.
  - The applicant has a legitimate reason to change providers (e.g., breach of contract or the service provider is unable to perform).
- **Site and Service Substitutions** HCPs in both the HCF and Telecom program are required to submit site and service substitutions by the service delivery deadline.
  - This date can be found on the Funding Commitment Letter (FCL) for the FRN (FCC Form 462 Application)

## **Reminder: Information Requests**

- If USAC requires information that cannot be located on the submitted supporting documentation, this will result in an **Information Request.**
- All account holders will receive all Information Requests.
- Applicants are given 14 calendar days to provide a response to the Information Request.
  - 11:59 p.m. ET on the 14<sup>th</sup> day would be the last time to respond to the Information Request.
- Information Requests not responded to within 14 calendar days **will result in a denial** of that form.
- An extension request must be received prior to the original 14-day Information Request deadline.

## **FY2025 Funding Request Reviews**

- RHC may begin funding request reviews before the funding request window closes.
- No final decisions will be made prior to the close of the filing window.
- Some changes to submissions must occur prior to the close of the filing window.
- This means that you may receive an Information Request before April 1, 2025.
- For FY2025 FCC Forms 462, an auto-generated email will be sent with instructions to respond through RHC Connect.
  - HCPs should respond through RHC Connect only.
  - The auto-generated email comes from an unattended mailbox so please only respond through RHC Connect.

# **Reminder: Invoice Filing Deadlines**

- Invoicing guidelines adopted in FCC <u>Report and Order 19-78</u> became effective beginning with FY2020 applicants.
- The invoice filing deadline will be four months (120 days) from the service delivery deadline in both the HCF and Telecom Programs, October 28 of a given funding year.
- Applicants and service providers may request a one time 120-day extension if the request was received prior to the original deadline.
- Please use the <u>RHC Invoice Filing Deadline Tool</u> in the Open Data section of the USAC website to look up your invoice filing deadline deadline.
- For more information, please see the <u>HCF invoice page</u> and <u>Telecom invoice page</u>.

# **Supply Chain Order**

- As a reminder, when service providers login to <u>My Portal</u> they will see two new supply chain certifications included in the FCC Form 463 and Telecom program invoice.
- The first certification affirms compliance with the <u>Section 54.9</u> prohibition on USF for specified transactions with companies deemed to pose a national security threat. The second certification affirms compliance with <u>Section 54.10</u>, which prohibits the use of any Federal subsidies on any communications equipment and services on the <u>Covered List</u>.
- **FY2024 Applicants**: If you requested services or equipment that contain components of products produced by any of the listed covered companies or their parents, affiliates or subsidiaries in FY2024, you cannot invoice for these funds. Instead, you should immediately request a <u>service substitution</u>.
- **FY2025 Applicants:** 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 or subsidiaries.

# **Supply Chain Web Page**

#### Supply Chain webpage

About 🗸	E-rate $\checkmark$	Rural Health Care $\smallsetminus$	Lifeline 🗸	High Cost 🗸	Service Providers $\smallsetminus$				
USAC   About   Rep	ports & Orders   Supply	y Chain							
<b>Reports &amp; Order</b> Annual Report	s	Supply	Chain						
FCC Filings FCC Orders		United States, the secu networks or the comm	Since November 2019, the FCC has taken a number of actions to protect the national security of the United States, the security and safety of United States persons, and the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain. The FCC has also implemented the <u>Secure and Trusted</u>						
Supply Chain		In November 2019, the Section 54.9) which pro maintain, improve, mo provided by companie	Communications Networks Act of 2019 . The FCC's actions can be found at www.fcc.gov/supplychain . In November 2019, the FCC released the <u>Supply Chain First Report and Order</u> adopting a rule (47 CFR Section 54.9) which prohibits the use of Universal Service Fund (USF) support to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, modify, operate, manage, or otherwise support equipment or services produced or provided by companies found to pose a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain.						

# **Questions?**

#### **RHC Connect – Updates**

#### HCF Program Funding Request Office Hours

## **RHC Connect Updates**

Form	<b>Current Platform</b>	<b>RHC Connect Migration</b>
FCC Forms 460 & 465 - Letters of Agency (LOA) - Third Party Authorization (TPA)	RHC Connect RHC Connect RHC Connect	RHC Connect RHC Connect RHC Connect
FCC Form 461	RHC Connect	FY2023 and forward
FCC Form 462	RHC Connect	FY2022 and forward
FCC Form 463	RHC Connect	FY2022 and forward
FCC Form 463	My Portal	FY2021 and prior – multi-year commitments
HCF Post-Commitment Change Requests Telecom Post-Commitment Change Requests	RHC Connect My Portal	FY2022 and forward FY2024 and forward – in development
FCC Form 466	RHC Connect	FY2024 and forward
FCC Form 469 (Telecom Invoice Form)	My Portal	RHC Connect

#### **RHC Connect - TPA and User Management**

- Moved to RHC Connect.
- Do not submit TPAs in My Portal or through the RHC Customer Service Center.
- Submit all TPAs and manage Consultant Groups using the following online resources:
  - <u>RHC Webinars</u> webpage Authorizations and User Management Webinar (March 5, 2025)
  - RHC Connect User Guide TPA

