



# **HCF Program Request for Services – Best Practices for FY2027**

Submitting the FCC Form 461  
August 5, 2026

# Housekeeping – Closed Captioning (CC)

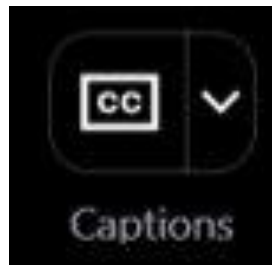
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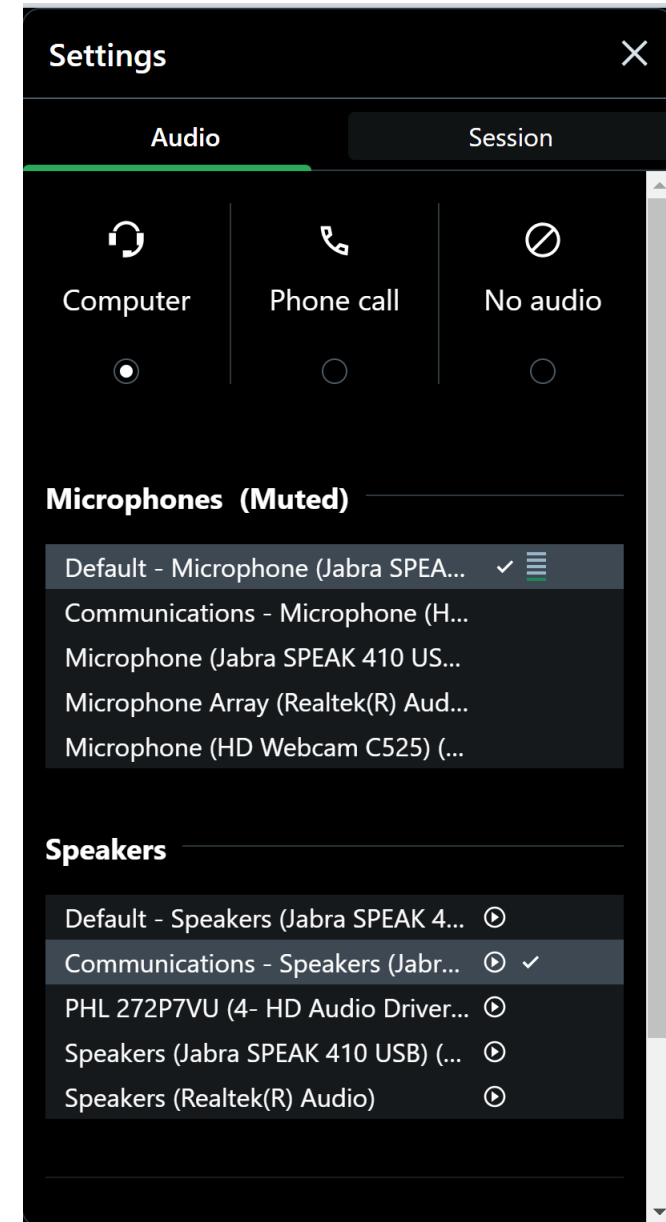


Captions OFF



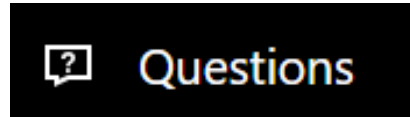
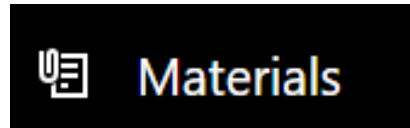
# Housekeeping – Audio

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  - Turn on your computer's speakers, or
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# Housekeeping – Materials & Questions

- A copy of the slide deck is in the **Materials** section of the webinar panel.
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- **This webinar is being recorded.** A copy of the webinar slides and recording will be posted to our Webinars webpage.



