Funding Year 2021 Update Webinar – Rural Health Care (RHC) Program

September 23, 2021



DISCLAIMER:

To accommodate all attendees, real-time closed captions will be present during this presentation. This is a new feature we are testing out to improve webinar accessibility for all. We understand it is a significant change and appreciate your patience. We apologize in advance for any transcription errors or distractions. Thank you for your support.

Housekeeping

- Use the "Audio" section of your control panel to select an audio source and connect to sound
 - Turn on your computer's speakers, or
 - Use the call-in instructions in your confirmation email
- All participants are on mute
- Use the questions box at any time



Meet Our Team



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Program Manager | Rural Health Care



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Agenda

- FY2021 Program Updates
- FY2021 Next Steps
- My Portal Updates
- Important Reminders
- Upcoming Training

Glossary

Acronym	Meaning
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
HCF	Healthcare Connect Fund
FY	Funding Year
HCP	Health Care Provider (Your Site)
HCP Number	Number associated with your site
PAH	Primary Account Holder
FRN	Funding Request Number
FCL	Funding Commitment Letter
ACSD	Allowable Contract Selection Date
SPIN/498 ID	Service Provider Identification Number

FY2021 - Program Updates

Funding Year 2021 Update Webinar

FY2021 Program Calendar



FY2021 Funding Requests

- USAC began issuing decisions on FY2021 funding requests in July, five weeks after the close of the FY2021 filing window.
- RHC will continue to issue funding decisions on a rolling basis and will communicate any updates via the email addresses the applicant submitted in My Portal.
- Due to the demand for RHC program funds, there will not be a second filing window for FY2021. The RHC program will not accept additional funding requests (FCC Forms 462 or 466).
- All approved Telecom program and single year funding requests for HCF will be fully funded.

FY2021 Funding Demand

- On June 23, 2021, the FCC Wireline Competition Bureau directed USAC to carry forward up to \$379.97 million in unused funds from prior funding years to the extent necessary to satisfy FY2021 demand for the Rural Health Care program.
- For more information, read <u>Public Notice DA 21-742</u>.

Connected Care Pilot Program (CCPP)

- Provides up to \$100 million over a three-year period to support the provision of connected care services, with an emphasis on supporting these services for low income Americans and veterans.
- The Connected Care Pilot Program (CCPP) application window closed on December 7, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. ET and no further applications are currently being accepted.
- As of June 17, 2021, a total of 59 applications serving patients in 30 states plus Washington, DC were chosen.
- Pilot projects will use the same forms as the HCF program.
- Please visit the <u>FCC Connected Care Pilot Program</u> website for more information about the program.

FY2021 – Next Steps

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FCC Order 21-1107 – Hurricane Ida Relief Order

- On September 3, 2021, the FCC issued Order <u>DA 21-1107</u> waiving certain RHC rules and deadlines to assist participants and providers located in the areas affected by Hurricane Ida. This Order applies to healthcare providers and service providers located in all counties and parishes in **Louisiana and Mississippi** as of the date of release of this Order (September 3, 2021).
 - Grants a 60-day extension to the deadline for appeals and request for waiver for all requests from August 30,2021 through January 31, 2022
 - Waives the 14-day Information Request deadline for Information Requests related to funding requests, appeals and waivers, invoices, audits and other documentation and applies to all funding years
 - Waives the September 30, 2021 deadline for HCF program consortia annual reports
 - Impacted program participants will not be penalized for failure to retain records destroyed by Hurricane Ida

Next Steps for Approved FY2021 Commitments

- When you receive a Funding Commitment Letter (FCL):
 - Remember to review details carefully including funding start and end dates.
- Prepare to invoice:
 - The invoicing deadline for Telecom and single-year HCF FY2021 commitments is **October 28, 2022**.
 - Your invoicing deadline appears on your FCL or it can by located on <u>Rural Health Care</u> <u>Commitments and Disbursements (FCC Form 462/466/466A)</u> webpage on the <u>USAC</u> <u>Open Data</u> platform.
 - To locate your invoicing deadline, search by FRN and your invoicing deadline will be on the far right of the screen.

