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Universal Service
Administrative Co.

Tribal Outreach

April 2023 USAC Tribal Newsletter

April 28, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader,

The [Universal Service Administrative Company's](#) (USAC) invites you to attend our upcoming May Tribal Teleconference held in collaboration with the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) (ACP) team. USAC will provide an "ACP 101" including an overview of ACP, who in your community might be eligible to participate, and how you can enroll. This will be held on **May 9, 2023**, at 4 p.m. ET – [Register](#).

As a reminder, **Monday, May 29, 2023**, is a federal holiday and USAC offices will be **closed**.

[E-Rate](#)

E-Rate Systems Consolidation

USAC is consolidating its E-Rate Legacy systems and forms into the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC), the online management system for the E-Rate program. All **E-Rate invoicing related forms** (the FCC Forms 472, 473, and 474) **will be moved into EPC** as part of this consolidation and all E-Rate program processes will be conducted using only the EPC system.

USAC already migrated the entity's users' invoicing permissions to simplify how applicants and service providers access the new EPC invoicing tools. This was completed based on the users' existing access permissions in the SL Legacy systems. Please verify that your entity has an EPC Account Administrator who can manage users' access rights going forward.

System cutover from the SL Legacy systems and forms into EPC is **expected to occur in May/June 2023**. During this period, USAC will pause invoice submissions in the SL Legacy systems to ensure a successful migration. When the transition date is established, USAC will announce the last day you can submit an invoice using the SL Legacy systems and the date when you must begin submitting invoices in EPC. USAC will provide information and resources to assist in this transition. In advance of the transition, we encourage you to submit any ready E-Rate invoices to minimize the effect of any potential delays.

Refer to the information below to learn more about the changes to the SL Legacy systems and how to prepare for the systems transition. We also provide information on how to log into EPC for the first time, how to update your entity's EPC Account Administrator, and how to review your EPC user access permissions and update as needed.

Preparing for the E-Rate Systems Consolidation

USAC is providing information and resources to help with the transition from the SL Legacy systems to EPC. The [E-Rate Systems Consolidation page](#) provides resources including [frequently asked questions](#), an [infographic](#), and links to News Briefs and helpful videos.

What is changing:

- The user interface will change to the user interface that is used in EPC.

- Notifications about invoice submission statuses will be delivered to your **News Feed** in EPC.
- Inquiries from USAC about your invoice submissions will be available through EPC. You can reply and attach any documentation requested or additional information in EPC.
- **Funding Year (FY) 2015 and earlier invoice submissions.** After the transition, you will create a customer service case in EPC to submit FY2015 and earlier invoice requests. USAC will provide additional instructions about how to submit FY2015 and earlier invoice submissions before this transition occurs.

What will stay the same:

- E-Rate invoice program rules and processes will not change.
- The information and documentation to be submitted remains the same.
- Disbursements will continue to be issued twice a week.
- Appeals and post-commitment transactions for FY2015 and prior years will continue to be submitted by creating a customer service case in EPC.

See the [E-Rate Systems Consolidation videos](#) for applicant and service provider demos of the new E-Rate invoice submission processes and to learn how to manage users' access rights within the new invoicing interface in EPC.

To learn more about first-time EPC log-in, reviewing your EPC invoice permissions, and updating EPC Account Administrator, please review this special edition [E-Rate News Brief](#).

If you have any questions or would like more information about applying for E-Rate program funding or submitting invoices, you can also reach out to USAC's Tribal Liaison at TribalTraining@usac.org for additional help.

Rural Health Care (RHC) Program

The FY2023 RHC Program Application [Filing Window](#) closes on May 1, 2023. This means all funding requests (FCC Forms 462 or 466) must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on May 1, 2023. Learn more about filing windows.

The following resources are posted to the USAC website to assist applicants that are submitting the FCC Form 462 for the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program through RHC Connect, USAC's new system for the RHC Program.

- [Welcome to RHC Connect - FCC Form 462](#)
- [FCC Form 462 User Guide](#)

The FCC Form 463 is also available in RHC Connect for FY2022 and future funding years. To learn more, please visit the [Welcome to RHC Connect - FCC Form 463](#). These system changes only affect HCF Program participants at this time.

HCF Program applicants submitting an FCC Form 460 or FCC Form 463 for funding years prior to FY2022 will continue to do so in My Portal. Telecommunications (Telecom) Program and the Connected Care Pilot Program (CCPP) applicants are also not affected by these changes to RHC Connect and will continue to use My Portal.

Use the [Step 4: Submit Funding Request](#) webpage as a resource to submit the FCC Form 466 for the Telecom Program in My Portal.

Lifeline and ACP

Adjusted Lifeline and ACP Income Qualifications for 2023

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released the 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). These guidelines are used to determine if a household qualifies for Lifeline and/or ACP based on their income. Service providers should update their forms and systems as soon as possible.

USAC updated its income standards to reflect that a household is eligible for Lifeline when their income is at or below 135 percent of the 2023 FPG, and for ACP when their income is at or below 200 percent of the 2023 FPG.

- Service providers participating in ACP may review the updated standards on the [ACP How to Prove Income](#) page.
- Consumers seeking to participate in ACP may review the updated income standards on the [ACP Do I Qualify?](#) page.
- Service providers participating in Lifeline may review the updated standards on the [Income Eligibility](#) page.
- Consumers seeking to participate in Lifeline may review the updated income standards on [Lifeline Support](#).
- USAC updated the National Verifier online portal and the paper forms for [Lifeline](#) and [ACP](#).

To learn more about ACP or Lifeline program updates, please review the [March 2023 Lifeline Newsletter](#) or the [ACP bulletins](#) page.

Key Dates and Trainings

E-Rate

- **No upcoming webinars at this time. To view prior webinars, please visit the E-Rate [webinar page](#).**

RHC

- **No upcoming webinars at this time.**

Lifeline/ACP

- **Tuesday, May 9, 2023**, ACP and USAC's Tribal Liaison will host the monthly Tribal Teleconference on ACP 101 at 4 p.m. ET – [Register](#)
- **Wednesday, May 10, 2023**, Lifeline will host their monthly webinar at 3 p.m. ET – [Register](#)

USF Program Technical Assistance

The USAC Customer Service Center (CSC) provides customer service for the Universal Service Fund (USF) programs. Visit our [Contact USAC](#) page to get in touch with specialized agents trained to answer your program-specific questions.

Questions or Suggestions?

Contact the USAC Tribal Liaison at TribalLiaison@usac.org.

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