Questions

×

**No questions yet**  
Questions you send and answers from the staff  
will appear here

Your question will be sent to staff

Send

# Meet Our Team



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# Agenda

- Overview
- RHC Connect Enhancements and Program Updates
- Competitive Bidding
  - Evaluation Criteria
  - Competitive Bidding Exemptions
  - Requests for Proposal
- Submitting the FCC Form 461
- Search Posted Services
- Best Practices and Resources

## By the end of this webinar, you will be able to...

- *Complete and submit an FCC Form 461 in RHC Connect*
  - *Create bid evaluation criteria*
  - *Understand competitive bidding requirements*
  - *Identify applicable competitive bidding exemptions*
- *Locate current requests for services and other important resources on the USAC website*

# RHC Program Glossary

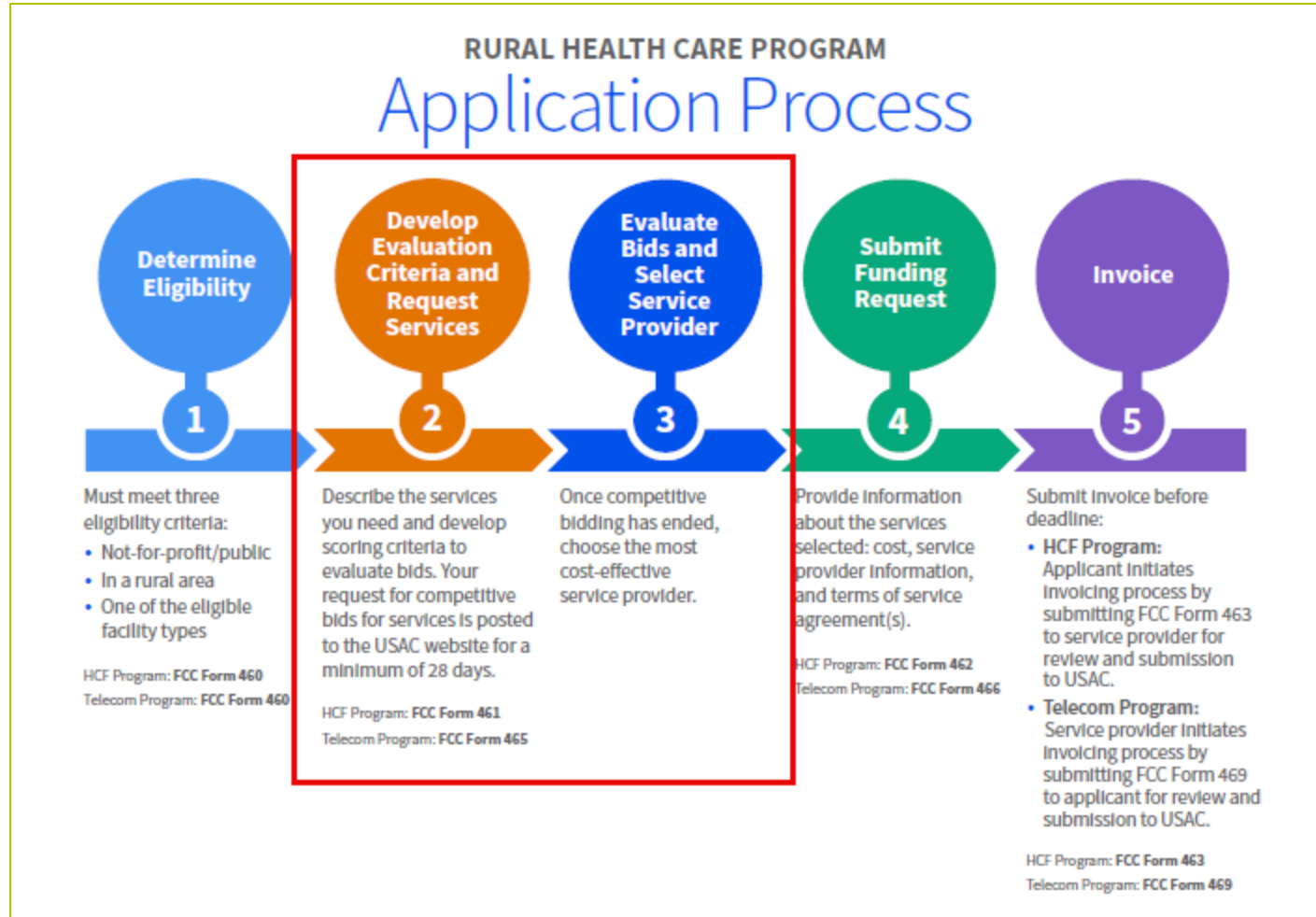
| Acronym           | Meaning                           |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>FCC</b>        | Federal Communications Commission |
| <b>HCP</b>        | Health Care Provider (your site)  |
| <b>HCP Number</b> | Number associated with your site  |
| <b>PAH</b>        | Primary Account Holder            |
| <b>ACSD</b>       | Allowable Contract Selection Date |