Next Steps for FY2021 Applicants - Appeals

- If you receive a denial, or if you disagree with a final decision from USAC, please use the <u>Appeals</u> webpage on the USAC website as a resource.
 - You must file your appeal (or, if submitting by mail, it must be postmarked) within 60 days of the date when USAC issued the decision you are appealing.*
 - Note: If that day falls on a weekend or on a Federal Holiday, the appeal is also considered on time if you file it (or it is postmarked) by the first business day following that weekend or holiday.
- If you wish to appeal a USAC decision, you must first file an appeal with USAC to seek review before filing an appeal with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
 - Once USAC has made a decision on an appeal, you may appeal USAC's decision to the FCC. The appeal must be filed within 60 days of the date of USAC's decision.*

*NOTE: If you are an HCP or service provider in Louisiana or Mississippi, please refer to FCC Order <u>DA 21-1107</u> for details about waivers and deadlines.

Awaiting Decision on FY2021

- If you are waiting on an FY2021 evergreen determination as of December 1, 2021, we recommend filing an FCC Form 461 or 465 to competitively bid for FY2022.
- Applicants interested in applying for FY2022 funding should submit their forms prior to window close, regardless of their FY2021 pending form status.
 - FY2022 Filing Window: December 1, 2021 April 1, 2022 at 11:59 p. m. ET.
- Please be sure to include a cover letter when you submit your FY2022 request explaining your competitive bidding process and include the associated FY2021 FRN for reference.
 - Without an explanation, your FY2022 funding request could be perceived as a duplicate request and denied as such. RHC reviewers will work directly with applicants on specific applications.

Funding Prioritization

- In the event eligible funding requests exceed available funding amount, the FCC's rules provide for the prioritization of support based on the rurality tier of the HCP site and whether the site is located in a Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA/P).
- HCPs located in more rural areas that are designated MUA/P are given a higher priority than sites in less rural and non-MUA/P areas.

lealth Care Provider (HCP) Site is Located in:	MUA/P	Not in MUA/P
xtremely Rural Tier	Priority 1	Priority 4
Rural Tier	Priority 2	Priority 5
less Rural Tier	Priority 3	Priority 6
Non-Rural Area	Priority 7	Priority 8

Example of FY2021 FCL

- General information including:
 - FRN info
 - Listed contact information
 - Service provider information
 - Service type information

Funding Commitment Letter (FCL) Date: 19-Aug-2021 Funding Request Number (FRN): 21 Funding Priority Category: Priority 1 Healthcare Connect Fund **Program:** Funding Year (FY): 2021 Service Delivery Deadline: 30-Jun-2022 Invoice Filing Deadline: 28-Oct-2022 FCC Form 461 Application Number: 1000 Health Care Provider (HCP) Name: HCP Number: HCP Contact Name: **HCP** Contact Email: HCP Contact Phone:

The Rural Health Care (RHC) Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has completed its review of the FCC Form 462 (Funding Request Form) and supporting documentation submitted on behalf of the HCP referenced above. Based on the information provided, RHC has approved funding for the services described below. Additionally, if the HCP submitted a contract or service agreement with the form, the outcome of the contract review is included in this letter.

Total Committed Funding:	\$10,714.78
HCP Physical Location:	
Service Type:	Internet Access
Bandwidth:	100.0MB / 100.0MB
Service Provider Name:	
SPIN/498 ID:	
Billing Account Number (BAN):	

Example of FY2021 FCL Single Expense Information

Single Exp	oense Infor	mation					
Funding Start Date	Funding End Date	Undiscounted Non-Recurring Expense	Undiscounted Recurring Expense	Total Non- Recurring Funding Amount	Total Recurring Funding Amount	Committed Funding Amount (Before Pro-Ration)	Pro-Rated Committed Funding Amount
01-Jul- 2021	30-Jun- 2022	\$0.00	\$1,373.69	\$0.00	\$10,714.78	\$10,714.78	\$10,714.78

This funding request was submitted during the FY2021 Filing Window 1, and the HCP is assigned funding priority category Priority 1. For each filing window, if the total demand for RHC Program funding exceeds the total remaining funding available for the funding year, USAC will fully fund all eligible requests falling in the first prioritization category before funding requests in the next lower prioritization category. If there is insufficient funding to fully fund all requests in a particular prioritization category, USAC will prorate the funding available among all eligible requests received in that prioritization category. Learn more about prioritizing funding and filing window periods at https://www.usac.org/rural-health-care/additional-program-guidance/funding-year-overview.

The total cap pro-rata factor for this funding request is 100%. Therefore, the funding commitment is: 100% * \$10714.78 = \$10714.78

* Note: This is an example FCL and there will be no proration for all FY2021 single-year qualifying funding requests.

