

Submitting Post-Commitment Change Requests in RHC Connect

Telecommunications (Telecom) Program

Available for Public Use



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About RHC Connect for Post-Commitment Change Requests

RHC Connect is the web-based system that hosts the FCC Forms used in the RHC programs. There are a number of actions that may be required outside of the regular application process. This user guide will walk you through how to submit post-commitment change requests in RHC Connect for the Telecommunications (Telecom) Program. The post-commitment change requests included in this user guide are:

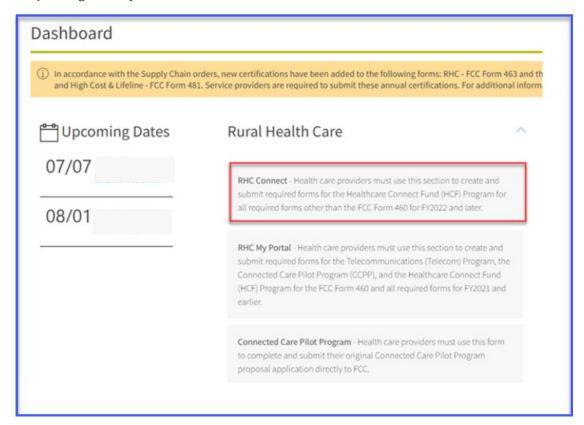
- <u>SPIN changes</u> (correctional and operational)
- Service Substitutions
- Invoice filing deadline extension requests

Please Note: The red boxes and arrows in the screenshots that follow do not actually appear in RHC Connect.

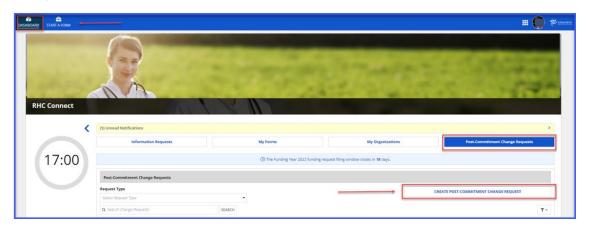


RHC Connect Walkthrough – SPIN Changes

Step 1: Log in to My Portal and click **RHC Connect.**

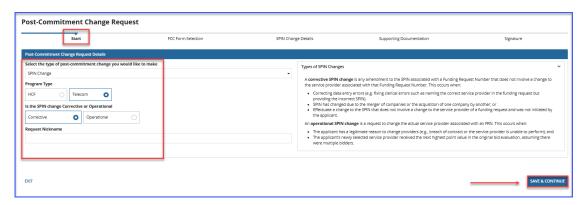


Step 2: Click on the **Post-Commitment Change Requests** tab, then click **Create Post-Commitment Change Request**.

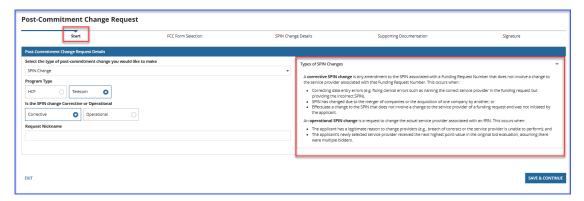




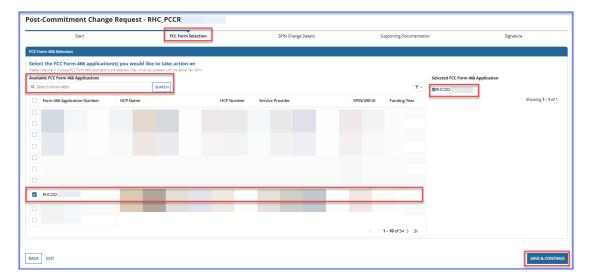
Step 3: On the **Start** screen, select **SPIN CHANGE** from the drop-down menu, click **Telecom**, and select the type of SPIN change e.g., **Corrective** or **Operational**. Enter a **Request Nickname**, then click **Save & Continue**.



A description of each SPIN change type is displayed.