# Overview

## Submitting the FCC Form 461

# Competitive Bidding



# What is the FCC Form 461?

- The HCP submits the FCC Form 461 (Request for Services Form) to describe its service needs and request bids from service providers for the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program.
  - USAC reviews the FCC Form 461 before it is posted on its website.
- A service provider uses the information on the FCC Form 461 to create a bid to provide those services.
- The HCP must wait 28 days after the FCC Form 461 is posted to select the most cost-effective service offering.
  - The 28-day competitive bidding period begins the next full business day after the form is publicly posted.
  - After the 28-day period is complete, an HCP and service provider may sign a contract.
    - The 29th day is called the **Allowable Contract Selection Date (ACSD)**.

# Funding Year 2027 Calendar

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

**FY2027: JULY 1, 2027-JUNE 30, 2028**



**JULY 1, 2026:** First Day to Submit Request for Services Form

- FCC Form 461 HCF Program
- FCC Form 465 Telecom Program
- Request for services must be posted to USAC's website by March 3, 2027



**DEC 1, 2026 - April 1, 2027:** Funding Request Filing Window

- FCC Form 462 HCF Program
- FCC Form 466 Telecom Program



**OCT 30, 2028:** Invoice Filing Deadline

- FCC Form 463 HCF Program
- FCC Form 469 Telecom Program

# **RHC Connect Enhancements and Updates**

Submitting the FCC Form 461

# My Portal Decommissioning

- As of July 31, 2026, My Portal is no longer available to external stakeholders.
- User data has been migrated to RHC Connect.
- For information for the last ten funding years, please continue to use [Open Data](#) as a resource.
- For questions or concerns, please reach out to the [RHC Customer Service Center](#) for assistance.

# RHC Connect Updates

## **New! RHC Connect Updates Webpage**

- RHC Connect Maintenance Schedule includes timing for monthly system maintenance.
- User Experience-Related System Enhancements shares new functionality for RHC Connect.
- Visit the [RHC Connect Updates](#) webpage

## **Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA/P) Yearly Update**

- Funding priority in the RHC program is dependent on two location-based factors: (1) site rurality, and (2) site MUA/P status.
- The map files that determine MUA/P status for sites on the rurality tier search tool are now up to date with the latest MUA/P area designation snapshot.

## **Rurality Tier Search Tool Upgrade**

- The updated summary view now provides greater visibility into the assessment process, including:
  - A map view of the geocoded location
  - The location's geographic coordinates
  - The normalized address used during geolocation

# RHC Connect Updates (continued)

## Organizations Report

- Account holder report displays all users and entities associated with an HCP
- Member HCP report
  - Consortium details
  - Member site details
  - Data points linking a member site to the consortium
  - Pending amount – total committed dollars that have not yet been invoiced or decommitted for each site.

## FCC Form 462 – Copy Prior Year Form

- Prepopulate FCC Forms 462 with data from the previous year.
- Reduces manual entry, saves time, and helps prevent input errors by reusing validated information.



# Duplicate Check FCC Forms 462 & 466

- FCC Form 462/466 duplicate check on intake - FCC Forms 462 and 466 displays a duplicate check on submission.
- This enhancement includes the following:
  - Applicants will see a **Potential Duplicates** table showing forms that match duplicate criteria.
  - Applicants can add comments when the system flags their FCC Form 426 or 466 as a potential duplicate.
  - Duplicate validation on the **Signature** page:
    - The FCC Forms 462 and 466 **Signature** pages validate against duplicate criteria and display a clear error message when a potential duplicate exists.
    - Applicants will be prevented from completing the FCC Forms 462 and 466 until they review and address duplicate warnings.