Example of FY2021 FCL Multiple Expense Information

Multiple I Expense Item	Expense Info Funding Start Date	Funding End Date	Total Undiscounted Expense	Committed Funding Amount (Before Pro-Ration)	Funding Priority Category	Expense Type	Pro-Rated Committed Funding Amount
1	01-Jul- 2021	30-Jun- 2022	\$11,628.00	\$7,558.20	5	Single Yr. Recur.	\$7,558.20
2	01-Jul- 2021	30-Jun- 2022	\$6 ,000.00	\$3,900.00	1	Single Yr. Recur.	\$3,900.00
3	01-Jul- 2021	30-Jun- 2022	\$29,736.00	\$19,328.40	1	Single Yr. Recur.	\$19,328.40
4	01-Jul- 2021	30-Jun- 2022	\$12,672.00	\$8,236.80	3	Single Yr. Recur.	\$8,236.80
5	01-Jul- 2021	30-Jun- 2022	\$6,000.00	\$3,900.00	1	Single Yr. Recur.	\$3,900.00
6	01-Jul- 2021	30-Jun- 2022	\$6,720.00	\$4,368.00	3	Single Yr. Recur.	\$4,368.00
7	01-Jul- 2021	30-Jun- 2022	\$11,628.00	\$7,558.20	5	Single Yr. Recur.	\$7,558.20

* Note: This is an example FCL and there will be no proration for all FY2021 single-year qualifying funding requests.

Example of FY2021 FCL Evergreen Contract

Contract Sum	mary			
Expense Item	Contract ID	Contract Sign Date	Contract End Date	Determination
1		19-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2023	Evergreen
2		19-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2023	Evergreen
3		19-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2023	Evergreen
4		19-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2023	Evergreen
5		19-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2023	Evergreen
6		19-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2023	Evergreen
7		19-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2023	Evergreen
8		19-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2023	Evergreen
9		19-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2023	Evergreen
10		19-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2023	Evergreen
11		19-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2023	Evergreen
12		19-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2023	Evergreen
13		19-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2023	Evergreen

* Note: This is an example FCL and there will be no proration for all FY2021 single-year qualifying funding requests.

Best Practices: Communicating with your Service Provider

- As a reminder, once your Allowable Contract Selection Date (ACSD) has passed and you've chosen a service provider, include them when you reply to Information Requests via email.
- Ensure your service provider is aware of all the necessary documentation needed for future steps in the application process.
- All bid correspondence should be handled via email for audit purposes.
- HCPs and service providers are required to retain documentation for a period of five years.*

*NOTE: If you are an HCP or service provider in Louisiana or Mississippi, please refer to FCC Order <u>DA 21-1107</u> for details about waivers and deadlines.

Supply Chain Order

As a reminder, when service providers log in to <u>My Portal</u> they will see two <u>supply chain certifications</u> included in the FCC Form 463 and Telecom program invoice.

The first certification affirms compliance with the <u>Section 54.9 prohibition</u> 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. The second certification affirms compliance with <u>Section 54.10</u>, which prohibits the use of any Federal subsidies on any communications equipment and services on the <u>Covered List</u>, which includes those offered by Huawei Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, and their affiliates and subsidiaries.

- **FY2020 Applicants**: If you requested services or equipment provided or that contain components of products produced by any of the listed covered companies, or any of their parents, affiliates and subsidiaries in FY2020, you cannot invoice for these funds. Instead, you should immediately request a <u>service substitution</u> 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 <u>RHC-Assist@usac.org</u> with your FRN number. We will work with you to take corrective action to ensure compliance. For all approved FRNs, request a <u>service substitution</u> prior to invoicing in order to ensure complete program 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.

Supply Chain Order

• <u>Supply Chain</u> web page

_	About \smallsetminus	E-rate 🗸	Rural Health Care 🗸	Lifeline \lor	High Cost 🗸	Service Providers \lor
	USAC About Repor	rts & Orders Supp	ly Chain			
	Reports & Orders		Supply	Chain		
	Annual Report					
	FCC Filings FCC Orders		United States, the secu	rity and safety of United	nber of actions to protect the States persons, and the inte . The FCC has also implemer	•
	Supply Chain					at www.fcc.gov/supplychain
			Section 54.9) which pro maintain, improve, mo provided by companies	hibits the use of Univer dify, operate, manage, c	sal Service Fund (USF) suppo or otherwise support equipm al security threat to the integ	ent or services produced or

Site and Service Substitutions

- Site and service substitutions allow you to reallocate un-invoiced committed funds to substitute the services, modify the services, or provide the requested services to other eligible sites.
- You may request a site or service substitution if:
 - The substitution is provided for in the contract, within the change clause, or constitutes a minor modification;
 - The requested change is within the scope of the controlling Request for Services, including any applicable RFP used in the competitive bidding process;
 - The substitution does not violate any contract provision or state, Tribal, or local procurement laws; and
 - The site must be an eligible HCP and the service must be eligible under the Telecom or HCF program.
- Applicants with month-to-month approved funding commitments may not utilize site and service substitutions as they did not apply with a contract.
- Site and service substitutions must be submitted by the service delivery deadline.
- For more information, visit our <u>Site and Service Substitutions</u> webpage.

