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Universal Service
Administrative Co.

Tribal Outreach

May 2024 USAC Tribal Nation Newsletter

May 31, 2024

Monthly Tribal Teleconference

[Universal Service Administrative Company's](#) (USAC) June Tribal Teleconference, held in collaboration with the Lifeline team, will discuss how to provide additional forms of documentation when applying to the Lifeline program and offer time for questions and answers. Please join the teleconference on **Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 4 p.m. ET** – [Register](#).

E-Rate

Last Day to Receive Recurring Services for Funding Year 2023

June 30, 2024, is the last day to receive recurring services for funding year (FY) 2023. If the same service provider will continue to provide your recurring service after June 30, you must use the Funding Request Number (FRN) approved for FY2024 when you are invoicing for approved recurring services that start on or after July 1, 2024.

Summer Deferral Dates Announced

E-Rate's summer deferral period will begin on May 24, 2024, and end on September 6, 2024. If an E-Rate reviewer contacts you during this period and **does not** receive a response, your application will be placed on a deferred status until reviews recommence after September 6, the end of the summer deferral period.

FCC Form 486 Filing Requirements

After applicants have received a Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) with a positive funding commitment and services have started for the funding year, they must file an [FCC Form 486](#). The FCC Form 486 notifies USAC that services have started and certifies the status of the applicant's compliance with the [Children's Internet Protection Act](#) (CIPA). Applicants will be able to file an FCC Form 486 for FY2024 as soon as they receive a funding commitment from USAC for this funding year.

To learn more about responding to E-Rate review questions, the summer deferral period, and the FCC Form 486, please review the [May 2024 E-Rate News Brief](#).

Webinars

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

- Beginning E-Rate Services Webinar on **Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET** – [Register](#).

Rural Health Care (RHC)

Deadline Approaching for Post-Commitment Change Requests

The service delivery deadline for all single-year FY2023 commitments is June 30, 2024. Per [FCC Order 19-78](#), applicants who want to make the following post-commitment changes must submit their change requests on or before this deadline:

- [Site and Service Substitutions](#)

- [Service Delivery Deadline Extension Requests](#) (for non-recurring costs)

Post-commitment change requests for the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) must be submitted in RHC Connect. For more information, please visit the [Post-Commitment Actions](#) page. A [step-by-step user guide](#) is available on that webpage to assist you with your submission.

Please note: Per [FCC Order 23-110](#), SPIN change requests are now aligned with the invoice filing deadline rather than the service delivery deadline. For more information about SPIN changes, please use the [SPIN Changes](#) page as a resource.

Submit your Telecom Program Invoice for FY2019 or Earlier by July 1, 2024

Per [FCC Order 23-110](#), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established a deadline of July 1, 2024, for Telecom Program participants to submit invoices for FY2019 and earlier, a period during which there was no invoice filing deadline in the Telecom program.

If you are planning to submit a disbursement request (invoice) for any remaining commitment balance(s), please submit the request(s) in My Portal by July 1, 2024. After that date, the outstanding commitment balance will no longer be available. Unused balances for Telecom funding commitments will be de-obligated and returned to the Universal Service Fund for use in accordance with the public interest.

RHC program rules require the following documents to be retained for a minimum of five years and provided to USAC (when requested) for invoice reviews:

- Copies of billing documentation for the referenced billing period with the following information highlighted:
 - HCP Name
 - Circuit Location(s)
 - Billing Account Number (BAN)
 - Bandwidth
 - Circuit ID
 - Service Type
 - Monthly Recurring Charges (MRC)
- Proof of payment for the requested billing period, e.g., check, bank statement, or a printout from the accounts payable system.
 - In the absence of payment or if no payment was made because of credits on an account, please provide an explanation of what action resulted from the credits.

For more information about submitting Telecom invoices, please visit the [Invoice USAC](#) page or contact the RHC Invoicing team at RHC-invoicing@usac.org.

FY2025 Filing Window Dates Announced

The FY2025 funding request filing window will open on December 1, 2024, and close on April 1, 2025. As a reminder, applicants can start submitting their FY2025 FCC Forms 461 and 465 to request services and begin the competitive bidding process on July 1, 2024. View the [FY2025 Program Calendar](#).

Upcoming Webinars

Please join the RHC Outreach team for the following webinars:

- FY2024 Service Provider Training Webinar – **Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET** - [Register](#).
- FCC Form 460 in RHC Connect Webinar – **Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET** - [Register](#).
- FY2025 Kick-Off Webinar – **Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET** - [Register](#).

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

ACP Wind-Down

If Congress does not provide additional funding, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) will run out of funding and ACP households will no longer receive the ACP benefit after May 31, 2024.

ACP households are encouraged to review written notices from their internet company and from USAC, the ACP administrator, about the ACP wind-down. Households are also encouraged to consult their internet company to learn more about how the end of the ACP will impact their internet service and bill. If the ACP receives additional funding from Congress, the FCC and USAC will provide guidance to providers and households.

For additional information and updates relating to the ACP wind-down, please visit [AffordableConnectivity.gov](#) or [fcc.gov/acp](#).

[Lifeline](#)

New Address for Lifeline Support Centers

The Lifeline support centers will transition to a new P.O. Box address beginning June 1, 2024. Mail sent to the old P.O. Box will be forwarded to the new mailing address for one year to ensure there is no interruption in application/document processing.

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:

- Providing Additional Documentation Webinar on **Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 4 p.m. ET** - [Register](#).

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

[High Cost](#)

FCC Form 481 Due by July 1, 2024

USAC reminds all eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) participating in the High Cost and/or Lifeline programs that they must file and certify [FCC Form 481](#) for program year 2025 by July 1, 2024. 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 High Cost updates, please see the [High Cost Announcements](#) page.

Key Dates and Trainings

E-Rate

Webinars:

- **Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET** – Beginning E-Rate Services Webinar - [Register](#).

In-Person Trainings:

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

- **November 12, 2024, in Palm Springs, California.** This Tribal-focused training will be held in conjunction with the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums' (ATALM) annual conference. To attend the E-Rate training, you must be registered for ATALM. To learn more, visit [ATALM's Annual Conference](#) page.

RHC

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- **Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET** – FY2025 Kick-Off Webinar - [Register](#).

Lifeline

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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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