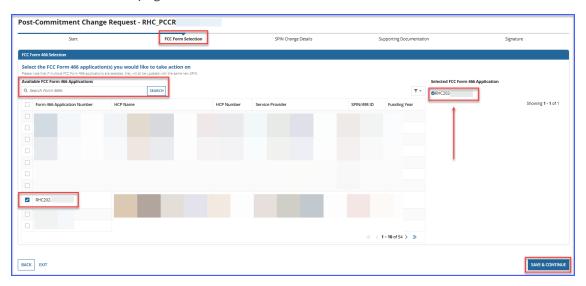


Step 4: Select the FCC Form 466 application(s) you'd like to request the SPIN change for. Multiple FRNs may be selected as long the same SPIN for all of them is used.





Step 5: Once selected, the FCC Form 466 application(s) will be displayed on the right side of the **FCC Form 466 Selection** page. Then click **Save & Continue**.

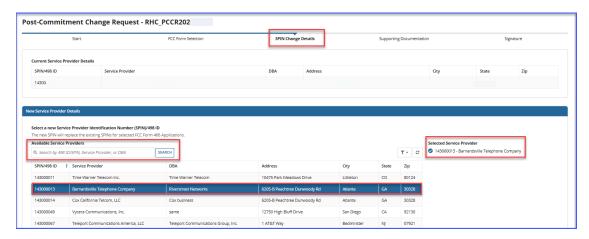


Note: An error message will display if the FCC Form 466 is not eligible for a SPIN change request. You cannot submit a SPIN change request if there is a draft or submitted FCC Form 469, or another post-commitment change request submitted for the selected FRN.

The following FCC Form 466(s) are not eligible for a SPIN Change because there is a linked Post Commitment Change Request awaiting review by USAC: RHC202-The following FCC Form 466(s) are not eligible for a SPIN change because there is an approved Telecom Substitutions PPCR application: RHC202-

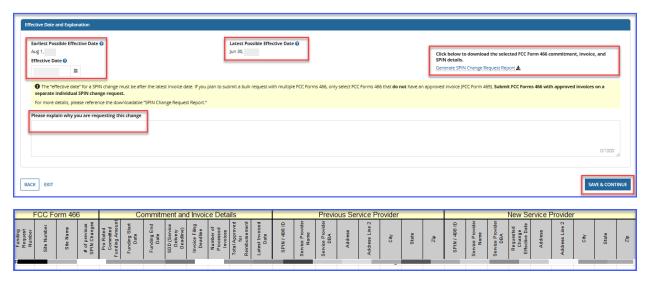
Note: If a one-time cost is on the selected FCC Form 466 application(s), a message will display indicating that once the SPIN change request is approved, the one-time costs will only be able to be filed under the new SPIN.

Step 6: Select the new SPIN from the drop-down menu under **Available Service Providers**. The selected service provider will be displayed on the right side of the screen. Click **Save & Continue** at the bottom of the screen.





Step 7: Continuing on the **SPIN Change Details** screen, select the **Effective Date** from the calendar. The tip in yellow displays directions about submitting SPIN change requests if the FRN selected has an approved invoice (FCC Form 469). Provide an explanation about why you are requesting the SPIN change. To view an Excel version of the SPIN change request details, click the hyperlink **Generate SPIN Change Request Report**. When you're ready to continue, click **Save & Continue**.



Step 8: Add supporting documentation by clicking the **Add Document** hyperlink. Enter a description of the document. Then click **Save & Continue**.



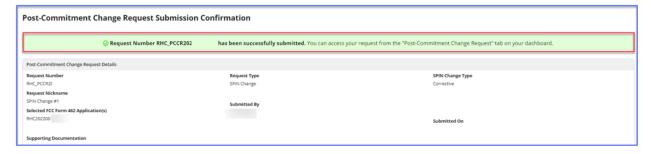
Note: For operational SPIN changes you must upload the agreement with the new service provider.

Step 9: On the **Signature** page, review all of the information, click the required certifications and sign using your full name as it appears in RHC Connect in the **Digital Signature** field. Click **Request Change**.

Signature						
certify that I am authorized to submit this request, that I have examined this request, and that, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, all statements of fact contained herein are true.						
understand that all documentation associated with this request, including all billing records for services received, 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.						
certify that the SPIN change is allowed under all applicable state and local procurement rules and under the terms of the contract. If any, between the applicant and its original service provider.						
Certifier's Full Name		Digital Signature				
Date	05/12/2023					
BACK EXIT			REQUEST CHANGE			



Step 10: Once submitted, the confirmation message in green will display.

