



RHC Program News for October 2020

October 1, 2020

Latest News

FY2020 Update

Last month, RHC started issuing decisions on Funding Year (FY) 2020 funding requests and will continue to do so on a rolling basis. RHC will communicate any updates via the email addresses the applicant submitted in My Portal. There will not be a second filing window for FY2020.

Register for the FY2020 Update Webinar!

On Thursday, October 22, at 2:00 p.m. ET, the RHC Program Outreach Team is hosting a webinar for applicants who submitted funding request(s) (FCC Forms 462 or 466) for FY2020. We will go over FY2020 important reminders, best practices, and next steps once you receive a funding request decision. Please submit questions for the team [when you register](#).

FCC Releases Order DA 20-1092: FY2019 Invoice Deadlines Waived for Select FRNs

On September 16, 2020, the FCC released [Order DA 20-1092](#) to provide relief to applicants and service providers who received funding year (FY) 2019 funding commitment letters (FCLs) after or within 180 days of the invoice filing deadline. The Order allows these entities to submit invoices to USAC within 180 days from the later of the release date of this Order or the issuance of an FCL by USAC.

The Order includes an appendix identifying applicants that USAC already knows fall into this waiver category. These, plus any other applicants and service providers subsequently identified by USAC that fall into this category, may benefit from this waiver. Applicants and service providers who need to take advantage of these extended invoice deadlines do not need to submit individual requests for a waiver to the FCC.

Tip: Use the [Invoice Deadline Lookup Tool](#) to view invoice deadlines by HCP or FRN.

Information Request & Gift Rule Waivers - Deadlines Extended

On September 3, 2020, the FCC released [DA 20-1021](#), further extending certain waivers adopted in March for COVID-19 relief. Due to ongoing disruptions caused by COVID-19 to program participants and the need for robust connectivity, the FCC extended the gift rule and information request deadline waivers through December 31, 2020. These waivers were originally set to expire on September 30, 2020.

FCC Provides Additional Connected Care Pilot Program Information

On September 3, 2020, the Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) issued a [Public Notice](#) providing additional information concerning the up to \$100 million, three-year Connected Care Pilot Program (Connected Care Pilot) as well as guidance to assist prospective applicants in preparing to apply for the Connected Care Pilot. Health care providers (HCPs) interested in participating in the Connected Care Pilot can take steps now to obtain an eligibility determination by filing an [FCC Form 460](#) and obtaining a HCP number. An eligibility determination and HCP number is required for each site that will be included in a Connected Care Pilot application.

The following resources can assist you in filing an FCC Form 460:

- [How to Check for An Existing HCP](#) video and [Step-by-Step Guide](#)
- FCC Form 460 [Instructions](#)
- Submit your FCC Form 460 In [My Portal](#)

HCP sites that have already filed FCC Form 460s and are deemed eligible to participate in the Commission’s existing RHC Program or the COVID-19 Telehealth Program may rely on that eligibility determination for the Connected Care Pilot.

Telecom HCP sites with approved FCC Form 465s can [contact us](#) for more information on how to get started. Please make sure to include your HCP numbers in the body of the email.

WCB will release a forthcoming Public Notice announcing the specific application timing and processes. Interested applicants can learn more about the Connected Care Pilot by taking a look at the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). To receive updates and announcements, subscribe to the Connected Care Pilot [email listserv](#). Questions concerning the Connected Care Pilot can be emailed to ConnCarePltProg@fcc.gov.

Update to New FY2021 Tools: Rates Database

Rates eligible for inclusion in the rates database that were submitted to USAC by the August 31, 2020 deadline have now been added to it. The rates database is used to identify the median urban and rural rate for your site and service when completing your [FCC Form 466](#) (Funding Request Form). If you have any questions, please feel free to email RHC-Assist@usac.org.

Begin to Submit Your FY2021 Request for Services Today!

New for FY2021 and forward, the competitive bidding period will begin on July 1 of the prior calendar year. This allows RHC Program applicants more time to complete and submit their FCC [Forms 461](#) and [Forms 465](#) for the purposes of competitive bidding. Learn about the changes to the FY2021 competitive bidding process and corresponding My Portal updates by watching the [Request for Services Webinars](#) and view the [Request for Services Summary](#).

Important Reminders

Tip: Rurality Tier Search Tool

When using the [Rurality Tier Search Tool](#), it is important to put in your site’s exact address for best results. If the site’s exact address does not yield results, you may also use the latitude and longitude coordinates for your site. To find your site’s latitude and longitude coordinates:

1. Go to [Google Maps](#)
2. Type in your site’s address
3. Right click on the marker pin pointing your site on the map and select “What’s Here?”
4. The coordinates (a pair of numbers, each with a decimal point) will appear on the screen

Use these coordinates to “Search with geographic coordinates” in the Rurality Tier Search Tool. Be sure to include the negative sign when entering the negative longitude coordinate.

FCC Form 460 Best Practice

During the submission of an FCC Form 460 (HCF Eligibility and Registration Form), we recommend that applicants upload any supporting documentation necessary to validate form data to the “Supporting Documentation” section. This includes documentation that is relevant to the required fields of the FCC Form 460. Submitting supporting documentation helps to verify health care provider (HCP) eligibility thereby expediting the review process. A few examples include:

- Hospital licenses, with the address clearly posted, to verify a non-profit hospital
- A recent bill or lease, with the address clearly posted, to verify the HCP address provided on the FCC Form 460
- Public tax documents to verify the Non-Profit Tax ID (EIN) or public documents if the health care provider is owned by a local or state government
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) accreditation to verify a community health center.

You can submit your FCC Form 460 at any time during the funding year. First time applying? We suggest you review this [step-by-step guide](#) or watch a [short video](#) to check if your HCP site has previously registered with the RHC

Program.

Telecom Program FCC Form 467 Revisions

Please remember to carefully review your Funding Commitment Letter (FCL) and Healthcare Support Schedule (HSS) prior to beginning the invoicing process. If there is an error or you have any questions about the information on the FCL or HSS, email RHC-Assist@usac.org with the FRN in the subject line. As a reminder, if services were delayed or not turned on, it is the responsibility of the HCP to submit a request for an FCC Form 467 revision.

Need Help? Contact Us!

For questions about the Rural Health Care Program, call the RHC Help Desk Call at 800-453-1546 or email RHC-Assist@usac.org.

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