



August 2026 RHC Monthly Newsletter

August 6, 2026

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Latest News and RHC Trainings

My Portal is Unavailable to External Users

Please be advised that as of July 31, 2026, My Portal is no longer available to external users. User data has been migrated to RHC Connect, the RHC online application system. Prior to that date, users were advised that all documents and information needed from My Portal should be saved to their device or local site. For information for the last ten years, please continue to use [Open Data](#) as a resource. If you need to request documents from My Portal, please reach out to the [RHC Customer Service Center](#).

RHC Disbursements Will Be Issued August 11th

Please be advised that USAC will be issuing the first August disbursement to RHC participants on August 11th, instead of the expected disbursement date of August 6th. We apologize for the delay. USAC is undergoing a system transition and upgrade in early August, during which we will be unable to disburse funds. The full transition will be completed on August 10th, and RHC participants will receive their disbursements on August 11th. We do not anticipate any changes to the August 20th disbursement date. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at RHC-Assist@usac.org.

SAM.gov UEI Requirement

Beginning August 2026, USAC will begin using [SAM.gov](#) banking information to remit payment for all USF invoices. All service providers must have an active [SAM.gov](#) UEI on their FCC Form 498 and must have a valid bank account associated with their UEI. Applicants and service providers may submit Invoicing forms, but if the SAM.gov account is not active, USAC will not process the disbursement. For more information, see the [SAM.gov UEI Requirement webpage](#).

Upcoming RHC Dates and Deadlines

FY2025 HCF Annual Report Due September 30, 2026

Per [FCC Order 19-78](#), to supplement the information collected from forms filed by the healthcare provider (HCP), the FCC requires all HCF participants who received funding in funding year (FY) 2025 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) to submit information to USAC about the telehealth applications used during the funding year. All HCF Program participants, both individual and consortia, must submit an annual report for each funding year in which they receive HCF Program support and for the life of a supported facility or service for which the program participant received large upfront payments. Failure to submit the required annual report(s) by the deadline may result in the denial of RHC program funding.

For FY2025, annual reports should be submitted in RHC Connect. Please use the [RHC Connect Annual Report User Guide](#) and visit the [Submit Annual Report](#) webpage to assist you with your submission.

FY2027 Filing Window Dates Announced

The FY2027 filing window will open on December 1, 2026, and close on April 1, 2027. As a reminder, applicants may start submitting their FCC Forms 461 and 465 to request services and begin the competitive bidding process on July 1, 2026. View the [FY2027 Program Calendar](#).

Rural Health Care Program: **Funding Year 2027**



Submit your FY2027 Request for Services Forms!

As of July 1, 2026, applicants can start the competitive bidding process for FY2027. The HCF Program's FCC Form 461 and the Telecom Program's FCC Form 465 (Request for Services Forms) may be submitted in RHC Connect along with any other competitive bidding documents, such as a Request for Proposal (RFP). Please use the following resources to submit these forms:

HCF Program:

- [Prepare for Competitive Bidding & Request Services](#) webpage
- [Welcome to RHC Connect – FCC Form 461](#) webpage
- [Competitive Bidding Exemptions](#) webpage
- [RHC Connect FCC Form 461 User Guide](#)
- [How to File the FCC Form 461](#) self-guided training video

Telecom Program:

- [Prepare for Competitive Bidding & Request Services](#) – webpage
- [Welcome to RHC Connect – FCC Form 465](#) webpage
- [Competitive Bidding Exemptions](#) webpage
- [RHC Connect FCC Form 465 User Guide](#)
- [Telecom Program Request for Services \(FCC Form 465\)](#), self-guided training video

Information Request Tips for the RHC Program

- For Information Requests, an auto-generated email will be sent directing health care providers (HCPs) to RHC Connect to respond. HCPs should respond through RHC Connect only. Please use the [Information Request Tip Sheet](#) to help you navigate Information Requests sent through RHC Connect.
- Use only Chrome, Firefox, or Microsoft Edge Internet browsers when using RHC Connect.
- When uploading a document as a response, the file must be limited to 10MB, and its file name should not contain any special characters – only letters and numbers.

Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

Please join the Rural Health Care (RHC) outreach team for the following webinars:

- FY2027 Telecom Program Request for Services webinar – August 26, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register](#)
- HCF Program Invoicing Best Practices Webinar – September 2, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register](#)
- Telecom Program Invoicing Best Practices Webinar – September 9, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register](#)
- FY2026 Funding Requests Update Webinar – September 16, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register](#)
- Q3 Service Provider Training – September 23, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register](#)

RHC Wants to Hear from YOU!

