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June 2026 Tribal Nation Newsletter

June 30, 2026 | Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)



Tribal Nation News

Join the [Universal Service Administrative Company](#) (USAC) and the E-Rate team for the July 14th Tribal Teleconference. During this session, we will provide an overview of the E-Rate program; walk through key milestones and calls to action; review the application life cycle, FCC Form 486, starting services, and the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA); and cover recent FCC program updates. Attendees will also receive helpful resources, gain a clear picture of where they are in the process, and have the opportunity to ask questions during an open forum.

Please join us on **Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 4 p.m. ET** – [Register](#).

Notes from USAC's Tribal Liaison

Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program Summer Tribal Teleconference

USAC hosted the Tribal Library E-Rate Program (T-LEAP) Summer Kick-Off webinar last month. USAC's Tribal Liaison and Tribal Library Advocates shared general information about the E-Rate program, including eligibility and program requirements, and how T-LEAP can support your Tribal library in receiving E-Rate funding. Please review the final slide deck [here](#).

What is T-LEAP?

T-LEAP offers direct support to Tribal libraries and Tribal college and university (TCU) libraries 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](#)

Funding Year 2026 Invoicing Begins on July 1

After USAC has committed funding and processed your Funding Year (FY) 2026 FCC Form 486, you or your service provider can begin invoicing USAC for the discounted share of the costs for the approved eligible equipment and services. Service provider(s) must have an FY2026 FCC Form 473 (SPAC) on file before any invoices can be processed or funding disbursed (see the FCC Form 473 article below).

Reminder: The Summer Deferral period, which applies to USAC's processing of program forms and requests, started Friday, May 22, 2026, and ends on Friday, September 11, 2026. If our first attempt to contact you about a program form or request is on or after May 22, and we do not receive a response to our questions, we will put your application or request on a deferred status and will resume review after September 11. You can contact your reviewer or respond to our pending questions at any time to restart the review, or you can designate someone to answer questions in your absence.

Service Providers: File the FCC Form 473 (SPAC) Annual Certification Form

Service providers file an FCC Form 473, also known as the Service Provider Annual Certification (SPAC) Form, to certify their compliance with E-Rate program rules. Service providers must complete a SPAC form for each Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) and for every funding year they participate in the E-Rate program. This form is required so that service providers certify their compliance with the FCC rules annually and to allow the invoicing process to begin. The SPAC form is now located in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC).

If you do not see the link to file the SPAC, you may have View Only permissions. Only users with Full Rights permissions can complete the SPAC and submit it for certification in EPC. Partial Rights users can enter data on the SPAC but cannot certify and submit it in EPC. Please contact your Account Administrator to update your permissions, if needed. Only the Account Administrator can manage user permissions for users associated with a service provider in EPC.

In-Person Training

USAC is coming to an event near you in 2026. E-Rate experts will provide training, discuss program updates, and answer questions from new and experienced participants. Registration is still open for these in-person training events.

- E-Rate Training – Phoenix, AZ: **September 15, 2026**, at the Salvation Army Kroc Center, 1375 E. Broadway Road, Phoenix, AZ. [Register](#).
- E-Rate Training – Washington, DC: **September 24, 2026**, at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) headquarters, 45 L Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. [Register](#).
 - The training will also be available live on the FCC's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/@FCC>.

Reminders

To learn more information about program changes, selective review, registering your entity on SAM.gov, and E-Rate tips, please review the [June 2026 E-Rate News Brief](#).

If you are Tribal library or TCU library interested in applying for E-Rate, consider joining [T-LEAP](#).

[Lifeline](#)

WCB Public Notice: FCC Form 481 Due July 1, 2026

On **June 5, 2026**, the Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a [Public Notice](#) reminding all eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) participating in Lifeline that they must file and certify Form 481, even if the ETC is not seeking Lifeline support. All outstanding and future Lifeline reimbursements will be withheld from ETCs who do not file FCC Form 481 by July 1, 2026, until the ETC files the required form.

For more information on the FCC Form 481, see the [April 1](#) and [June 8](#) bulletins, watch the most recent [webinar](#), or visit the [File FCC Form 481](#) page.

New Continued Eligibility Web Page

USAC has released a new [Continued Eligibility](#) web page to help service providers understand the continued eligibility process. USAC utilizes this process when there is reason to believe that a subscriber may no longer be eligible for Lifeline.

The web page provides an overview of the Continued Eligibility process, USAC's outreach to subscribers and service providers, and which report service providers can use for further details on the status of subscribers undergoing this process. Service providers are encouraged to review the web page to remain informed of this process.

California Subscribers Continued Eligibility Slated for August

Under direction of the FCC and pursuant to the [FCC OIG Advisory Regarding Deceased and Duplicate Lifeline Subscribers](#), USAC will be initiating a continued eligibility process for federal subscribers who were previously determined eligible by the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC). The continued eligibility process is anticipated to start in August, and subscribers must complete the process within 60 days. This continued eligibility process fulfills the 2026 recertification requirement for affected subscribers in California. California subscribers whose eligibility was determined by the National Verifier will not undergo continued eligibility.

For more information, see the [Tuesday, June 16, 2026](#) bulletin and [register](#) to join our California Continued Eligibility Process provider training session on **July 8, 2026, at 3 p.m. ET**.

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

Submit your FY2027 Request for Services Forms

Beginning on July 1, 2026, applicants can start the competitive bidding process for Funding Year (FY) 2027. 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:

- [Prepare for Competitive Bidding & Request Services](#) 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 & Request Services](#) 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

FY2025 HCF Annual Report Due September 30, 2026

Per [FCC Order 19-78](#), to supplement the information collected from forms filed by the healthcare provider (HCP), the FCC requires HCF participants who received funding in FY2025 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) 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.

For FY2025, annual reports should be 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](#) webpage for additional information.

Note: Failure to submit the required annual report(s) by the deadline may result in the denial of RHC program funding.

Upcoming Office Hours and Trainings

Please join the Rural Health Care (RHC) outreach team for the following webinars:

- FY2027 Kick-Off Webinar – **July 15, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET** – [Register](#).
- Consortium Best Practices Webinar – **July 22, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET** – [Register](#).

Key Dates and Trainings

Tribal Teleconference with E-Rate

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 4 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)

Tribal Teleconference with RHC

Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 4 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)

RHC | FY2027 Kick-Off Webinar

Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)

RHC | Consortium Best Practices Webinar

Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)

Lifeline | California Continued Eligibility Process Provider Training

Wednesday, July , 2026, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)

E-Rate | No Upcoming Webinars

To view prior webinars, please visit the [E-Rate Webinar](#) page.

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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