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Universal Service Administrative Co.

Rural Health Care

November 2026 RHC Monthly Newsletter

November 5, 2026

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News

FY2026 Commitments

RHC has processed 76.4 percent of applications received and 64.7 percent of total funds requested for both the Telecom and HCF Programs. To date, 73.62 percent of FCC Forms 462 are committed (Approved, Denied, or Withdrawn) in the HCF program and 99.93 percent of FCC Forms 466 are committed (Approved, Denied, or Withdrawn) in the Telecom program.

FY2027 Filing Window Opens December 1, 2026

The funding year (FY) 2027 filing window will be open for submitting and certifying your funding requests (FCC Forms 462 or 466) from **December 1, 2026** until **April 1, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. We highly encourage you to submit your funding requests as early as possible in the filing window. Learn more about filing windows . View the FY2027 Program Calendar.

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



Applicants can start draft FCC Forms 462 and 466 today.
In preparation for FY2027, applicants can create draft funding requests in RHC Connect now. Draft forms will remain in RHC Connect and can be submitted and certified on December 1.

For FY2027, participants will use RHC Connect to submit their FCC Forms 462 (HCF Funding Request Forms) and FCC Forms 466 (Telecom Funding Request Form). To learn more, please visit the following webpages and user guides:

- HCF Program – Welcome to RHC Connect – FCC Form 462
- HCF Program – RHC Connect User Guide FCC Form 462
- Telecom Program – Welcome to RHC Connect – FCC Form 466
- Telecom Program – RHC Connect User Guide FCC Form 466

Register for a Training Today!
To assist you with filing your FY2027 funding requests (FCC Forms 422 and 466), the Rural Health Care (RHC) outreach team will be hosting the following webinars:

- FY2027 Funding Request Best Practices (HCF Program) Webinar – Wednesday, November 11, 2026, from 2 - 3 p.m. ET – Register
- FY2027 Funding Request Best Practices (Telecom Program) Webinar – Wednesday, November 18, 2026, from 2 - 3 p.m. ET – Register
- Consortium Best Practices Webinar – Wednesday, December 9, 2026, from 2 - 3 p.m. ET – Register

If you have questions you would like addressed during the webinar, please send them to RHC-Outreach@usac.org.

FY2027 Urban and Rural Rates – Telcom Program
On August 7, 2026, the FCC released an order as part of FCC 26-54 . This order waives the FCC's rules for FY2027 to permit the use of previously approved rural rates from funding years 2024 through 2026 that would otherwise require approval of a cost-based justification using Method 3. For more information on rural rates and the waiver, please review FCC 26-54 and USAC's FY2027 Urban and Rural Rate Information tip sheet.

Submit Your FY2027 Request for Services Forms to Start Competitive Bidding

Before you can file FY2027 funding requests, don't forget to complete your competitive bidding. 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 FCC Form 461:

- 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 FCC Form 465:

- 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

Program Reminders

Information Request Tips for the RHC Program

- For Information Requests, an auto-generated email will be sent directing healthcare 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.

Transition to SAM.gov is Complete

On September 8, 2026, USAC started using SAM.gov banking information to remit payment for all Universal Service Fund (USF) invoices. Service providers who have an active SAM.gov registration and have added their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) to the FCC Form 498 do not need to take any additional actions. All invoices paid after September 8 will be disbursed to the bank account associated with their SAM.gov registration.

Payments **will be held** for service providers without an active SAM.gov registration and UEI. Service providers who have not registered with SAM.gov or added their UEI to the FCC Form 498 should do so promptly. Service providers without a UEI in their FCC Form 498 can submit invoices, but their payments will be held until these steps are completed. If a payment is held, USAC will send an email to the remittance contact for that USF program notifying them of the hold with the subject line "Action Required: Your Payment is on Hold." For questions about a held payment, contact the USAC Customer Service Center at CustomerSupport@USAC.org.

SAM.gov requires users to renew their registration annually. The renewal process is conducted through the SAM.gov website. Once users complete their renewal, SAM.gov will inform USAC; service providers do not need to take any action with their FCC Form 498 if the UEI is already added.

To learn more about USAC's transition to using SAM.gov payment data for USF invoices, visit USAC's SAM.gov UEI Requirement website.

My Portal is No Longer Available to External Users
As a reminder, 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 have been saved to their device or local site. For information for the last 10 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.

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 search and filter service request information by individual HCPs and consortia seeking competitive bids.
- Rural Health Care Posted Services Dataset (FCC Form 461/465) – This dataset allows service providers to view and download all service request information provided by individual HCPs and consortia seeking competitive bids pursuant to the RHC program rules. The data is collected from FCC Forms 461 and 465, which collect 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.
- RHC Invoice Filing Deadline Tool – This tool allows service providers and HCPs to look up the deadline to submit invoices for funding commitments.

If you have a problem downloading or opening information, 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 .

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 to 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.

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:

- Did you take advantage of beginning draft FCC Forms 462 and 466 (Funding Request forms) in October? Will this extra time be helpful to submit all funding requests by the close of the FY2027 filing window (April 1, 2027)?

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

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.

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