The RHC outreach team strives to provide useful and timely online resources. Your feedback is crucial to ensure our systems are user-friendly, and that applicants and service providers have appropriate resources available. Would you take a moment to share your thoughts in response to the following question:

- For HCPs – Do you have any feedback about completing the competitive bidding forms (FCC Forms 461 or 465) in RHC Connect?
- For service providers – Do you have any feedback about finding applicant competitive bidding forms in the [RHC Posted Services Tool](#) on the USAC website?

Please send your feedback, questions, and/or insights to RHC-Outreach@usac.org. We appreciate your commitment to the RHC program's continued success.

Online Tools

Open Data Platform

As part of USAC's Open Data initiative, RHC program data is open and accessible to the public. Anyone is free to access and utilize the raw data submitted by Universal Service participants. Please note, data sets are regularly updated to include 10 years of information to avoid lowering the performance of USAC systems. The following data sets are available on the Open Data platform:

- [Rural Health Care Commitments and Disbursements Dataset \(FCC Form 462/466/466A\)](#) – This dataset contains data about funding decisions, total committed amounts, and total disbursement amounts for the RHC program.
- [RHC Posted Services Tool](#) – This tool allows service providers to view service request information by individual HCPs and consortia applying for funding through the RHC program.
- [Rural Health Care Posted Services Dataset \(FCC Form 461/465\)](#) – This dataset allows service providers to view service request information provided by the RHC program. The data is collected from FCC Forms 461 and 465, which includes the service request information.

- [SPIN Lookup Tool](#) – This tool can be used to view and export service provider profile data found in RHC Connect. This data includes important information regarding the service provider, such as contact information and details regarding the FCC Forms 498 and 499.

Some users have reported issues with downloading or opening some documents in Open Data. We have improved the situation, but if you have a problem, please try to copy and paste the URL into a new tab in your browser. If the new browser window does not resolve the problem, please reach out to the [RHC Customer Service Center](#).

Invoice Filing Deadlines

The [RHC Invoice Filing Deadline Tool](#) allows service providers and HCPs to look up the deadline to submit invoices for funding commitments. The tool allows users to avoid having to set up specific Excel configurations to find their deadlines.

RHC Connect Reminders

Submit Third Party Authorizations in RHC Connect!

If you are an HCP participating in the HCF or Telecom Program, and a consultant or other third party (i.e., anyone who is not employed by the HCP) will file forms on behalf of your site, you must file a Third Party Authorization (TPA) with USAC. A TPA provides written authorization to USAC, allowing the third party to complete and submit forms on behalf of the HCP or consortium in the HCF or Telecom Programs. RHC program participants may now submit third party authorizations in RHC Connect. Please use the following resources to submit your TPAs:

- [Third Party Authorization webpage](#)
- [RHC Connect - Third Party Authorization User Guide](#)

Submit LOAs and LOEs in RHC Connect

As a reminder for consortia applicants, Letters of Agency (LOA) and Letters of Exemption (LOE) are also submitted in RHC Connect. Please use the following resources to submit LOAs and LOEs:

- [Letter of Agency](#)
- [Letter of Exemption](#)
- [RHC Connect LOA/LOE User Guide](#)
- [Sample LOA](#)

RHC Connect Updates – FCC Form 469

The FCC Form 469 is the Telecom Program invoicing form. Per [FCC Order 23-6](#), the Telecom Program invoicing process is like the invoicing process in the HCF Program. One key difference is that the service provider submits the FCC Form 469 in RHC Connect, the applicant receives an email alerting them of the submission, and the applicant officially submits the form to USAC by certifying and signing the form.

RHC Connect for Service Providers

As you submit the FCC Form 463 and FCC Form 469, please keep in mind that the General Contact on the FCC Form 498 is the only user for the company who can create additional logins for other users in that company. This is done within RHC Connect.

If you have trouble accessing RHC Connect, it may be a result of outdated information on the FCC Form 498 (Service Provider and Billed Entity Identification Number and General Contact Information Form). To correct the issue, please update your FCC Form 498 as soon as possible and, if applicable, your Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) on the [SAM.gov](#) webpage. For more information, please visit the [Manage Your 498 ID](#) webpage on the USAC website.

An [FCC Form 463](#) user guide as well as an [FCC Form 469](#) user guide, both specifically for service providers, are now available on the [Step 5: Invoice USAC](#) webpage in the RHC service provider section of the USAC website.

Need Help? Contact Us!

For questions about the Rural Health Care Program, email RHC-Assist@usac.org or contact the RHC Customer Service Center (CSC) at (800) 453-1546 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET Monday through Friday for assistance. Use the [RHC CSC Tip Sheet](#) to learn about how the RHC CSC can and cannot help you.