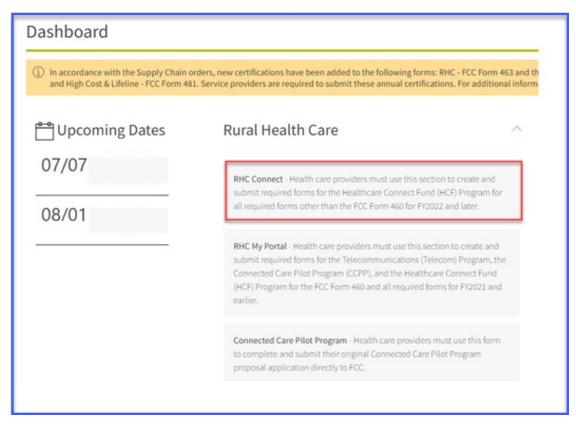


For more information, visit the <u>SPIN Change</u> webpage on the USAC website.

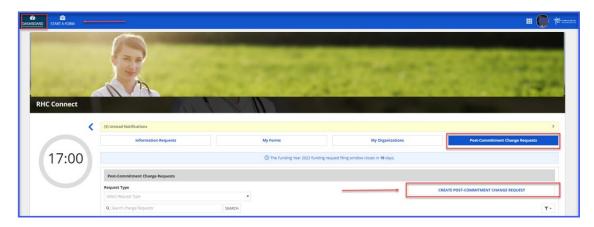


RHC Connect Walkthrough – Service Substitution

Step 1: Log in to My Portal and click **RHC Connect.**

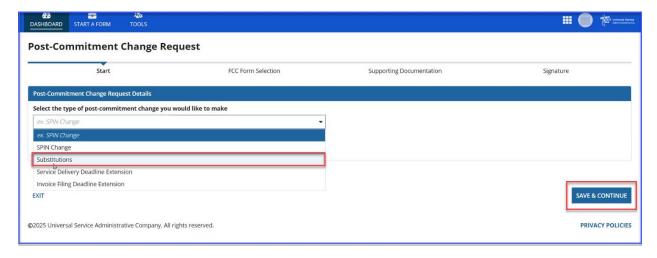


Step 2: To submit a service substitution on the **Post-Commitment Change Requests** tab, navigate to the **Post-Commitment Change Requests** tab, then click **Create Post-Commitment Change Requests**.

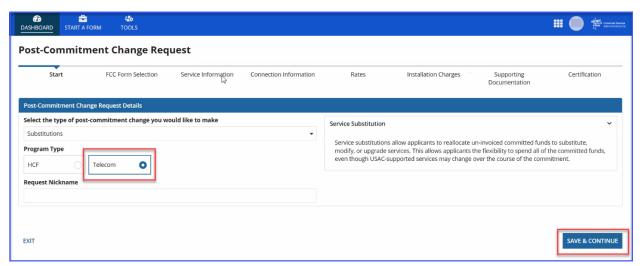


Step 3: Select the type of post-commitment change from the drop-down menu. Then click **Save & Continue**.



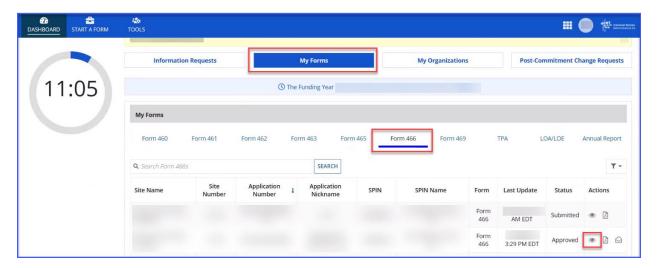


Step 4: Select the **Program Type**, then click **Save & Continue**.

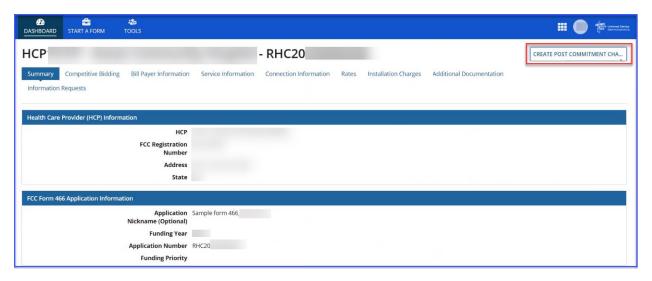


Step 5: To submit a service substitution directly through an FCC Form 466, navigate to the **My Forms** tab and click the **Form 466** hyperlink. Choose the FCC Form 466 and click the "eye" icon under the **Actions** column.