Questions?

FY2021 My Portal Updates

Funding Year 2021 Update Webinar

Revise FCC Form 467 - Telecom

MY FORMS	MY DOCU	IMENTS	MY CONTRA	CTS MY HCPS	Mainline Hea	lth System	s, Inc Mon	nticello Comm	unity Health Cen	ter HCP Number: 2587
+ Fund Yea	ar 2022									
Fund Yea	ar 2021									
Form Typ	e Form 465	App # •	Friendly Name	e • Last Edited •		Form Stat	tus • AC:	SD •	Action Availab	le
465 🕈				Tue May 02 16 2017	:35:44 EDT	Posted			Select Circuit	5
Form	Type o FRI	No Frie	endly Name o	Service Type • E	Bandwidth o	Status o	FCL Issue	ed i Action	In	nvoice Deadline 🛛
466				Ethernet - Dedicated		Approved with Funding	Aug 19, 20		inv. deadline	ct 28, 2022
ļ.	Form Type		FRN	Status	HSS	Issued A	ction			
	467			Approved	8/24	/2021	Revise 467			
							Nev	w FCC Form 46	5 Create Exe	mpt FCC Form 466

Revise FCC Form 467 – Telecom(continued)

FCC Form 467 Revision Request		
HCP Name: HCP Number: FRN:		
Funding Start Date: 07/01/2021 Funding End Date: 06/30/2022		
	e was not (or will not be) turned on during the funding ye	ar
 Notifying RHC of changes to Actual Service Start Date: 	the service dates	
Actual Service End Date: [THE	
named applicant. I certify under penalty of perjury that billing account of the applicant or the b	It the service identified above has been or is being provid at the universal service credit will be applied to the telecor billed entity as directed by the applicant. It I am authorized to submit this request on behalf of the a	nmunications service
I certify under penalty of perjury that	It I have examined the invoice and supporting documenta d belief, all statements contained herein are true.	tion and that, to the
	at the applicant or consortium that I am representing satisf ne relevant requirements, including all applicable FCC rule der 47 U.S.C. § 254.	
the applicant may be subject to rescise		
	associated with this request must be retained for a perio herwise prescribed by the Commission's rules.	d of at least five years
		Submit Cancel

Service Substitutions - Telecom

- You can now submit Telecom Service substitutions in My Portal
- Please do not send these requests to the Help Desk

MY FORM	IS M	Y DOCUMEN	ITS	MY CONTRAC	CTS MY HCPS	Mainline He	aith Systems	, Inc Montice	llo Community I	Health Center	HCP Number: 25878
+ Fund	Year 2022	1									
[–] Fund	Year 2021										
Form 1	Type Fo	rm 465 App	# 0	Friendly Name	e • Last Edited	•	Form State	us • ACSD •	Acti	ion Available	
465 🕈					Tue May 02 2017	16:35:44 EDT	Posted		Se	lect Circuits	
For	m Type (FRN o	Frien	dly Name 🛛	Service Type o	Bandwidth 🛛	Status 🛛	FCL Issued •	Action	Invoid	e Deadline 🛛
466	i				Ethernet - Dedicated		Approved with Funding	Aug 19, 2021	Create 46 Substituti Extend inv. de	on	, 2022
								New FC	C Form 465	Create Exempt F	FCC Form 466

Service Substitutions – Telecom (continued)

Substitution Request	
HCP Name:	
HCP Number:	
FRN:	
Service Type: Ethernet - Ded	cated
Upload Bandwidth:	
Download Bandwidth: 10	
Applicants must meet the foll	wing requirements:
 The substitution is provide 	d for in the contract, within the change clause, or constitutes a minor modific
	h care provider and the service is an eligible service under the Telecom Pro
· The substitution does not	iolate any contract provision or state, Tribal or local procurement laws; and
	ithin the scope of the controlling request for services, including any applical
RFP used in the competitiv	
	ing site and service substitutions that do not increase the total amount of
support under the applicable	funding commitment.
	garding the necessity of the change and why the request complies with the
Provide a brief explanation re	nents.
Provide a brief explanation re Service Substitution Requirer	nents.
Provide a brief explanation re Service Substitution Requirer	nents.
Provide a brief explanation re Service Substitution Requirer	nents.
Provide a brief explanation re Service Substitution Requirer Optional: upload supporting d	ocumentation
Provide a brief explanation re Service Substitution Requirer Optional: upload supporting d	ocumentation
Provide a brief explanation re Service Substitution Requirer Optional: upload supporting d	ocumentation d to submit this request, that I have examined this request, and that, to the I and belief, all statements of fact contained herein are true.
Provide a brief explanation re Service Substitution Requirer Optional: upload supporting d Upload	ocumentation



