

**From:** USAC Rural Health Care Program  
**To:**  
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Latest news from the RHC Program

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## RHC Program News for October

Below is the latest news, timely resources, and helpful reminders for the month of October. It includes important information about the Funding Cap Order, important reminders for FY2018, and information about new resources and trainings.

### **Revised FY2017 HCP Support Schedules (HSS) Distributed**

HCPs and service providers in the Telecom Program were emailed revised FY2017 HCP Support Schedules, which now reflect the 100% support amount (no proration).

## Access Your Revised FY2017 FCL in My Portal

The Revised FY2017 Funding Commitment Letters (FCLs) you received via email are now also available in My Portal. Download the How to Find Your FCL in My Portal Tip Sheet for more information on accessing your FCL

## RHC Program Funding Cap Order

On June 25, 2018, the FCC issued an [Order](#) that adopted rules to: (1) increase the annual RHC Program funding cap to \$571 million and apply it to FY2017; (2) annually adjust the RHC Program funding cap for inflation, beginning with FY2018; and (3) establish a process to carry-forward unused funds from past funding years for use in future funding years. The rules became effective upon publication of the Order in the Federal Register on June 29, 2018.

Watch the [2018 RHC Program Funding Cap Order Information Webinar](#) and download the [FAQ Sheet](#).

**What this means for FY2017:** Due to the increase in the RHC Program funding cap for FY2017, all previously approved FY2017 funding requests will receive 100% of their approved funding amount. The proration that was previously applied to FY2017 funding commitments has been removed, and revised Funding Commitment Letters (FCLs) have been issued via email. If you have not received your revised FY2017 FCL or have questions about it, please contact [RHC-Assist@usac.org](mailto:RHC-Assist@usac.org).

Please log in to My Portal and make sure you are up to date with your FY2017 invoices. If you have questions about the invoicing process, please look at our program invoicing pages for additional information: [HCF Invoicing Page](#) and [Telecom Invoicing Page](#).

**What this means for FY2018:** As noted in the FCC's 2018 RHC Program Funding Cap Order, the RHC Program funding cap for FY2018 will be \$581 million, adjusted for inflation. As a reminder, the FY2018 filing window closed on Friday, June 29, 2018. Applicants are currently unable to submit funding requests for FY2018.

## Important Reminders for FY2018

### Upcoming Invoicing Training

The HCF Program invoicing deadline for FY2017 commitments ending on June 30, 2018 is December 31, 2018. The RHC Program Team will be hosting a webinar covering the invoicing process and best practices on November 15, 2018. [Register today!](#)

### Watch RHC 101

On September 26, the RHC Program Team hosted RHC 101: An Introduction to the RHC Program webinar. This webinar covered the basics of the program including eligibility requirements and how to get started. Were you unable to make it? The recording and slides are posted on our website [here](#).

### Appeal Decisions

USAC is no longer sending appeal decisions via postal mail. If you have appealed a decision made by USAC, you will receive your appeal decision via email. Applicants seeking FCC review of a decision issued by USAC must follow the FCC's regular [appeal procedures](#).

### New Extended RHC Help Desk Hours!

As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, the RHC Help Desk hours were extended from 8:00 a.m. ET – 5:00 p.m. ET to 8:00 a.m. ET – 8:00 p.m. ET. We hope these longer operational hours will help meet the needs of our stakeholders on both coasts, and, in an effort to provide more one-on-one guidance, we are increasing the number of dedicated staff responding to phone calls and emails. Our goal with this expansion is to deliver thorough, helpful answers and guidance to you, faster.

### What to Do if You Receive an Information Request

Applicants must upload all required documentation with the submission of their FCC Forms 462 or 466. FCC Forms submitted with incomplete or missing documentation will not be reviewed, and RHC reviewers will reach out to all account holders (the primary and all secondary and tertiary account holders associated with that HCP) with a request for additional information ("Information Request"). Information Requests are sent to collect any missing documentation, address deficiencies, or to ask clarifying questions about the FCC Form. If you receive an Information Request, you must respond to it within 14 calendar days. Once you respond, the RHC reviewers will work with you, to the extent they can, to ensure that they have all the necessary documentation to complete their review. Failure to respond within the 14 calendar day timeframe will result in an automatic denial, so be sure to meet that deadline!

### LOA/TPAs Must Be Up to Date

In order to be considered eligible for funding in FY2018, [Letters of Agency](#) (LOA) and [Third Party Authorizations](#) (TPA) **must** be up to date through a minimum of FY2018. Be especially mindful if you are an HCP using a consultant, a consortium leader, or a consultant filing on behalf of a consortium leader. Before submitting a form, please check to ensure your authorization documents are up to date.

FCC Forms 462 and 466 submitted with expired LOAs or TPAs will result in applicants receiving Information Requests.

- Download a [Sample TPA](#) or [Sample LOA](#)
- For more information about submitting LOAs, please see the [submission guide](#)

### Questions or Suggestions? Contact Us!

Suggestions for newsletter topic suggestions? Submit them to [RHC-Assist@usac.org](mailto:RHC-Assist@usac.org).  
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RHC Program questions? Contact us [via email](#) or call (800) 453-1546.

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