Step 6: On the **Summary** page, click the **Create Post-Commitment Change Request** button, then click **Save & Continue**.

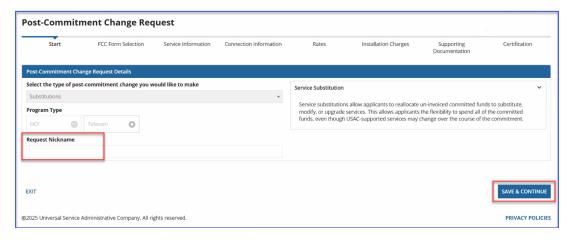


Step 7: Complete information in each section of the service substitution. Each section is the same as a new FCC Form 466.



Step 8: On the Start page, enter a Request Nickname, then click Save & Continue.

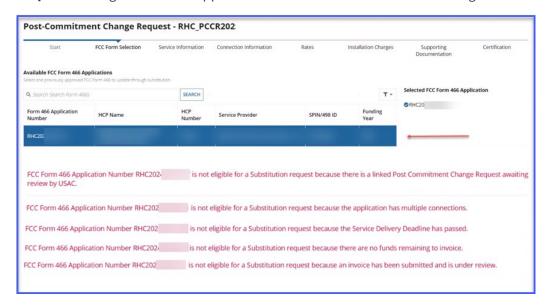




Step 9: On the **FCC Form Selection** page, select an **Available FCC Form 466 Application**. If you began the substitution directly through an FCC Form 466, the system will default to that **FCC Form 466 Application Number**, however, another available application may be chosen. The **Selected FCC Form 466 Application** is displayed on the right.

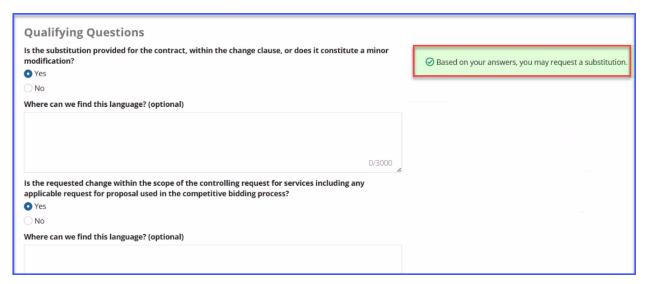


Step 10: Messages in red will appear if the selected FCC Form 466 is not eligible for a substitution.

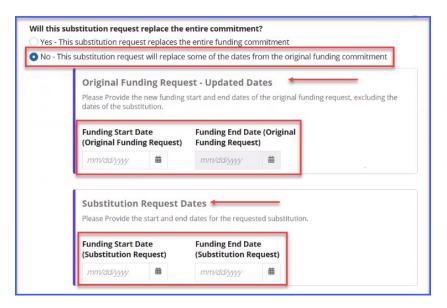




Step 11: Answer **Yes** or **No** to the **Qualifying Questions**. If **Yes**, provide requested optional information, if possible.



Step 12: Answer **Yes** or **No** to the question "Will this substitution request replace the entire commitment?" Enter new dates in fields shown.





Will this substitution request replace the entire commitment? • Yes - This substitution request replaces the entire funding commitment						
No - This substitution request will replace some of the dates from the original funding commitment Substitution Request Dates Please Provide the start and end dates for the requested substitution.						
	Funding Start Date (Substitution Request)	Funding End Date (Substitution Request)]			
	mm/dd/yyyy 🛗	mm/dd/yyyy 🛗				
BACK EXIT						

If you enter incorrect dates, error messages will appear asking you to make correction before proceeding. Correct the dates, then click **Save & Continue**.

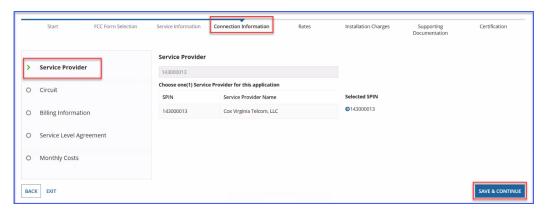


Step 13: On the **Service Information** page, fields are editable to allow for any corrections e.g., **Service Category**, **Service Type**, and **Number of Lines** for voice services. Cost allocation may be changed by entering the **Percent eligible for support** and uploading the cost-allocation document. Once changes/corrections are made, click **Save & Continue**.

