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Universal Service
Administrative Co.

Tribal Outreach

March 2024 USAC Tribal Nation Newsletter

March 29, 2024

We are excited to announce that the [Universal Service Administrative Company's](#) (USAC) is heading out on the road next month to present in person at the National Tribal Telecommunications Association's (NTTA) Spring Tribal Broadband Summit, held from April 8-10 in Chandler, Arizona.

We look forward to engaging with industry leaders as they reveal best practices, new ideas, and real-world experiences of bringing high-speed internet to Tribal communities. We hope to see you there!

[E-Rate](#)

Request a Waiver

The FY2024 application filing window closed on Wednesday, March 27. Applicants who have not yet certified and submitted their FCC Form 471 may request a waiver of the FCC Form 471 application filing window deadline with the FCC by providing details of the circumstances that led to the late filing. Please be sure to certify and submit the FCC Form 471 before requesting a waiver. For more information, refer to the Submitting Window Waiver Requests section of the [FCC Form 471 Filing](#) page.

Document Retention

All program participants are required to retain receipt and delivery records relating to pre-bidding, bidding, contracts, application process, invoices, provision of services, and any other documentation demonstrating compliance with program rules for a period of at least 10 years after the last day of the applicable funding year or the service delivery deadline for the funding request.

Webinars

Please join the E-Rate team for the following webinar:

- Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) Review and Selective Review Process - April 18, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET - [Register](#).

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

[ACP](#)

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

On January 11, 2024, the FCC released an [Order](#) announcing the wind-down requirements of the ACP, due to a lack of additional funding from Congress. The last fully funded month of the ACP is April 2024. The ACP can only provide a partial reimbursement for May 2024, and ACP providers have the option to claim and pass on that partial reimbursement amount to enrolled households. As of January 25, the first round of provider notices regarding the ACP wind-down have been sent to ACP households. The second round of provider notices regarding ACP wind-down have been sent to ACP households as of March 19. The third round of provider notices will be included as part of the last bill or billing cycle in which the full ACP discount is applied. The providers are required to include in their

notices a reminder to ACP households of their right to change their service and/or to opt out of continuing their service at the end of the ACP. For additional information and updates relating to ACP wind-down, please visit AffordableConnectivity.gov or fcc.gov/acp.

Providers seeking further assistance regarding ACP wind-down requirements should contact USAC at ACProgram@usac.org.

Rural Health Care (RHC)

FCC Releases Order DA 24-214 Extending the Deadline for FY2024 Filing Window to May 1, 2024

On March 7, 2024, the FCC released FCC Order [DA 24-214](#) extending the deadline for the FY2024 application filing window to May 1, 2024. This means all RHC funding requests (FCC Forms 462 or 466) must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on May 1, 2024. We highly encourage you to submit your funding requests as early as possible in the filing window.

Visit USAC's website for more information about [filing windows](#).

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. [Read the Announcement](#).

Upcoming Office Hours and Trainings

Please join the RHC Outreach team for the following webinars:

- HCF Program Office Hours – April 17, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET - [Register](#).
- Telecommunications (Telecom) Program Office Hours – April 24, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register](#).

High Cost

Latest Results of CAF Compliance Monitoring Published

As part of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) [Rural Broadband Accountability Plan](#), USAC has [published](#) the latest in a series of reports showing the results of the Connect America Fund (CAF) compliance process, an extensive oversight program that monitors carrier compliance with broadband deployment obligations to confirm that carriers receiving CAF support are using it to expand high-speed internet access and close the digital divide in rural America.

To learn more about updates to the CAF Map, please see the [High Cost Announcement](#) page.

Key Dates and Trainings

E-Rate

- **April 8-10, 2024** – USAC staff will be at the NTTA Spring Tribal Broadband Summit in Chandler, Arizona.
- **April 18, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET** – Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) Review and Selective Review Process Webinar – [Register](#).
- To view E-Rate's prior training webinars, please visit the [E-Rate Webinar](#) page or [E-Rate Tribal-Specific Trainings](#) page.

RHC

- **April 17, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET** – HCF Program Office Hours – [Register](#).
- **April 24, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET** – Telecom Program 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?

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

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