

RHC Program: Competitive Bidding FAQ

What if I didn't receive any bids?

If you did not receive any bids at the conclusion of your 28-day competitive bidding period, you have a few options for how to proceed in order to request funding on an FCC Form 462 or FCC Form 466:

- A. Repost the FCC Form 461 or FCC Form 465, for an additional 28 days to solicit more bids.
- B. Use your current contract as a "standing bid" to obtain the requested services or equipment
- C. Select a service provider of your choosing. However, please be aware that if you choose this option, any services that you select and request funding for must be compliant with what was originally stated on your competitive bidding evaluation matrix, as well as requested on the FCC Form 461 or FCC Form 465.

What happens if I only received one bid?

There is not a minimum number of bids that need to be received to request funding through the Rural Health Care Program. If only one bid is received, you are free to accept this bid as long as it meets the requirements on your competitive bidding matrix as well as the FCC Form 461 or FCC Form 465. Please be mindful that you must submit ALL bids received including winning, losing and disqualified.

Do I need to upload bidding evaluation document(s) if I didn't receive more than a single bid?

Applicants must upload their bidding evaluation criteria regardless of the number of bids received. The bidding evaluation criteria demonstrates how you evaluated all bids received to ensure that the most cost-effective provider is selected. There is no prescribed way to demonstrate that you selected the most cost-effective bid, but a common and helpful method is to use a bidding evaluation matrix with the criteria outlined on your FCC Form 461/465. If there is any other information, including a narrative, that is relevant to how you selected your service provider, you should upload that as well.

I already have an existing contract. Do I still need to go through competitive bidding?

If your contract has not yet been endorsed as Evergreen by USAC, then you will need to go through competitive bidding (unless your contract meets one of the other [competitive bidding exemptions](#)). If this contract is determined to be the most cost-effective option based on your bidding evaluation criteria, then you can continue with the services that are currently in place with this contract. Please keep in mind that your contract must still be consistent with what you included on your FCC Form 461 or FCC Form 465.

[Next steps for filling out an FCC Form 462 or 466 if you did not receive any bids...](#)

If you did not receive any bids, best practice is to upload all correspondence from service providers who inquired regarding the bid, including the service provider you ultimately selected. Additionally, please upload a copy of the bidding evaluation criteria used to evaluate bids. Lastly, please also make sure to upload an explanation of how you ultimately selected your service provider.