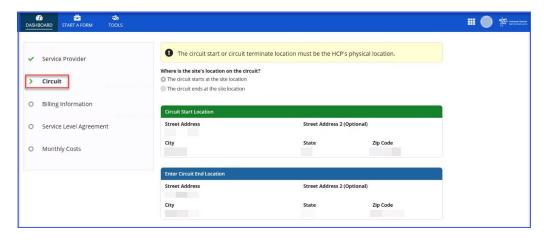




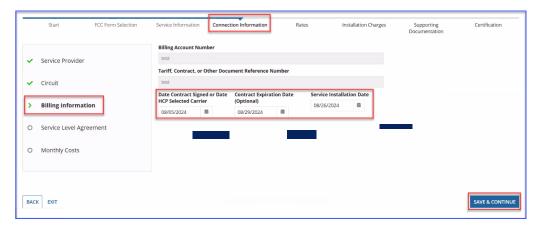
Step 14: On the **Connection Information** page under **Service Provider**, **Service Provider** is prepopulated with information from the original FCC Form 466. Click **Save & Continue**.



Step 15: On the **Connection Information** page under **Circui**t, Circuit information is prepopulated with information from the original FCC Form 466. Click **Save & Continue**.



Step 16: On the **Connection Information** page under **Billing Information**, make changes to the dates if needed. All dates are editable. Click **Save and Continue**.

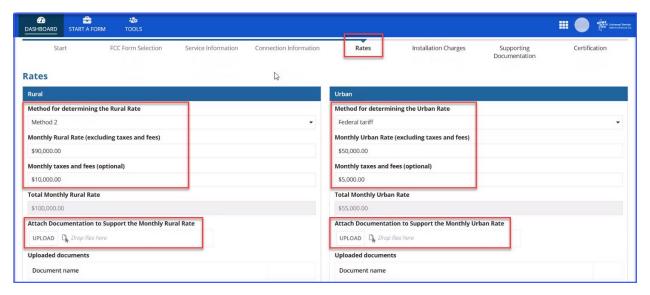




Step 17: On the **Connection Information** page under **Monthly Costs**, enter **Monthly Undiscounted Cost** and **Monthly Taxes and Fees**. Upload document to support the monthly costs, then click **Save & Continue**.

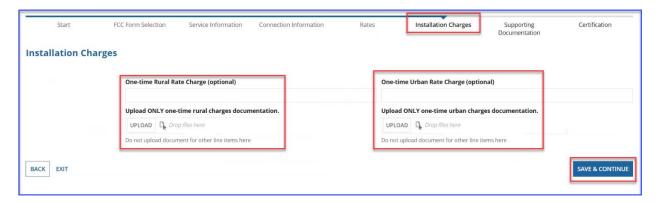


Step 18: On the **Rates** page, select the **Method for determining the Rural Rate** and the **Method for determining the Urban Rate**. Upload the documents, then click **Save & Continue**.

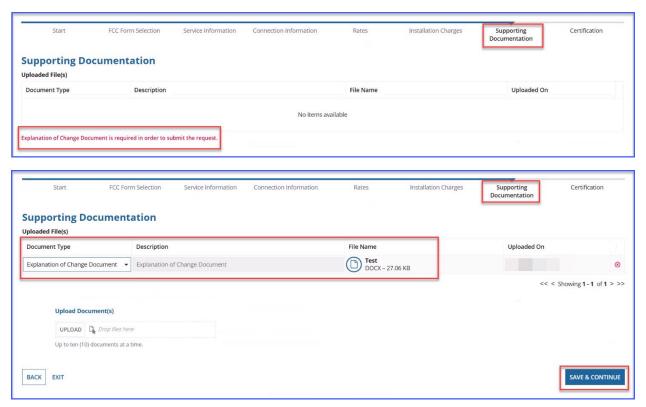


Step 19: On the **Installation Charges** page, enter the **One-time Rural Rate Charge** and **One-time Urban Rate Charge**, if applicable. Upload the documentation, then click **Save & Continue**.