# **RHC Connect – Submitting the FCC Form 462**

#### HCF Program Funding Request Office Hours

# **My Portal Landing Page**

- Log into My Portal and click
   Rural Health Care then
   RHC Connect
- For all other forms that have not yet moved to RHC Connect, you will use RHC My Portal

Dashboard	
	ders, new certifications have been added to the following forms: RHC - FCC Form 463 and the Service providers are required to submit these annual certifications. For additional informat
💾 Upcoming Dates	
HCF Program 11/13 Funding Request Webinar	Rural Health Care
Telecom 11/20 Funding Request	<b>RHC Connect</b> - Health care providers must use this section to create and submit required forms for the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program and for the Telecommunications (Telecom) Program.
Webinar HCF 12/11 Consortium Best Practices Webinar	<b>RHC My Portal</b> - Health care providers must use this section to create and submit required forms for the Connected Care Pilot Program (CCPP), and the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program for multi-year commitments from FY2021 and earlier.
see full calendar	<b>Connected Care Pilot Program</b> - Health care providers must use this form to complete, certify, and submit their required Connected Care Pilot Program Annual Reports and Final Report.

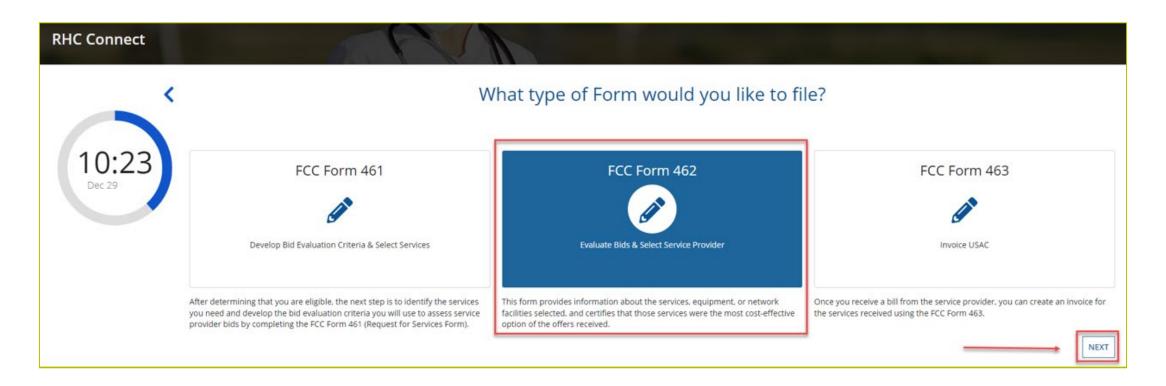
### Dashboard

- You can start a new form, view the status of submitted and processed applications, resume working on a draft or delete a draft FCC Form 462.
- There's a countdown banner displaying the days remaining in the filing window.

STUIT A FORM	-	0		-			-		
		1					37		
	RHC Connect	(37) Unread Notifications							
	17:57	-	formation Requests	© The Fu	My Forms	ow closes in 3 days.	My O	Irganizations	
	Oct 27	My Forms							
		Form Type Form 462 • Op Search Form 4624	9	ARCH					
		Site Name	Site Num	ber Application Numb	er I Application Nickname	Form	Last Update	Status	Actions
						Form 462	9/23/ 4/17 PM EDT	Processed	• • •
						Form 462	9/22/ 04 PM EDT	Submitted	

#### **Start a New Form**

• Select FCC Form 462, then click **Next**.



## **Start Page**

Start Page Co	impetitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
Start							
Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)							
A Note: Once you select HCP, and then Save 8	& Continue, you will not t	e able to change the HCP. Please select ca	refully.				
Health Care Provider (HCP) Information							
HCP or	Consortium					•	
FCC	Registration						
	Address						
	State						
Application Basics							
	Application Consort	um FRN #1					
	Nickname						
	unding Year						
	tion Number						
Fun	ding Priority Priority 8						

# **Competitive Bidding**

2 DASHBOARD		IEW FORM				
		🖺 SAVE DRAFT				
		Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation
		Competitive Biddin	g			
	Is the HCP requesting that this application be exempt from com Yes No			ive bidding? 🕖		
		Explanations				
		BACK EXIT				

# **Competitive Bidding (continued)**

CASHBOARD START A N	
	😫 SAVE DRAFT
	Start Page Competitive Bidding Service Provider Information Expense Items Additional Documentation Confidentiality Certifications
	Competitive Bidding
	Is the HCP requesting that this application be exempt from competitive bidding? Yes No
	Explanations
	If your site meets one of the competitive bidding exemptions below, you are not required to submit the FCC Form 461 and go through the competitive bidding process. You are exempt from competitive bidding if any of the following apply: <b>1. Government Master Service Agreement (MSA)</b> : You are seeking support for services and equipment purchased from master service agreements (MSAs) negotiated by a federal, state, Tribal, or local governmental entity on the applicant's behalf, and awarded pursuant to applicable federal, state, Tribal, or local competitive bidding requirements.
	2. Master Service Agreements (MSA) Approved Under the Rural Health Care Pilot Program or HCF Program: You are opting into an existing MSA approved under the Rural Health Care Pilot program or the HCF program and seeking support for services and equipment purchased from the MSA, as long as the MSA was developed and negotiated in response to an RFP or request for services that specifically solicited proposals that included a mechanism for adding additional sites to the MSA.
	3. Evergreen Contract: You have an existing contract already endorsed by USAC as evergreen.
	4. Schools and Libraries Program Master Contracts: You are an eligible HCP in a consortium with participants in the Schools and Libraries (E-rate) program and are purchasing services and/or network equipment under a contract approved under the E-rate program as a master contract.
	5. Annual Undiscounted Cost of \$10,000 or Less: If you are seeking support for \$10,000 or less of total undiscounted eligible expenses for a single year you may bypass the competitive bidding process.
	<ul> <li>For consortia applicants, this exemption is \$10,000 for all funding requests submitted for the consortium.</li> <li>Note: If you select this option on your FCC Form 462, you will not be able to request a multi-year funding commitment.</li> </ul>
	BACK EXIT

