



July 2026 RHC Monthly Newsletter

July 2, 2026

Latest News

Submit your FY2027 Request for Services Forms!

Beginning on July 1, 2026, applicants can start the competitive bidding process for Funding Year (FY) 2027. The Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program's FCC Form 461 (Request for Services Form) and the Telecommunications (Telecom) Program's FCC Form 465 (Request for Services Form) 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

Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

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

- FY2027 Kick-Off Webinar – July 15, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register](#)
- Consortium Best Practices Webinar – July 22, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register](#)
- FY2027 HCF Program Request for Services Webinar – August 12, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register](#)
- FY2027 Telecom Program Request for Services Webinar – August 26, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register](#)

My Portal Will Be Unavailable After July 31, 2026!

Please be advised that as of July 31, 2026, My Portal will no longer be available to external stakeholders. User data has been migrated to RHC Connect, the new RHC online application system. In advance of that date, be sure that all documents and information you want to save is downloaded from My Portal to your device. For information for the last ten funding years, please continue to use Open Data as a resource. As we get closer to July 31, the RHC outreach team will provide further instructions about how to request information and documents from My Portal

via the [RHC Customer Service Center](#).

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 HCF participants who received funding in FY2025 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) to submit information to USAC about the telehealth applications used during the funding year.

Who is Required to Submit the Annual Report? All HCF Program participants, both individual and consortia, must submit an annual report for each funding year in which they received HCF Program support and for the life of a supported facility or service for which the program participant received large upfront payments.

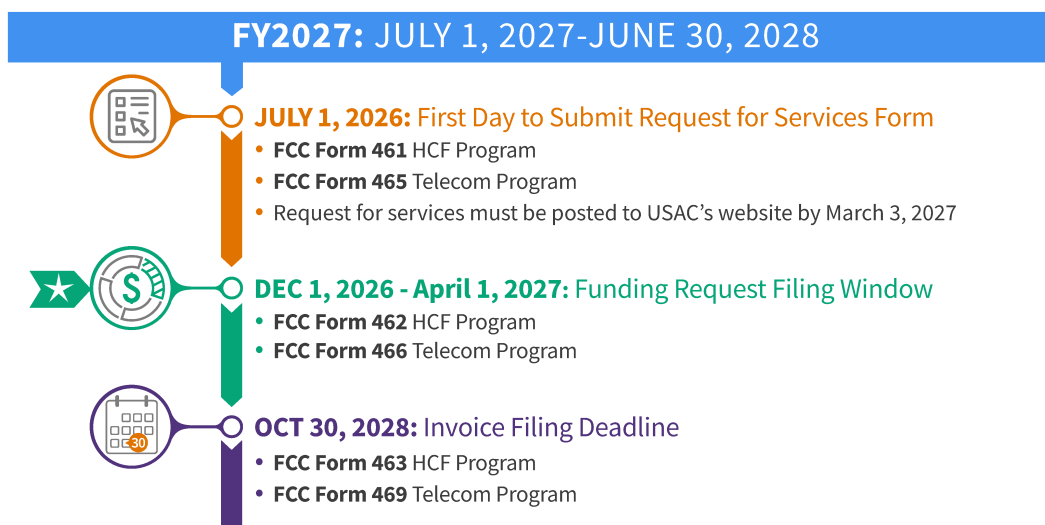
For FY2025, annual reports should be submitted in RHC Connect. Please use the [RHC Connect Annual Report User Guide](#) to assist you with your submission. Please visit the [Submit Annual Report](#) webpage for additional information.

Note: Failure to submit the required annual report(s) by the deadline may result in the denial of RHC program funding.

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**



New! 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 FCC Forms 461 or 465 in RHC Connect?
- For service providers – Do you have any feedback about 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 \(FCC Form 462/466/466A\)](#) – 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 \(FCC Form 461/465\)](#) – 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.

Note: 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.

FCC News

FCC Announces Availability of Unused Funds to Fully Fund RHC Program Demand for FY2026

On June 8, 2026, the FCC Wireline Competition Bureau directed USAC to carry forward up to \$226.42 million in unused funds from prior funding years to satisfy the FY2026 demand for the RHC program. Because of this, all eligible RHC program funding requests filed during the FY2026 application filing window can now be fully funded without prioritization.

Please read the [Public Notice](#) for more information.

