



April 2024 USAC Tribal Nation Newsletter

April 30, 2024

Monthly Tribal Teleconference

[Universal Service Administrative Company's](#) (USAC) May Tribal Teleconference will provide an overview of the programs USAC administers, including time for questions and answers. Please join the teleconference on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 4 p.m. ET – [Register](#).

[E-Rate](#)

Next Steps for FY2024 Application Filing Window

The application filing window for Funding Year (FY) 2024 has closed. Review the next steps you should take below:

- Review your FCC Form 471. Double-check your certified [FCC Form 471](#) for accuracy. If you find any information that should be corrected or updated, submit a Receipt Acknowledgment Letter (RAL) Modification Request. To learn how to submit modification requests for your FCC Form(s) 471, view the [FCC Form 471 Receipt Acknowledgment Letter Modification Guide](#).
- Check your FCC Registration Number to make sure it is correct, especially if this is the first year you have filed E-Rate program forms. Use the FCC's [Commission Registration System](#) (CORES) to verify your [FCC Registration Number](#).
- Check your math regarding costs and cost allocations. The pre-discount costs of your funding requests should match the information in the [contract\(s\)](#) or other documentation you used to prepare your form. If you notice any incorrect information in any of the above fields, submit a RAL Modification Request to correct this information.

Prepare for Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) Review

During [PIA review](#), USAC reviews information submitted on your FCC Form 471. USAC will notify you via email and in your E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) News Feed if PIA reviewers have any questions. The point of contact you identified on your FCC Form 471 should regularly monitor their email and EPC account to review any PIA review questions.

Service Providers – Filing FCC Form 473

Service providers must have an [FCC Form 473](#) (Service Provider Annual Certification (SPAC) form) on file for a funding year before USAC can pay invoices for that funding year. Only Full or Partial Rights users can complete the SPAC in EPC. For step-by-step directions on how to complete the SPAC online, go to the [FCC Form 473 \(SPAC\) User Guide](#).

To learn more, please review the [April 2024 E-Rate News Brief](#).

Webinars

There are no upcoming webinars at this time. Please check the [E-Rate Webinars](#) page for future and past webinars.

2024 In-Person Training

USAC is coming to an event near you in 2024. Below are some events we will attend in the next few months.

E-Rate experts will provide training and discuss program updates. There will be time at the end of the sessions for USAC to answer questions from both new and experienced participants. **Registration is now open.**

- **E-Rate Training:** September 17, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CT in **Dallas, Texas** – [Register](#).
- **E-Rate Training:** October 7, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET in **Washington, DC** – [Register](#).
- **E-Rate Training:** October 29, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CT in **Fayetteville, Arkansas** – [Register](#).

Information regarding the upcoming **Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM)** in-person training coming soon.

[Rural Health Care \(RHC\)](#)

RHC Program Inflation-Based Cap Announced for FY2024

The RHC program funding cap for FY2024 is \$706,926,603. The internal cap for upfront payments and multi-year commitments under the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program is \$178,496,951. The internal cap for upfront payments and multi-year commitments will apply only if RHC program demand exceeds available funding. These new caps represent a 3.6 percent inflation-adjusted increase to the \$682,361,586 RHC program funding cap and the \$172,294,354 internal cap on multi-year commitments and upfront payments from FY2023. To learn more, read the [announcement](#).

FCC Released Order DA 24-366 Directing USAC to Accept Late-Filed Funding Requests

On April 18, 2024, the FCC released Order [DA 24-366](#) waiving the application filing deadline in certain circumstances and directing USAC to allow health care providers to submit funding requests for the RHC program for 30 days after the close of each application filing window. If the FCC grants a waiver of the application for the late-filed funding request, USAC will then process the funding request as if it had been filed prior to the end of the filing window. If the health care provider does not request a waiver for a late-filed funding request or if the FCC denies the waiver, USAC will dismiss the funding request.

Upcoming Webinar

Please join the RHC Outreach team for the following webinar:

- Post-Commitment Change Request Webinar on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET** – [Register](#).

[Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#)

ACP Wind-Down

On April 9, 2024, the FCC released a [Public Notice](#) announcing the maximum partial reimbursement amounts for ACP service providers planning to seek reimbursement for the May 2024 service month. Service providers should review the Public Notice if they are planning to seek partial reimbursement in May. April 2024 will be the last fully funded month of the ACP if Congress does not provide additional funding, and the program will provide its final, albeit partial, reimbursement in May 2024.

Below are the maximum partial reimbursement amounts for each ACP benefit type:

Benefit Type	Statutory Maximum	Maximum Reimbursement Amount for May 2024
Non-Tribal Service Benefit	\$30 per month	\$14
Tribal Lands Service Benefit	\$75 per month	\$35
ACP Connected Device Benefit	\$100 per device	\$47

[Lifeline](#)

Coming Soon: New PO Box Address for Lifeline Support Centers

The Lifeline support centers will transition to a new PO Box address beginning June 1, 2024, for consumer applications and/or supporting documentation. The support centers will forward mail sent to the old PO Box for one year to ensure there is no interruption in application/document processing.

For now, service providers should continue to use the current Lifeline support center mailing address in their consumer outreach materials.

Current PO Box Mailing Address until May 31:

Lifeline Support Center
PO Box 9100
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18773

New PO Box Mailing Address as of June 1:

Lifeline Customer Support Center
PO Box 1000
Horseheads, NY 14845

Upcoming Webinar

Please join the Lifeline Outreach team for the following webinar:

- Navigating USAC Systems Webinar on **Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 3 p.m. ET** – [Register](#).

Recordings of previous webinars are available on the [Lifeline Webinars](#) page.

[High Cost](#)

FCC Form 481 Filing System Now Open

All eligible telecommunications carriers participating in the High Cost and/or Lifeline programs may now access the [FCC Form 481](#) for program year 2025 through the [USAC E-File/Okta One Portal](#) and begin the annual Form 481 filing process. FCC Form 481, which must be certified by July 1, 2024, collects financial and operations information used to validate carrier support, fulfilling the annual [54.313 reporting requirement](#) for High Cost funding recipients.

Upcoming Webinar

Please join USAC for the following webinar:

- Filing FCC Form 481 webinar on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register](#).

To learn more about High Cost updates, please see the [High Cost Announcements](#) page.

Key Dates and Trainings

RHC

- **May 22, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET** – Post-Commitment Change Request Webinar – [Register](#).

Lifeline

- **May 8, 2024, at 3 p.m. ET** – Navigating USAC Systems Webinar – [Register](#).

High Cost

- **May 23, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET** – Filing FCC Form 481 Webinar – [Register](#).

USF Program Technical Assistance

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

Questions or Suggestions?

If you have questions or suggestions about Tribal universal service support, you may contact USAC's Tribal Liaison, Gem Labarta, at TribalLiaison@usac.org.