# **Competitive Bidding Exemptions**

🖺 SAVE DRAFT							
Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
Competitive Biddin	g						
Is the HCP requesting that this ap Yes No Explanations	oplication be exempt from competit	tive bidding? 🕢				>	
Select the exemption that the HC Annual Undiscounted Cost of \$10 Government Master Services Ag Pre-Approved Master Services Ag Evergreen Contract E-rate Approved Contract Contracts	0,000 or less reement						
Contract Name	с	ontract Document	Contract Sign	Date	Contract End Date	Initial	Contract Term
			No ite	ms available			
BACK EXIT							ADD CONTRACT EDIT DELETE

# **Competitive Bidding Exemptions (continued)**

- Click Yes.
- Choose exemption type.
- Upload contract.
  - For evergreen contracts, select a contract from the drop-down menu.
- Enter the relevant contract information in the fields.
  - Use the drop-down calendar to enter dates.

Start Page		Competitive Bidding	Service Provider I	Start
A Competitive B	Bidding			Competitiv
Is the HCP requesting th Yes No Select the exemption th		n be exempt from competi ning *	tive bidding? 😧 *	Is the HCP reques Yes No Select the exemp Annual Undisco
O Annual Undiscounted (		•		Government M
O Government Master Se	ervices Agreement			O Pre-Approved M
O Pre-Approved Master S	ervices Agreemen	t		Evergreen Cont
Evergreen Contract				C E-rate Approved
O E-rate Approved Contra	act			New Contract
New Contract				Select an Existi
Select an Existing Con	tract*			
Select a contract alread	ly associated with ti	his HCP 🔻		Contract Sign D
Please select a contract.				10/01/2021
Contract Sign Date	Contract End	Date (Optional)		Length of Initia
mm/dd/yyyy 🛱	mm/dd/yyyy	曲		36
Length of Initial Contr	act Term			Number of Con
	Time Unit	-		5
Number of Contract E	xtensions (Option	al)		Total Combined
				5
Total Combined Lengt				CANCEL
CANCEL	Time Unit			
CARCEL				BACK EXIT

Start	Page		Compet	itive Bidding	Service Provider Informa
Competitiv	e Bid	ding			
		-	be exer	npt from compet	itive bidding? 😧 *
Select the exempt Annual Undisco Government Ma Pre-Approved M Evergreen Contr	unted Co ister Sen laster Se	ost of \$10,000 or le vices Agreement	ess		
E-rate Approved	l Contrac	t			
New Contract					
Select an Existin		act* Contract End I	r Date (On	tional)	
10/01/2021	曲	09/30/2024	曲 (0)		
Length of Initial	Contra	t Term			
36		Months *	,		
Number of Cont	ract Ext	ensions (Optiona	al)		
5					
Total Combined	Length	of Optional Exte	nsions (	Optional)	
5		Months •	·		
CANCEL					
BACK EXIT					

# **Competitive Bidding Exemptions (continued)**

• Once the contract is selected, click **Save and Continue**.

	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
ompetitive Bidding	5						
	application be exempt from competi	itive bidding? 😧*					
Yes							
No							
ect the exemption that the H Innual Undiscounted Cost of S							
iovernment Master Services A							
re-Approved Master Services	Agreement						
	Agreement						
Pre-Approved Master Services Evergreen Contract E-rate Approved Contract	Agreement						
Evergreen Contract	Agreement						
ivergreen Contract -rate Approved Contract tracts	Agreement Contract Name	Contract Docume	ent	Contract Sign Date	Contract End Date		Initial Contract Term
Evergreen Contract E-rate Approved Contract		Contract Docum	ent	Contract Sign Date	Contract End Date		Initial Contract Term 36 Months
ivergreen Contract Grate Approved Contract tracts		Contract Docume	ent	Contract Sign Date	Contract End Date		
vergreen Contract rate Approved Contract tracts		Contract Docume	ent	Contract Sign Date	Contract End Date		

# **Competitive Bidding Non-Exempt**

- Click No.
- Choose related FCC Form 461 from drop-down menu.
  - All FCC Forms 461 for the HCP will be available.
- Enter number of bids received.
- You'll be required to upload copies of bids.

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information
A Competitive Biddin	g	
	pplication be exempt from competi	tive bidding? 😯 *
() Yes		
O No +		
Related FCC Form 461 Applicatio	n*	
Is the HCP continuing with the c	urrent service provider?*	
() Yes		
O No		
Number of Service Providers The	st Bid *	
3		
Upload Bids		
Da	cument Type	
	content type	
Add Documents		
Must Upload a file.		

