



Universal Service
Administrative Co.

June 2025 Tribal Nation Newsletter

June 30, 2025 | [University Service Administrative Company \(USAC\)](#).



Tribal Nation News

USAC's July Tribal Teleconference, held in collaboration with the E-Rate program, will cover Beginning E-Rate Services. This will include Post Commitment filings (FCC Form 500, SPIN Change, Service Substitution) and Starting Services (FCC Form 486, CIPA, FCC Form 473), with time for Q&A. Please join us on **Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 4 p.m. ET** – [Register](#).

Notes from USAC's Tribal Liaison

After many discussions with Tribal stakeholders and service providers, specifically after the sunsetting of the Affordable Connectivity Program, it became clear that there were opportunities to improve web content to better support service provider participation in the E-Rate program and other Universal Service Fund programs.

After months of work and lots of collaboration, USAC has launched an updated version of the [E-Rate Service Provider Process](#) webpages to ensure the process is clear and concise for service providers to participate in the E-Rate program. Some of the major changes include:

- Ensuring titles of each step of the participation process accurately reflect the key activities within each step.
- Simplifying content in a way that can be replicated across other USAC programs for similar process requirements.
- Incorporating links to additional information and expandable menus to reduce page scroll.
- New resources, including a [timeline](#) on E-Rate annual activities specific to each funding year, an [infographic](#) on selecting an E-Rate invoicing method, and an updated Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) [checklist](#) for new Tribal Service Providers.

And this is just the beginning! Stay tuned for more updates coming to Service Provider content across other USAC programs.

[Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program \(T-LEAP\)](#)

A new cohort for the T-LEAP program has just begun. If you are a Tribal library or a Tribal college and university (TCU) library, you can now receive direct support in navigating the E-Rate application process, including one-on-one assistance in preparing applications, applying to the program, and receiving E-Rate support.

To learn more, please visit the [T-LEAP page](#) or contact the [USAC Tribal Liaison](#). Interested Tribal libraries can [sign up here](#) year-round.

[E-Rate](#)

Category Two Funding Floors and Multipliers for Next Funding Cycle

The Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) issued a public notice on June 4, 2025 ([DA 25-471](#)) announcing the Category Two (C2) multipliers and funding floors for the upcoming five-year budget cycle that starts in Funding Year (FY) 2026 and runs through FY2030. For the FY2026-2030 cycle, the C2 budget funding floor is adjusted from \$25,000 to \$30,175. For Tribal libraries, the funding floor is adjusted from \$55,000 to \$66,385.12. The school and school district C2 budget multiplier is adjusted from \$167 per student to \$201.57 per student, and the library and library system C2 budget multiplier is adjusted from \$4.50 per square foot to \$5.43 per square foot. Applicants will be required to validate their student counts or library square footage in the first year they apply for C2 support during the FY2026-2030 cycle.

Get Ready for FY2025 Invoicing

After USAC has committed funding and processed your [FCC Form 486](#) (Receipt of Service Confirmation and Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Certification Form), you or your service provider can begin the process of invoicing USAC for the discounted share of costs for the approved eligible equipment and services (see [Filing the FY2025 FCC Form 486](#) in May's News Brief). USAC can process invoices from either the applicant or the service provider after the following occur:

- USAC has issued a Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) with a positive funding commitment.
- Services have started or the equipment has been delivered (USAC can process invoices for payments after review of the contract if it includes a specific payment schedule).
- The applicant has submitted, and USAC has successfully processed, an FCC Form 486.
- The service provider has filed an [FCC Form 473](#) (Service Provider Annual Certification (SPAC) Form) for the relevant funding year.

As a reminder, there are [two methods](#) that can be used to invoice USAC. Once USAC has processed an invoice for a Funding Request Number (FRN), the method of invoicing chosen must be used for that FRN for the remainder of the invoicing process.

