Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program

Consortium Rurality Percentage Compliance

According to HCF Program rules, a consortium must be greater than 50% rural at the time of funding request submission (FCC Form 462). Funding will be denied if a consortium is not in compliance with this rule. Plan ahead and keep track of your rurality percentage as you move through each step of the program. If you are out of compliance at any time, the form that is in submitted status will be denied including the FCC Form 462 (Funding Request) and FCC Form 463 (Invoice).

New applicants must enter the program with more rural sites than urban. For example: if you have five member HCPs, three must be rural to be in compliance. If you have four member HCPs, three must still be rural because the percentage must be greater than 50%. Please be aware that this calculation does not include offsite data centers or administrative offices.

Current applicants can view their percent rural status in My Portal under the “My Consortium” tab:

Methods to increase your rurality percentage
Add more rural sites to your consortium
- File an FCC Form 460 and a Letter of Agency (LOA) (or LOE) for a new site that has never participated in the program.
- If the site is participating in the program and has an approved FCC Form 460 in the system, and would like to join your consortium, you connect them to the consortium using an LOA.

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Remove non-rural sites

Remove non-rural sites from the consortium by selecting “Revoke HCP” from the “My Consortium” tab in My Portal:

- Keep in mind that all committed dollars associated with a site must be either de-committed or fully invoiced before you can revoke a site.
- You can also use site and service substitution to reallocate committed funds from sites you’d like to revoke.
- Please keep in mind that site and service substitutions can take time to review so plan accordingly if choosing this option.
- The applicant is responsible for revoking sites and USAC will not revoke sites on your behalf. Please note that you will be unable to revoke an HCP if there are still funds attached to it. All money attached to an HCP must be utilized or de-committed before My Portal allows it to be revoked.

If you have FY2019 funding requests still in review and the site you want to revoke is included, you must contact RHC-Assist@usac.org with a request to remove that site from all existing FY2019 funding requests. You will not be able to revoke the site until that request is complete. Please be sure to include all FRNs that site is associated with in your request and, if applicable, all line items of the FRNs that include multiple HCPs.

Grandfathering of Non-Rural Sites

With the adoption of FCC Report and Order 19-78, the FCC will no longer grandfather HCPs for the purposes of determining eligibility. Starting in FY2020, eligibility determinations will be made uniformly across the program. If the grandfathered site is deemed rural, it will count towards the rurality percentage. If the grandfathered site is deemed “non-rural” then it will count as “non-rural” when calculating rurality percentage. Find out if an HCP is located in a rural area by using the Eligible Rural Areas Search Tool on our website.