# FCC Form 462 & Telecom Program Enhancements

## FCC Form 462 Enhancements

- Clearer Information Request reasons for applicants and reviewers
  - Added a **Request Reason(s)** field to the **Information Request** table on the **Information Request** tab, visible to both applicants and reviewers, so it is clear why additional information is being requested.
- Easier navigation from the **Information Requests** view back to the application.
  - Added a **Back to Application** button on the **Information Request** view so users can quickly return to the underlying application after reviewing or responding to a request.

## Telecom SPIN Change Information Requests

- Applicants will see all open and past Information Requests related to their Telecom SPIN change in one place, submit responses and upload documentation through RHC Connect.
- Applicants will receive email notifications when there is an Information Request created and when an Information Request deadline is approaching.

# Decommitments – HCF Program Only

- HCF applicants can start, submit, view, and withdraw decommitment requests.
  - In certain circumstances, applicants may request a full or partial decommitment of approved funding that has not been disbursed, to avoid duplicate funding on a subsequent funding request or to account for any early disconnect of services or site closures.
- Applicants can:
  - Select an FCC Form 462 for partial decommitment from a list of eligible FCC Forms 462.
  - Reduce a specific line item's commitment amount.
  - Select one or multiple FCC Forms 462 for full decommitment from a list of eligible FCC Forms 462.
  - View an explanation when an FCC Form 462 is not available for decommitment.
  - See the funding details of the selected FCC Forms 462.
  - View the details of submitted decommitment requests.
- Please use the [RHC Connect Post-Commitment Change Requests user guide](#) (Pages 27-35) as a resource.

# Decommitments – Email Notifications

- Emails will be automatically sent to all HCP account holders when the decommitment request is:
  - Submitted
  - Processed
  - Withdrawn
- Emails will include:
  - A PDF copy of the decision
  - A revised Funding Commitment Letter (FCL) for approved partial decommitments

# Third Party Authorization (TPA) Information

- Navigate to **Tools-> Manage Consultant Groups -> Manage Group**

**RHC Connect**

**MANAGE GROUP** GROUP USER(S)

## Manage Group

**Consultant Group**  
new cool name

This is a summary of your third party authorizations (TPAs) and consultant access. To see all TPAs, refer to the Applications Tab on the Dashboard.

**Group Details**

**Consultant Registration Number**  
[Redacted]

**Address**  
[Redacted]

**Email**  
[Redacted]

**Phone**  
[Redacted]

**UPDATE CONSULTANT GROUP INFORMATION**

**HCP Information**

| HCP Number | HCP Name   | Expiration | Submitted By | TPA Status | Action(s)                                                           |
|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] | 3/27/2025  | [Redacted]   | Denied     | <a href="#">Document(s)</a>                                         |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] | 1/28/2026  | [Redacted]   | Approved   | <a href="#">Document(s)</a>                                         |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] | 1/28/2026  | [Redacted]   | Approved   | <a href="#">Document(s)</a>   <a href="#">Remove HCP from Group</a> |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] | 3/27/2025  | [Redacted]   | Denied     | <a href="#">Document(s)</a>                                         |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] | 3/27/2025  | [Redacted]   | Expired    | <a href="#">Document(s)</a>   <a href="#">Remove HCP from Group</a> |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] | 8/26/2025  | [Redacted]   | Submitted  | <a href="#">Document(s)</a>                                         |

- Note: For complete information, do not use the TPA page under the **My Forms** tab.

# Supply Chain Order

- As a reminder, when service providers login to RHC Connect, they will see two new supply chain certifications included in the FCC Form 463 and Telecom Program invoice/FCC Form 469.
- The first certification affirms compliance with the [Section 54.9](#) prohibition on USF for 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](#).
- If you requested services or equipment that contain components of products produced by any of the listed covered companies or their parents, affiliates or subsidiaries, you cannot invoice for these funds. Instead, you should immediately request a [service substitution](#).
- 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 or subsidiaries.
- For more information, visit the [Supply Chain Order webpage](#) on the USAC website.