Questions?

Important Reminders

FY2021 Update Webinar

Reminder: 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 <u>RHC-Assist@usac.org</u> 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 an FCC Form 467 revision.

Reminder: Post-Commitment Changes to Approved Funding

- If the address of your site changes or the primary account holder no longer works for the HCP, you must submit an FCC Form 460 revision for HCF or a new FCC Form 465 for Telecom within 30 days of the change.
 - This is for all changes **including those that occur post-commitment**.
- If you will not be using all of your approved funds, you can request a decrease in your approved funding by sending an email to <u>RHC-Invoicing@usac.org</u>.
 - Please be sure to include your HCP name and number, the affected Funding Request Number (FRN) and the amount you would like to reduce in the commitment.
 - USAC will complete a **partial** de-commitment for that FRN in that amount.
- If you'd like to re-allocate funds within your approved FRN, you can submit a <u>Site and Service Substitution</u>. This applies to both HCF and Telecom.
- If you will not be using **any** of the funds in your approved funding commitment, you can return the approved and invoiced funds to USAC. For more information, use the <u>Returning Program Funding</u> webpage as a resource.

Reminder: Account Holders

- Please ensure all account holders are up to date for all HCPs.
- We recommend having at least one secondary account holder per HCP.
- Resources
 - <u>HCF Program Account Holder Guide</u>
 - <u>Telecom Program Account Holder Guide</u>

Reminder: Information Requests

- You must respond to Information Requests within 14 calendar days or by the deadline listed in the email.
 - Failure to respond to the Information Request will result in a denial
 - Information requests for the HCF Program will come from a reviewer using an @usac.org domain address
 - Information requests for the Telecom Program will either come from My Portal or from a reviewer using an @usac.org domain address
- Note: Order DA 21-394 extended response deadline by an additional 28 days if an applicant requests the extension before the expiration of the initial 14-day deadline. This relief applies to Information Requests issued from April 8, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Questions?

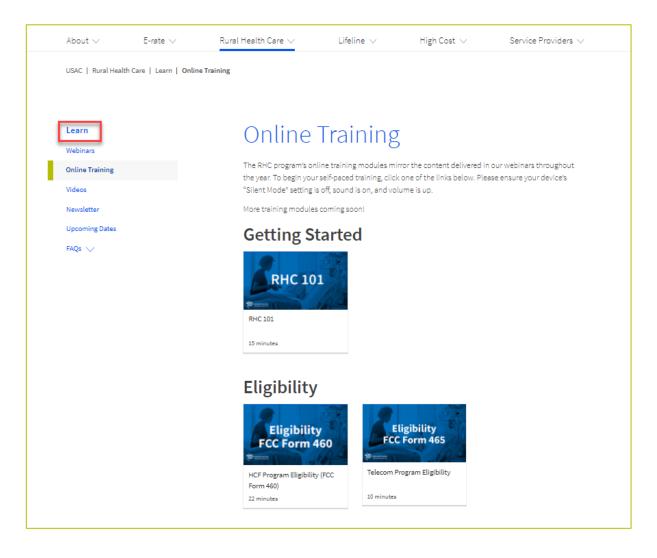
Upcoming Training

Funding Year 2021 Update Webinar

Upcoming Webinars

- Invoicing Best Practices October 21, 2021, 2-3 p.m. ET <u>Register</u>
 - This is for FRNs from FY2020
- Funding Request Best Practices for FY2022 Filing Window
 - HCF Program November 10, 2021, 2-3 p.m. ET <u>Register</u>
 - Telecom Program November 17, 2021, 2-3 p.m. ET <u>Register</u>

RHC Program Learning Modules



Questions?

Thank you for joining us today!

- RHC Help Desk
 - Call (800) 453-1546
 - Email <u>RHC-Assist@usac.org</u>
 - Available M-F 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET
- Please fill out the post-webinar survey!