Upload Bids	_		
Document Type	Document	Uploaded On	
Bids			×
Add Documents			
BACK EXIT			SAVE & CONTINUE

# **Service Provider Information**

- Select 498 ID/SPIN.
- Click Save and Continue.

🖺 S	AVE DRAFT							
	Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
Sei	vice Provider Info	rmation						
	498 ID/SPIN	Service Prov N	vider centurylink SE	ARCH CLEAR				
	498 ID/SPIN		Service Provider Name					
	143022618		CenturyLink CenturyTel Solutions, L	LC				
	143001636		CenturyLink CenturyTel of Ooltewal	n-Collegdale, Inc.				
	143002667		CenturyLink CenturyTel of the Gem	State (Nevada)				
	143002671		CenturyLink Central Telephone Co.	of Nevada (FKA)				
	143005231		CenturyLink Qwest Corporation					
								≪ < 6 - 10 of 67 > ≫
You	have selected 143005231 - Ce	nturyLink Qwest Corporation 🗲						
BA	CK EXIT							SAVE & CONTINUE

#### **Expense Items – Summary Page**

- Download the NCW Template and save.
- Populate all information and upload the NCW to RHC Connect.
- Any information entered manually will be overwritten by the NCW document once it's uploaded.

Start P	age	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Infor	mation Expense	Items Additional Doc	cumentation Confidentia	lity Certificatio	ns	Signature
								Downle	ced Features load NCW Template d NCW Document
Expe	ense Itei	m Summary						ENTER	A NEW EXPENSE ITE
E <b>xpe</b> # 1	ense Iter	<b>m Summary</b> Site Name		Contract Number	Expense Type	Eligible Undiscounted Cost	Maxium Support Amount		R A NEW EXPENSE ITE Actions
-		-	۱	Contract Number	Expense Type Network Maintenance	Eligible Undiscounted Cost	Maxium Support Amount		

# **Using the NCW Template**

- Do not disturb the formatting.
  - When using "copy" and "paste" to enter data, be sure to paste using a "text" or "values" format.
  - If any data is entered manually prior to uploading the NCW, that data will be overwritten when the NCW is uploaded.
  - If after uploading the NCW data isn't saved or you're directed back to the summary page, the formatting has been changed.
    - Download a new NCW template and try again.

							Contract	Status								Eнр	oense Informatio	n			Expense	Туре			Ban	dwidth			Service	Level Agr	eement					
	A	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	1	J	К	L	М	N	0	Р	Q	R	S	Т	U	V	W	×	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH		
Line Number	Site Number	Site Name	Is there a contract with the service provide∩?	Contract ID	Contract Nickname	Contract Start Date (yyyy-mm-dd)	Initial Contract End Date (optional) (yyy- mm-dd)	Contract Sign Date (уууу-mm-dd)	Install Date (yyyy-mm-dd)	Number of Contract Extensions (optional	Length of Initial Contract Term	Length of initial	Total Combined Length of Optional Extensions (optional)	Time Unit of Extensions (optional)	Is this is a newly installed circuit?	Billing Account Number (optional)	Expected Service Start Date (yyyy-mm- dd)	Installation Date (yyyy-mm-dd)	Category of Expense	Expense Type	Explanation of Expense (optional)	Total Number of Fiber Strands (optional)	Total Number of Fiber Strands Eligible fo Support (optional)	Upload Speed	Upload Speed Unit	Download Speed	Download Speed Unit	Is there a service level agreement (SLA) with the service provider for this expense item? (Optional)	SLA for Latency	SLA for Jitter	SLA for Packet Loss	SLA for Packet Reliability	Circuit ID (optional)	Where is the ste's location on the circuit	Is this Member Site, Service Provider Site or Neither?	HCP Number
			aYes		-										No				Data	Dark Fiber		_		1.00	Mbps	1.00	Mbps	Yes	<8 ms	<10 MS	<0.001	0.9999		Circuit Start Location		
2	-		aYes	-											No				Data	Ethernet				500.00	Mbps	500.00	Mbps	Yes	<8 m s	<10 MS	<0.001	0.9999		Circuit Start Location		
			aYes							1					No				Data	Dark Fiber				1.00	Gbps	1.00	Gbps	Yes	<8 m s	<10 MS	<0.001	0.9999		Circuit Start Location		
4			aYes	_					-	-					No				Data	Ethernet				100.00	Mbps	100.00	Mbps	Yes	<8 ms	<10 MS	<0.001	0.9999		Circuit Start Location		
			aYes	-											No		_	_	Data	Ethernet				50.00	Mbps	50.00	Mbps	Yes	<8 m s	<10 MS	<0.001	0.9999		Circuit Start Location		

#### **Expense Items – Contract Status**

- For consortia applicants, select a member site from drop-down menu.
- Select **No** for submission without contract (month-to-month).

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality
	6				,
xpense ltems					
xpense Item 1 of 1 tal Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$0.00 ximum Support Amount \$0.00					
			Expense Item Site		
> Contract Status			Select		
O Expense Information			Does the HCP have a Contract	with the Service Provider? 😧	
			No (process this item as mon	th-to-month)	
O Expense Type					
O Bandwidth					
O Service Level Agreement					
<ul> <li>Circuit Information</li> </ul>					
O Financial Information					
<ul> <li>HCP Contribution Source</li> </ul>					
m of All Expense Item Total Eligible Undiscoun m of All Expense Item Maximum Support Amo					
BACK EXIT					

# **Expense Items – Contract Status (continued)**

- Select **Yes** for submission with contract.
- Select an existing contract or upload a new contract.
- Enter information about the contract.

	Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality 0
Ex	pense ltems					
Total I	ense Item 1 of 1 Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$0.00 num Support Amount \$0.00					
>	Contract Status			Expense Item Site		•
0	Expense Information			Does the HCP have a Contract with Yes No (process this item as month-to		
0	Expense Type			Select an Existing Contract	Contract Nickname	Upload a New Contract
0	Bandwidth			Select a contract already associated		UPLOAD C Drop file here
0	Service Level Agreement			Contract Start Date	Initial Contra	act End Date 曲
0	Circuit Information			Length of Initial Contract Term		
0	Financial Information			Time	e Unit 💌	
0	HCP Contribution Source			Number of Contract Extensions (C	Optional)	
	All Expense Item Total Eligible Undiscounte All Expense Item Maximum Support Amou			Total Combined Length of Optiona	al Extensions (Optional)	
				Contract Sign Date	Install Date	曲

## **Expense Items – Contract Status (continued)**

- Enter the Contract Start Date, Initial Contract End Date, Contract Sign Date, and Install Date.
- Reviewers will read the contract to confirm all information entered.

Does the HCP have a Co	ntract with the Se	ervice Provider? 😢	
O Yes			
O No (process this item a	is month-to-month	h)	
		1	
Select an Existing Contra		Contract Nickname	Upload a New Contract
-	-	DR	UPLOAD Drop file here
			L
Contract Start Date	1	Initial Contr	ract End Date
前			<b>#</b>
100			
	1		
()	t Term	1	
Length of Initial Contrac		2	
()	tt Term Years 💌		
Length of Initial Contrac	Years 👻	D)	
Length of Initial Contrac	Years 👻	1)	
Length of Initial Contrac 3 Number of Contract Ext	Years 👻	1)	
Length of Initial Contract 3 Number of Contract Ext 5	Years 🔻		
Length of Initial Contrac 3 Number of Contract Ext 5 Total Combined Length	Years 🔻		
Length of Initial Contrac 3 Number of Contract Ext 5	Years 🔻		
Length of Initial Contrac 3 Number of Contract Ext 5 Total Combined Length	Years 🔻		

#### **Expense Items – Expense Information**

Enter Expected
 Broadband
 Service Start Date.

	Start Dage	Competitive Riddia-	San isa Dravidas lafara	Eveneralitaria	Additional Desumentation	Confidentiality	Ce
	Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Ce
Ex	pense ltems						
otal E	ense Item 1 of 1 ligible Undiscounted Cost \$N/A lum Support Amount \$N/A						
~	Contract Status			Is this a newly installed circuit? Yes No			
>	Expense Information			Billing Account Number (Optional	1)		
0	Expense Type			Expected Broadband Service Start	t Date		
0	Bandwidth				year start date. Please make sure t ave already started this service.	hat this is the date when you actually	'
0	Service Level Agreement			Installation Date mm/dd/yyyy 歯			
0	Circuit Information						
0	Financial Information						
0	HCP Contribution Source						
	All Expense Item Total Eligible Undiscount All Expense Item Maximum Support Amou						
BAC	< EXIT						

#### **Expense Items – Expense Type**

- Choose Expense Category and Expense Type from the dropdown menus.
- Provide a brief explanation of the eligible expense.

			Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidential
Ex	pense ltems				
Total E	ense Item 1 of 1 Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$N/A hum Support Amount \$N/A				
~	Contract Status	<b>Expense Cates</b> Data	zory		
~	Expense Information	Expense Type Ethernet			
>	Expense Type				
0	Bandwidth		f Eligible Expense (Optional) it between service provider a		
0	Service Level Agreement				
0	Circuit Information				
0	Financial Information				
0	HCP Contribution Source				

## **Expense Items – Bandwidth**

• Enter bandwidth speeds.

	Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Inforr	nation	Expense Items A	dditional Documentation
Ехр	ense ltems					
Total Eli	mse Item 1 of 1 gible Undiscounted Cost \$48,480.00 m Support Amount \$31,512.00					
				Download Spee	d	
<b>~</b>	Contract Status			10		Mbps
~	Expense Information			Upload Speed		
~	Expense Type			10		Mbps
>	Bandwidth					
0	Service Level Agreement					
0	Circuit Information					
0	Financial Information					
0	HCP Contribution Source					

# **Expense Items – Bandwidth (Continued)**

- For equipment, installation, construction and network management services, bandwidth does not have to be entered if not applicable.
- For all other services, bandwidth is required.

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality
<b>Cpense Items</b> pense Item 1 of 1 Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$N					
imum Support Amount \$N/A Contract Status		Download	Speed		
<ul> <li>Expense Information</li> </ul>		Leave blank if l Upload Spo	bandwidth is not applicable eed	Select	
Expense Type		Leave blank if	bandwidth is not applicable	Select	
Bandwidth     Service Level Agreeme	ent				
O Circuit Information					
O Financial Information					
O HCP Contribution Sou	rce				
ium of All Expense Item Total Eligible Uni ium of All Expense Item Maximum Suppo					
BACK EXIT					

#### **Expense Items – Service Level Agreement (SLA)**

- If **No** is selected, fields will not appear.
- If **Yes** is selected, enter the information about the SLA.