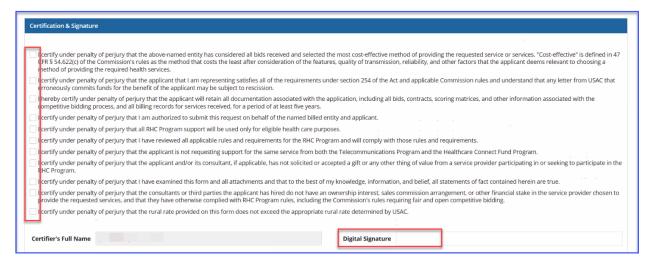


Step 20: On the **Supporting Documentation** page, an explanation of the requested change document is required. Upload document and select **Document Type** from the drop-down menu. Once all supporting documentation is added, click **Save & Continue**.

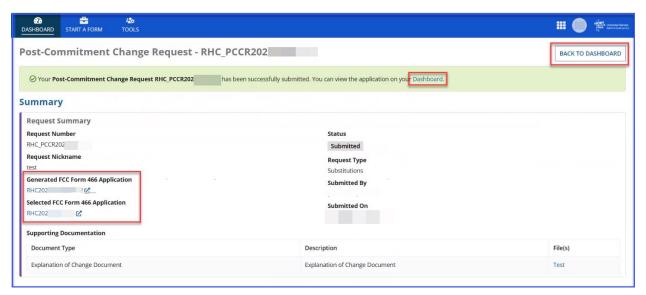


Step 21: Read and click all **Certifications**. Sign your full name as it appears in RHC Connect in the **Digital Signature** field, then click **Submit**.



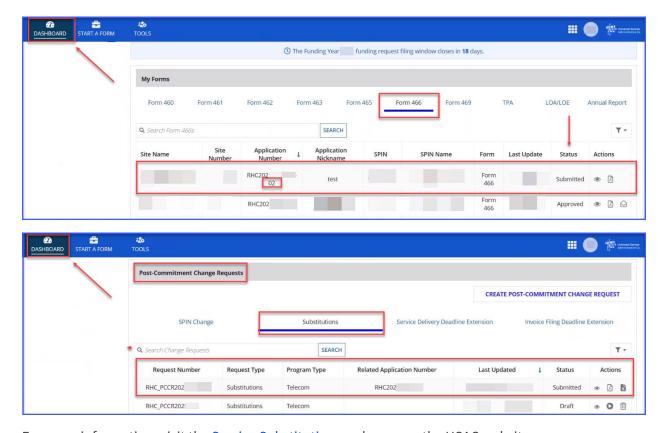


Step 22: Confirmation of submission will appear in the green banner with a **Summary** of the substitution below. Download a PDF copy of the original FCC Form 466 and the new FCC Form 466 by clicking hyperlinks. Click on **Back to Dashboard** button or **Dashboard** hyperlink in green banner.



Step 23: Submitted substitution will appear as "version 02" on the RHC Connect Dashboard under the **Form 466** section. Substitutions will also appear in the **Post-Commitment Change Requests** section.



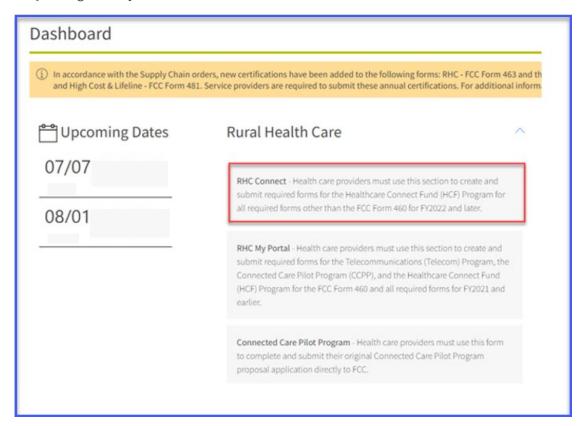


For more information, visit the <u>Service Substitutions</u> webpage on the USAC website.

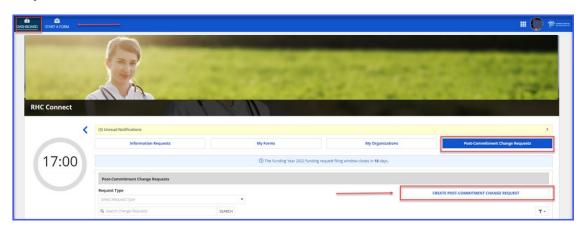


RHC Connect Walkthrough – Invoice Filing Deadline Extension Request

Step 1: Log in to My Portal and click RHC Connect.