FY2026 Telecom Program Rural Rates

On November 18, 2025, the FCC released order [DA 25-954](#). This order applies specifically to Method 3. The order waives the FCC's rules to permit the use of previously approved rural rates from FY2023 – FY2025 for funding year 2026 that would otherwise require approval of a cost-based justification for FY2026 under Method 3. Rural rates for the Telecom Program should be calculated using Method 1, or, if you cannot satisfy the requirements, then Method 2. If neither of these methods is feasible, then you must use Method 3.

For more information, read FCC Order [DA 25-954](#). Please use the [FY2026 Rural and Urban rates tip sheet](#) as a resource.

RHC Connect Updates

My Portal Decommissioning

My Portal will be decommissioned on July 31, 2026. The RHC outreach team previously informed applicants well ahead of My Portal decommissioning, that third-party authorizations (TPAs) will not be migrated to RHC Connect. Letters of Agency (LOA) and Letters of Exemption (LOE) must also be moved to RHC Connect. **Applicants were required to move all their TPAs and LOA/LOEs into RHC Connect by November 30, 2025.**

NOTE: Third-party account holders will not have access to HCPs that do not have an active TPA submitted in RHC Connect. In addition, consortium account holders will not have access to member sites if they do not have an active LOA/LOE stored in RHC Connect.

In the coming months, the RHC outreach team will provide more details regarding the process of requesting information from My Portal once this information is no longer available to external users.

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 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, LOAs and LOEs are also submitted in RHC Connect. Please use the following resources to submit LOAs and LOEs:

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

The RHC outreach team will continue to provide information about important deadlines and the decommissioning of My Portal.

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 a [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.

Service Provider Webpage Updates

USAC's RHC and E-Rate programs have updated the [RHC Service Provider Process](#) and [E-Rate Service Provider](#)

[Process](#) webpages to better support your participation in the Universal Service Fund (USF) programs. These updates:

- Ensure titles and descriptions of the service provider enrollment process reflect the key activities within each process step.
- Simplify page content where process requirements are similar.
- Continue the tradition of incorporating link-accessible resources to reduce page scroll.

Additionally, a new resource for Tribal service providers is now available:

- [Registering for a Service Provider Identification Number \(SPIN\) Checklist for New Tribal Service Providers](#)

These updates aim to improve ease of participation by aligning the steps that service providers must take to participate in the RHC and E-Rate programs – especially for small and rural service providers that are new to USAC.

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. For more information, see the [SAM.gov UEI Requirement webpage](#).

Important Reminders

Information Request Tips for the RHC Program

- For information requests related to FY2026 FCC Forms 462 and 466, an auto-generated email will be sent directing 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.

Reminders for Account Holders

Per RHC program rules, a primary and secondary account holder for an individual HCP must be an officer, director, or authorized employee of the HCP. For consortium applicants in the HCF Program, the Project Coordinator must be an officer, director, or other authorized employee of the Consortium Leader. If you are an HCP participating in the HCF or Telecom Program and a consultant or other third party will file forms on your behalf, you must file a [TPA](#).

Per FCC Order 19-78, if you are a consultant, you must obtain a consultant group registration number when logging into RHC Connect. In My Portal, the system automatically assigned a number. However, in RHC Connect, the registration number is only assigned once the simple registration process is complete. Please follow the steps shown in [RHC Connect – Third Party Authorization User Guide](#), starting on page 9, to complete your consultant group registration and obtain the registration number.

Note: The primary account holder is responsible for all activities associated with submitting and certifying forms and for all activities in the RHC program for their HCP site.

Duplicate Funding Prohibited

Please remember: FCC rules prohibit duplicate funding for the same service, for the same location, during the same period, from more than one FCC program. This includes the RHC programs (HCF and Telecom) and the Connected Care Pilot Program (CCPP).

Reminder: Certifications Requirements for National Supply Chain

As a reminder, when service providers log in to RHC Connect, two Supply Chain certifications included in the FCC Form 463 and Telecom Program invoice will be displayed. The first certification affirms compliance with the [Section 54.9](#) prohibition on specified transactions with companies deemed to pose a national security threat.

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](#).

Note: If you requested services or equipment that provide or contain components of products produced by any company on the [Covered List](#), or any of their parents, affiliates, and subsidiaries, you cannot invoice for these funds. Instead, you should immediately request a [service substitution](#) prior to invoicing to ensure complete program compliance. In addition, as you proceed with competitive bidding, please ensure you are not requesting funding for services or equipment from listed covered companies or any of their parents, affiliates, and subsidiaries. USAC updated the [Supply Chain](#) webpages to include subpages for [Audits](#) and [FAQs](#).