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

Submit your FY2026 Request for Services Forms

As of July 1, 2025, applicants may start the competitive bidding process for Funding Year (FY) 2026. The Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) program's FCC Form 461 (Request for Services Form) and the Telecommunications (Telecom) Program's FCC Form 465 (Request for Services Form) may be submitted in RHC Connect along with any other competitive bidding documents, such as a Request for Proposal (RFP).

Please use the following resources to submit these forms:

HCF program:

- [Evaluate Bids & Select Service Provider](#) webpage
- [Welcome to RHC Connect – FCC Form 461](#) webpage
- [Competitive Bidding Exemptions](#) webpage
- [RHC Connect FCC Form 461 User Guide](#)
- [How to File the FCC Form 461](#) self-guided training video

Telecom program:

- [Prepare for Competitive Bidding and Request for Service](#) webpage
- [Welcome to RHC Connect – FCC Form 465](#) webpage
- [Competitive Bidding Exemptions](#) webpage
- [RHC Connect FCC Form 465 User Guide](#)
- [Telecom Program Request for Services \(FCC Form 465\)](#) self-guided training video

FY2024 HCF Annual Report Due September 30, 2025

Per FCC Order 19-78, to supplement the information collected from forms filed by the healthcare provider (HCP), the FCC requires HCF participants that received funding in FY2024 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) to submit information to USAC about the telehealth applications used during the funding year.

Who is Required to Submit the Annual Report?

All HCF Program participants, both individual and consortia, must submit an annual report for each funding year in which they received HCF Program support and for the life of a supported facility or service for which the program participant received large upfront payments.

As of FY2024, annual reports are submitted in RHC Connect. Please use the [RHC Connect Annual Report User Guide](#) to assist you with your submission. Please visit the [Submit Annual Report](#) page for additional information.

[Lifeline](#)

New RAD Acceptable Documentation Guide

To further support representatives with the Representative Accountability Database (RAD) Representative ID registration process, USAC released a new and user-friendly [Representative Accountability Database \(RAD\) Acceptable Documentation Guide](#). This guide is specifically intended for representatives who may need to submit additional documentation to confirm their identity to complete their Representative ID registration. The guide highlights what information USAC may seek to confirm and lists common examples of official documents which may be submitted as proof.

To learn more about how to register for a Representative ID, view USAC's latest [RAD 101 webinar](#) and the

[How to Register](#) page for specific information on obtaining a Representative ID.

Reminder: FCC Form 481 Deadline Approaching

All service providers participating in the Lifeline and/or High Cost programs are required to file and certify the FCC Form 481 annually. This form collects financial and operational data that USAC uses to validate service provider support.

Providers can log into [One Portal](#) to access and submit their FCC Form 481 for program year 2026. **All filings must be completed by July 1, 2025.**

For more information on the filing requirements, service providers can view USAC's High Cost team [webinar](#) and our [File FCC Form 481](#) page.

High Cost

USAC reminds all eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) participating in the High Cost and/or Lifeline programs that they must file and certify Federal Communications Commission (FCC) [Form 481](#) for program year 2026 by July 1, 2025. FCC Form 481, which is accessible through the [USAC E-file/Okta One Portal](#), collects financial and operations information used to validate carrier support.

To learn more about filing the FCC Form 481, please review the [High Cost Announcement](#).

Key Dates and Trainings

E-Rate

2025 In-Person E-Rate Trainings:

- September 9, 2025, Denver, Colorado – [Register >](#)
- September 16, 2025, Washington DC – [Register >](#)

E-Rate Webinars

- July Tribal Teleconference – July 8, 2025, at 4 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)
- FCC Form 470 and the Competitive Bidding Process – July 17, 2025, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)

RHC | FY2026 Kick-Off Webinar

July 16, 2025, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)

RHC | Consortium Best Practices Webinar

July 23, 2025, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)

Lifeline | Lifeline Program Compliance

July 9, 2025, at 3 p.m. ET – [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 in the specifics of each program.

Questions or suggestions? Contact USAC's Tribal Liaison at TribalLiaison@usac.org.

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