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Universal Service  
Administrative Co.

Tribal Outreach

## January 2024 USAC Tribal Nation Newsletter

January 31, 2024

[Universal Service Administrative Company's](#) (USAC) February Tribal Teleconference will provide an overview of the Rural Health Care (RHC) program, including program updates, information on how to submit forms, best practices, and resources, with time for questions and answers. Please join the teleconference on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 4 p.m. ET** – [Register](#).

### [E-Rate](#)

#### **The FY2024 FCC Form 471 Filing Window is Now Open**

The funding year (FY) 2024 FCC Form 471 application filing window opened on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 12 p.m. ET, and will **close on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. ET**.

Below are some important dates for FY2024:

- FY2024 FCC Form 470 (The First Form): **Wednesday, February 28, 2024**, is the last date that you can submit and certify an FCC Form 470 for FY2024, due to the requirement that FCC Forms 470 be posted to USAC's website for a minimum of 28 days. Only after meeting this requirement may you submit and certify the FCC Form 471.
- FY2024 FCC Form 471 (The Second Form): **Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. ET** is the last date that you can submit your FCC Form 471 before the application filing window closes.

The FCC Forms 470 and 471 must be filed in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC). The dates and times above apply to the time the form is certified in EPC. If you complete all the required information on the form before the deadline but certify it after the deadline, the form will not be considered filed in time.

To learn more about important filing dates, tips, and resources for applying to E-Rate, please see the [January 2024 Special Edition E-Rate News Brief](#).

### [Lifeline](#) and [ACP](#)

#### **Lifeline**

Lifeline is a permanent FCC program that lowers consumers' monthly cost of phone and internet services. With the [Enhanced Tribal Benefit](#), a Lifeline qualified subscriber can get a monthly discount of up to \$34.25 off the cost of phone, internet, or bundled services if they live on Tribal lands. Subscribers living on Tribal lands can get the Tribal benefit if their household's income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or if they or a member of their household participates in one or more government assistance programs, including certain Tribal assistance programs.

#### **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**

On January 11, 2024, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued an [Order](#) announcing requirements and guidance for the wind-down of the ACP due to a lack of additional funding from Congress. Funding for the program is anticipated to run through April 2024. (This date is an estimate and may change.) The Order requires service providers to send three written notices to their enrolled households about the end of the program and sets the last

day of enrollments into the ACP. Providers are encouraged to review the FCC's Order carefully, as it contains specific requirements regarding frequent notices to households and updates on claims deadlines, among other things. ACP providers must enroll qualified consumers in the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD) before **February 7, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET** for consumers to receive the ACP benefit. Enrollments into the ACP after February 7 at 11:59 p.m. ET will not be permitted. Consumers enrolled in the program before February 8 will remain eligible to receive the current monthly benefit and one-time device benefit through the end of the program.

Providers can visit [USAC's Learn Page](#) to sign up for future webinars and view past webinars and information sessions. Providers seeking further assistance regarding ACP wind-down requirements should contact USAC at [ACProgram@usac.org](mailto:ACProgram@usac.org).

### Upcoming Webinars

Please join the Lifeline team for the following webinar:

- How to Apply for Lifeline – **Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 3 p.m. ET** – [Register](#).

## Rural Health Care (RHC)

### Important Deadlines and Reminders

The following are important dates to submit the FCC Forms 461 and 465 in order to have enough time to file funding requests before the end of the FY2024 filing window on April 1.

HCF and Telecom Program Forms	Key Dates
FCC Form 461 and 465 - Request for Services	February 10, 2024 - <b>Recommended Date to Submit</b> (requires more review time with a Request for Proposal (RFP))
FCC Form 462 and 466 - Funding Request	April 1, 2024 - <b>Deadline to Submit *</b>

\*Please note that February 10 is **not** a mandatory deadline for FCC Form 461 and 465 submissions. Rather, it is USAC's recommendation to submit these forms by this date to 1) comply with RHC's required 28-day competitive bidding period and 2) allow for reviews of any RFPs submitted with your service request. If FCC Forms 461 or 465 are submitted with an RFP, allow at least 10 additional days for review.

### Upcoming Webinars

Please join the RHC Outreach team for the following webinars:

- HCF Office Hours – Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register](#).
- February 2024 Tribal Teleconference – Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 4 p.m. ET – [Register](#).
- Telecom Office Hours – Thursday, February 14, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register](#).

### Key Dates and Trainings

#### E-Rate

- **Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 2 p.m. ET**, E-Rate will host a Pre-Commitment E-Rate Q&A webinar – [Register](#).
- To view E-Rate's prior training webinars, please visit the [E-Rate webinar page](#) or [E-Rate Tribal Trainings page](#).

#### Lifeline and ACP

- **Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 3 p.m. ET**, Lifeline will host its How to Apply for Lifeline webinar – [Register](#).

#### RHC

- **Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET**, RHC will host its HCF Office Hours – [Register](#).

- **Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 4 p.m. ET**, RHC and the Tribal Liaison will host their February 2024 Tribal Teleconference Office Hours – [Register](#).
- **Thursday, February 14, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET**, RHC will host its Telecom Office Hours – [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?

Contact the USAC Tribal Liaison at [TribalLiaison@usac.org](mailto:TribalLiaison@usac.org).

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