



RHC Program News for June 2021

June 3, 2021

Latest News

Deadline Approaching! FY2019 HCF Program Invoicing Deadline

Last year, the FCC released [Order 20-345](#), extending the FY2019 invoicing deadline for HCF program applicants, resulting in many FY2019 FRNs having June 29 invoicing deadlines. To see if your HCP has an upcoming FY2019 invoicing deadline, use the [Invoice Deadline Lookup Tool](#) or view your deadline in My Portal. As a reminder, the HCF invoicing process is a joint process between the HCP and its service provider. For information on how to file your FCC Form 463, watch the [FY2019 Invoicing Best Practices Webinar](#).

Register for Invoicing Office Hours: On Thursday, June 17 the RHC Outreach team will host an HCF Program Invoicing Office Hours Session. Join at any time between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. ET to ask questions about invoicing and submitting the FCC Form 463. [Register today!](#)

Begin to Submit Your FY2022 Requests for Service July 1, 2021

RHC program applicants can submit their FCC Forms 461 and Forms 465 to initiate competitive bidding as early as July 1, 2021, five months before the opening of the FY2022 filing window. The FY2022 funding request filing window will open on December 1, 2021 and close on April 1, 2022. [View the FY2022 Program Calendar](#). Stay tuned for FY2022 training announcements.

Important Reminders

What to do if You Receive an Information Request

FCC Forms submitted with incomplete or missing documentation cannot be processed, 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. Failure to respond within the 14 calendar days will result in a denial of funding, so be sure to meet that deadline. Due to FCC [Order DA 21-394](#), applicants who receive Information Requests between April 8, 2021 and December 31, 2021 may request a 28-day extension of this deadline, but must do so before the 14-day deadline in the Information Request. An applicant with a 28-day extension will have a total of 42 calendar days to respond to its information request.

Information Request Tips for the Telecom Program

- Applicants can receive Telecom program Information Requests through My Portal OR by email
 - For Information Requests received through My Portal, applicants should respond through My Portal only
 - For Information Requests received by email, applicants should “Reply All” to respond to the Information Request by email
- Use Chrome/Firefox only when using My Portal

- When uploading a document as a response, the document should be limited to 10MB and its file name should not contain any special characters, only letters and numbers

Information Request Tips for the HCF Program

- Applicants that receive HCF program Information Requests through email should “Reply All” to respond to an Information Request by email

Certifications Requirements for National Supply Chain

As a reminder, when service providers log in to My Portal they will see two new Supply Chain certifications included in the FCC Form 463 and Telecom invoice.

The first certification affirms compliance with the [Section 54.9](#) prohibition on USF support to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, modify, operate, manage, or otherwise support equipment or services produced or provided by the covered companies deemed to pose a national security threat to the integrity of the communications network or communications supply chain. Huawei Technologies Company and ZTE Corporation, and their parents, affiliates, and subsidiaries, are the two companies that have been officially designated as such threats by the FCC. The second certification affirms compliance with [Section 54.10](#), which prohibits the use of any Federal subsidies on any communications equipment and services on the [Covered List](#).

Based on this Covered List, recipients of universal service support may not use federal subsidies, including universal service funds, for telecommunications equipment or video surveillance equipment produced by Huawei, ZTE, Hytera, Hangzhou Hikvision, and Dahua.

- FY2020 Applicants: If you requested services or equipment provided or that contain components of products produced by Huawei Technologies or ZTE, or any of their parents, affiliates and subsidiaries in FY2020, you cannot invoice for these funds. Instead, you should immediately request a [service substitution](#) prior to invoicing in order to ensure complete program compliance.
- FY2021 Applicants: If you identify the use of covered equipment/services on your submitted funding request form please email RHC-Assist.org with your FRN number. We will work with you to take corrective action to ensure compliance.
- FY2022 Applicants: As you proceed with competitive bidding beginning in July, please ensure you are not requesting funding for services or equipment from Huawei Technologies or ZTE, Hytera, Hangzhou Hikvision, or Dahua or any of their parents, affiliates and subsidiaries.

Upcoming Audits: In addition, beginning this summer, USAC will conduct audits of compliance with the supply chain rules. To help you prepare, USAC will host a series of webinars so that you can learn more about what to expect if you are selected for an audit.

Service providers who participate in multiple USF programs must also complete these annual certifications for each other program (i.e., E-rate, High Cost, and Lifeline) in which they participate. For additional information and FCC form due dates, visit USAC’s [Supply Chain](#) webpage.

Effective Now: FCC DA 20-1420 Certain Rule Changes Implemented for FY2020

FCC [Order DA 20-1420](#) implemented certain rule changes mid-funding year (FY) 2020 that were previously slated for FY2021. The FCC recognizes that making these rules effective mid-FY2020 will provide helpful flexibility to health care providers during the current funding year. Please note, this Order became effective on March 15, 2021, read more in the [Federal Register](#). The Order accelerates the effective dates of the following rule changes:

- Extending site and service substitutions to Telecom program applicants
- Amending the SPIN change process to allow for corrective and operational changes across both the HCF and Telecom programs
- Establishing a service delivery deadline of June 30 while permitting a one-year extension of the service delivery deadline for non-recurring services
- Permitting a one-time 120-day invoice filing extension

To request any of the above actions on your approved FY2020 funding commitment, please email RHC-Assist@usac.org with your Funding Request Number (FRN) and the desired request in the subject line of your email.

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, but are not limited to:

- 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.

Please note that submission of this supporting documentation does not guarantee form approval. 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](#) to check if your HCP site has previously registered with the RHC program.

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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