Expense Items	
Expense Item 1 of 1 Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$48,480.00 Maximum Support Amount \$31,512.00	
<ul> <li>Contract Status</li> </ul>	Is there a service level agreement (SLA) with the service provider for this expense item? (Optional) <ul> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Expense Information</li> </ul>	What is the SLA for Latency? (Optional)
<ul> <li>Expense Type</li> </ul>	What is the SLA for Jitter? (Otional)
✓ Bandwidth	What is the SLA for Packet Loss? (Optional)
> Service Level Agreement	
O Circuit Information	What is the SLA for Packet Reliability? (Optional)

# **Expense Items – Circuit Information**

- Address of the HCP on expense item will pre-populate based on information in the FCC Form 460.
- "Start location" and "End location" cannot be the same address.

#### **Expense Items** Expense Item 1 of 1 Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$48,480.00 Maximum Support Amount \$31,512.00 Circuit ID (Optional) Contract Status Image: A second s Where is the site's location on the circuit? The circuit starts at the site location Expense Information The circuit ends at the site location ~ Expense Type **Circuit Start Location** Bandwidth ~ Address Line 1 Service Level Agreement ~ Address Line 2 **Circuit Information** > City Financial Information 0 State CO HCP Contribution Source 0 **ZIP** Code

# **Expense Items – Circuit Information (continued)**

- If the HCP is an Administrative Office or Data Center, the location on the other end of the circuit is required.
- For all other entity types, addresses are suggested but not required to advance to the next page.

Circuit ID (Optional) Where is the site's location on the circuit? The circuit starts at the site location The circuit ends at the site location	
Where is the site's location on the circuit? The circuit starts at the site location	
• The circuit starts at the site location	
• The circuit starts at the site location	
•	
Circuit Start Location	Circuit End Location
	O Location is a Member Site
	<ul> <li>Location is the Service Provider</li> <li>Location is not a Member Site or Service Provider</li> </ul>
Address Line 1	Address Line 1
Address Line 2	Address Line 2
City	
	City
State	
co	State
ZIP Code	Choose a State
	ZIP Code
	State

# **Expense Items – Financial Information**

- If you select **No** for "is this entire expense eligible for support", you're indicating that this expense is costallocated.
- Enter the eligible percentage and an explanation of the methodology used to determine percent entered
- Upload the required document

Does this expense item represent multiple items o	r circuits? 👽	
Ves		
O No		
Multi-year Funding Request		
🔿 Yes		
O No		
How often is this item expensed?		
Monthly		-
the second s		
How many expense periods will there be total?		
12		
Undiscounted Cost Per Expense Period (Excluding	axes and Fees)	
\$1,000.00		
Taxes and Fees per Expense Period		
\$50.00		
Is this entire expense eligible for support? 🕢	Percent Eligible for Support	
0 No	90	
Explanation		
-		
Ten locations use this service but one site is ineligible	e for funding.	
		70/1000
		1

#### **Expense Items – Multiple Items**

- The quantity of items, for example number of routers or PRI lines.
  - The number (s) should match the quantity on the documentation.

Expense Items	
Expense Item 2 of 2 Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$0.00 Maximum Support Amount \$0.00	
	Does this expense item represent multiple items or circuits? 🚱
	• Yes
<ul> <li>Contract Status</li> </ul>	○ No
	Quantity of Items

# **Expense Items – Financial Information (Continued)**

• Check all that apply.

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality
Expense Items					
Expense Item 1 of 1 otal Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$12,600 laximum Support Amount \$8,190.00	.00				
<ul> <li>Contract Status</li> <li>Expense Information</li> <li>Expense Type</li> <li>Bandwidth</li> </ul>			How will the HCP cover their of that apply) The HCP will cover the differe State grants, funding, or appr Federal funding, grants, loans Tribal government funding Other grant funding including	opriations s, or appropriations	e not covered by HCF support? (select all
<ul> <li>Service Level Agreement</li> </ul>					
<ul> <li>Circuit Information</li> </ul>					
<ul> <li>Financial Information</li> </ul>					
> HCP Contribution Source					
im of All Expense Item Total Eligible Undiscou (2,600.00 im of All Expense Item Maximum Support Am					
BACK EXIT					

#### **Expense Items – Summary**

Expense Item Summary								
#	1 Site #	Site Name	Contract Numbe	r Expense Type	Eligible Undiscounted Cost	Maxium Support Amount	Actions	
1				Ethernet	\$24,240.00	\$15,756.00	Edit   Delete	
Show 5 records/page Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$24,240.00 Total Maximum Support \$15,756.00								
CK EXIT	EXIT							
							Approved by OMB 3060	
			If you have questions please contact our H	Help Desk at (800) 453-1546 or RH(	C-Assist@usac.org 8:00 a.m. — 8:00 p.m. ET Monda	ay through Friday for assistance.		

#### **Additional Documentation**

• Consortia applicants are required, at minimum, to upload a Viable Source Letter before continuing.

	Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
<b>▲</b> Additi	ional Documentat	ion						
	Use this tab to upload addition	nal documentation that is relevan	to the application. Ensure that all bandwi	dths, costs, service locations, a	and expense types are supported with docu	imentation.		
	Service provider document	ntation required to confirm exper	ses					
	Document Type		Description		Document		Uploaded On	t
				No item	is available			
	UPLOAD DOCUMENT(S)							
- 1	Must upload a file of docum	ent type Viable Source Letter						
BACK	ТІХ							SAVE & CONTIN

# **Additional Documentation (continued)**

• To upload more than 10 documents, follow the instructions in the blue banner.

								_
	Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
Additio	nal Documenta	tion						
	Service provider docu	umentation required to confirm exp	enses					
	Doc	cument Type			Document		Uploaded On	
				No iter	ns available			
	Add Document							
	Bulk Upload *							
	UPLOAD 🛱 Drop files I	here					_	
- [	🖒 Note: 10 files can be	uploaded at a time (up to <b>100</b> total).	Click Next on this screen once the 10 docu	ment limit has been reached; )	you may then click UPLOAD DOCUMENT(S)	again to add another batch of file		
BACK	хіт						-	N
								Approved by OMB 3060

# Confidentiality

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items
Confidentiality			
	Is the HCP requesting confidential	treatment and non-disclosure of comm	ercial and financial information?*
	⊖ Yes		
	○ No		
	Explanation		
BACK EXIT			

## Certifications

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
Certification	s						
I certify under pen	alty of perjury that I a	m authorized to submit	t this request on beha	If of the applicant or co	onsortium.		
l certify under pen contained therein		nave examined this requ	lest and all attachmer	nts and to the best of n	ny knowledge, informa	ation, and belief, all sta	tements of fact
services. "Cost-effe	ective" is defined as th	e applicant or consortiu ne "method that costs th method of providing th	ne least after consider	ration of the features, o	quality of transmissior		
I certify under pen	alty of perjury that all	RHC Program support	will be used only for e	eligible health care pur	poses.		
l certify under pen Healthcare Conne		e applicant or consortiu	im is not requesting s	upport for the same se	ervice from both the T	elecommunications Pro	gram and the
		e applicant or consortiu ninistrator that erroned					ion rules, and
l certify under pen	alty of perjury that I h	ave reviewed all applica	able rules and require	ments for the RHC Pro	gram and complied w	ith those rules and req	uirements.
I understand that all documentation associated with this application, including all bids, contracts, scoring matrices, and other information associated with the competitive bidding process, all billing records for services received and any other documentation demonstrating compliance with the rules must be retained for a period of at least five years after the last date of service delivered in a particular funding year pursuant to 47 CFR §§ 54.631 or as otherwise prescribed by the Commission's rules.							period of at least five
	I certify under penalty of perjury that the applicant or consortium and/or its consultant, if applicable, has not solicited or accepted a gift or any other thing of value from a service provider participating in or seeking to participate in the RHC Program.						
or other financial s		y consultants or third p losen to provide the rec re bidding.					
BACK EXIT							SAVE & CONTINUE

# Signature

 Sign by typing your first and last name into the Digital Signature field.

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
ignatur	e						
Current User Infor	mation						
		Name					
		Email					
		Phone Employer					
		Title					
	E	mployer's FCC RN					
Signature							
	Cer	tifier's Full Name					
		Digital Signature					
		Date					
BACK EXIT							CERTIFY & SUI

# **After Submitting**

- You will receive an email letting you know that your form has been received.
  - If you do not receive an email, please go back into My Portal and be sure that you actually signed and submitted the form.
- Draft forms remain in RHC Connect but are not considered submitted until signed, certified, and submitted.
- The reviewer will reach out if additional information is needed.
- No funding decisions will be issued until after the close of the filing window period.
- Once your funding request has been approved, you will receive a Funding Commitment Letter (FCL) that will include all corresponding information to your funding request.

Available for Public Use

# **Questions?**

Available for Public Use

#### **Best Practices**

#### HCF Program Funding Request Office Hours

# **Submission Checklist**

- Document(s) confirming the monthly cost for your services (e.g., a copy of your bill dated within the requested funding period) or the most currently available bill as the filing window closes before the funding year opens
- A copy of all bids that were received for your request for services including the winning bid, all bids that were rejected and any bids that were disqualified and why
- A list of the bid evaluation criteria and copy of the bidding evaluation matrix
- A list of people who evaluated bids including title, role, and their relationship to the applicant
- Internal documents related to the selection of the service provider (upon request)
- Copies of any correspondence with service providers prior to and during the competitive bidding process (upon request)
- A copy of any new contract signed for your services
- Award letter to winning vendor (upon request)
- Contact information for the service provider and all responsible account holders
- □ The start and end location of your services.
- □ Viable source letter for consortia applicants (35 percent contribution)

\* Any information that cannot be located on the submitted supporting documentation will result in an Information Request

# **Best Practices – Competitive Bidding**

- Begin your competitive bidding process early.
  - Bidding period opened on July 1, 2024, for FY2025.
- Once the ACSD has passed and you've chosen a service provider, include them when you information is needed to respond to an Information Request.
- Ensure your service provider is aware of all the necessary documentation needed for future steps in the application process.
- All bid correspondence should be handled via email for audit purposes.
- HCPs and service providers are required to retain documentation for a minimum of five years.