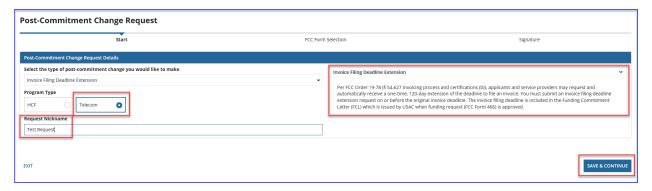


Step 2: Click **Post-Commitment Change Requests**, then click **Create Post-Commitment Change Request**.

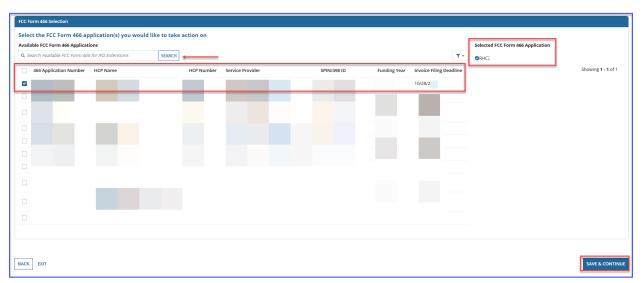




Step 3: Enter a **Request Nickname** and select **Invoice Filing Deadline Extension** from the dropdown menu. A description of the RHC rules about the invoice filing deadline extension is displayed on the **Start** page. Click **Save & Continue**.

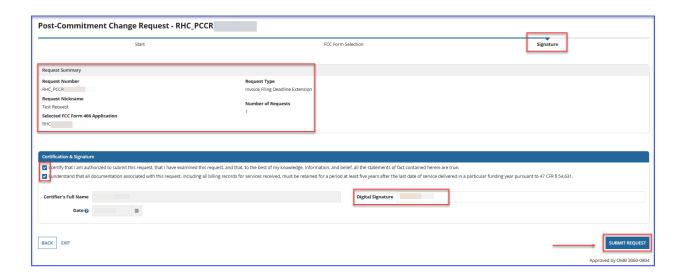


Step 4: Search by FCC Form 466 application number or simply select the FCC Form 466 application(s) from the list displayed. The selected FCC Form 466 application(s) will be displayed on the right side of the screen. Once selected, click **Save & Continue**.

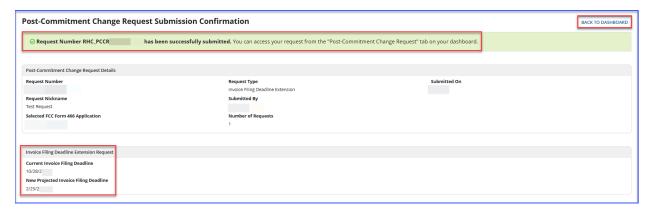


Step 5: On the **Signature** page, review all of the information, click the required certifications and sign using your full name as it appears in RHC Connect in the **Digital Signature** field. Click **Request Change**.





Step 6: Once submitted the confirmation message in green will display.



For more information, visit the **Post-Commitment Actions** webpage on the USAC website.



Frequently Asked Questions

What changes were made to RHC Connect?

RHC Connect has a new look and feel that is more intuitive and user-friendly. It is easier to navigate the form for submission, and it is easier for RHC program reviewers to review and approve forms.

Did the rules for post-commitment changes change?

<u>FCC Order 19-78</u> formalized the process and provided definitions for SPIN change requests. This FCC order also authorized USAC to grant a single 120-day extension to the invoice filing deadline. Telecom Program applicants may now submit service substitutions in RHC Connect

Who is impacted by this change?

Applicants who participate in the HCF Program began submitting FCC Forms 462 in RHC Connect in FY2022. Telecom Program began submitting the FCC Form 466 in RHC Connect in FY2024.

Can I still make updates or changes to my FCC Forms 460 in My Portal?

No, all account holder information and user management is now submitted in RHC Connect. Please be sure all account holder information and authorizations are accurate and up to date in RHC Connect.

Resources

For more information, visit the **Post-Commitment Actions** webpage.

For questions about the Rural Health Care program, contact RHC-Assist@usac.org or the RHC Customer Service Center at (800) 453-1546 from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET Monday through Friday for assistance. Use the RHC Customer Service Center Tip Sheet to learn about what the RHC Customer Service Center can a