# **Best Practices – FCC Form 462 (Funding Request)**

- Do not enter into an agreement with a service provider until after the ACSD has passed.
- Include all required documentation when submitting your FCC Form 462.
- Include a cover letter if needed to clarify information entered into the FCC Form 462.
- If submitting funding requests for equipment, data center or administrative offices or network expenses, tip sheets can be found on the <u>Step 4: Submit Funding Requests</u> webpage under the Additional Resources section.
- Be sure to actually sign, certify and submit all FCC Forms 462 before 11:59 p.m. ET on April 1, 2025 (Drafts are not considered submitted).
- HCPs and service providers are required to retain documentation for a minimum of five years.

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#### **Resources**

#### HCF Program Funding Request Office Hours

# **Upcoming Trainings**

Please join the RHC Outreach team for the following webinars:

- Telecom Office Hours Webinar:
  - When: Wednesday, April 23, 2024, from 2-3 p.m. ET <u>Register</u>
- HCF Office Hours Webinar
  - When: Wednesday, May 7, 2025, from 2-3 p.m. ET <u>Register</u>
- Telecom Office Hours Webinar:
  - When: Wednesday, May 14, 2025, from 2-3 p.m. ET <u>Register</u>
- For a list of upcoming webinars, check the RHC <u>Upcoming Dates</u> webpage for dates and details.

#### **Online Resources**

- <u>RHC Learn</u>
- <u>Step 4: Submit Funding Request</u> webpage
- <u>Welcome to RHC Connect FCC Form 462</u> webpage
- <u>Competitive Bidding Exemptions</u>
- <u>Request for Proposals (RFPs)</u>
- <u>Network Plans</u>
- Funding Limitations Tip Sheet
- Off-site Data Centers and Admin Offices Tip Sheet
- Equipment Tip Sheet
- <u>Authorizations</u> webpage
- <u>RHC Connect User Guide Third-Party Authorizations</u>

#### **Online Resources - RHC Connect**

- <u>Welcome to RHC Connect FCC Form 460</u> webpage
  - <u>RHC Connect User Guide</u>
  - <u>Welcome to RHC Connect FCC Form 460</u> self-paced video training guide
- <u>Welcome to RHC Connect FCC Form 461</u> webpage
  - <u>RHC Connect User Guide</u>
  - <u>Welcome to RHC Connect FCC Form 461</u> self-paced video training guide
- <u>Welcome to RHC Connect FCC Form 462</u> webpage
  - <u>RHC Connect User Guide</u>
  - <u>RHC Connect FCC Form 462</u> self-paced video training guide
- <u>Welcome to RHC Connect FCC Form 463</u> webpage
  - RHC Connect Form User Guide
  - <u>RHC Connect FCC Form 463</u> self-paced video training guide
- Information Request Tip Sheet

#### **RHC Program Customer Service Center**



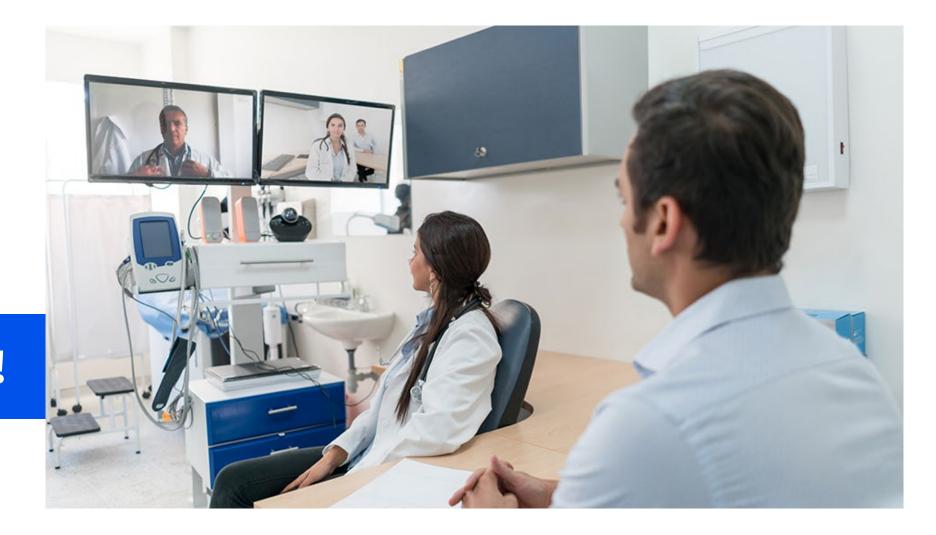
- Email: <u>RHC-Assist@usac.org</u>
- Include in your email:
  - HCP Number
  - FRN Number
- Phone: (800) 453-1546
  - Hours are 8 a.m. 8 p.m. ET
  - Monday- Friday
- Additional Hours Filing Window Close:

#### **The RHC Customer Service Center**

The RHC Customer Service Center CAN	The RHC Customer Service Center CANNOT
Answer general questions regarding both programs	Determine eligibility of a specific site or service before an official form submission
Provide account holder information for an HCP	Review a form or document for accuracy before an official submission
Provide clarity regarding FCC Report and Order 19-78 and other FCC orders	Contact a service provider or other account holder on someone else's behalf
Provide helpful resources and best practices for forms	Provide documents that are not already accessible in My Portal
Assist with My Portal and RHC Connect	Transfer a call to a specific form reviewer

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# **Questions?**



# **Thank You!**

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