# Questions?

# **Competitive Bidding**

Submitting the FCC Form 461



# Competitive Bidding

- The purpose of competitive bidding is to allow all service providers an equal opportunity to understand the HCP's service requirements and offer the most cost-effective solution to address those needs.
- RHC program rules and FCC Orders require a [fair and open](#) competitive bidding process.
- Service providers who plan to bid cannot assist with the preparation of the FCC Form 461, choose a winning bidder, or participate in the vendor selection process in any way.
  - If it is determined that a service provider helped an HCP with its request for services and was subsequently chosen to provide services, the HCP will have committed a competitive bidding violation, and the funding request will be denied, and any funding payments will be subject to rescission.
- All potential bidders must have access to the same information about the service needs and must be treated in the same manner.
- All applicants and service providers must comply with all applicable state, Tribal, or local procurement laws.

# Bid Evaluation Criteria

- The bid evaluation criteria is a list of weighted standards included in the FCC Form 461, that will be used to determine the most cost-effective bid.
- Applicants must disclose minimum requirements for each criterion.
- Each criterion is given a certain weight. The sum of these weights must equal 100.
- The bid evaluation criteria should address the needs of the HCP as indicated on the FCC Form 461 and be based on the FCC's definition of cost-effective ([47 CFR § 54.622 \(c\)](#)).
- Price must be a primary factor but need not be the only primary factor.
- Although other factors may receive the same weight as price, no single factor can receive a weight that is greater than price.

## Bid Evaluation

Select the criteria that will be used to evaluate the bids collected.

| Criteria                                                 | Description | Evaluation Weight (%) | Minimum Requirement               |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Price                                                    |             | 40                    | Price for Service                 |
| Personnel qualifications, including technical excellence |             | 30                    | 3 References for similar services |
| Leverage existing resources                              |             | 20                    | To extent possible                |
| Technical support                                        |             | 10                    | Single POC                        |

Does the HCP have any disqualifying factors that will remove bids or bidders from consideration?: Yes

Disqualifying factors: No 498 ID

# Examples of Evaluation Criteria

Bid evaluation criteria should include the factors that are most important to satisfy the needs and requirements of the HCP.

Criteria commonly included on the FCC Form 461 other than price are:

- Technical support;
- Quality of transmission;
- Reliability;
- Service provider to provide a single point of contact; and
- Prior experience, including past performance.

# What is a Competitive Bidding Exemption?

- In some cases, the service needs or contract conditions allow the HCP to be exempt from competitive bidding.
- With a competitive bidding exemption, HCPs will not have to undergo competitive bidding and will not need to create evaluation criteria or collect bids from service providers.
- A competitive bidding exemption allows the HCP to skip the FCC Form 461 entirely and proceed directly to submitting a funding request.

# Competitive Bidding Exemptions

- HCPs must meet one of the following criteria to be exempt from submitting the FCC Form 461 and participating in the competitive bidding process:
  - Purchasing services or equipment from a master service agreement (MSA) negotiated by a federal, state, Tribal, or local governmental entity on behalf of the HCP and others, and was awarded pursuant to applicable competitive bidding requirements;
  - Requesting support using contracts previously approved by USAC (MSA under the RHC Pilot Program or the HCF Program);
  - Using an active, multi-year contract designated as [evergreen](#) for the RHC program (exemption applies for the life of the contract); or
  - Using a contract approved under the Schools and Libraries (E-rate) program.
  - Seeking support for \$10,000 or less of total undiscounted eligible expenses for a single year under a contract with a term of one year or less.
- If the HCP does not meet any of the competitive bidding exemptions, the FCC Form 461 must be submitted, and the HCP must go through competitive bidding.

# Evergreen Contracts

- HCPs are not required to file an FCC Form 461 or competitively bid for the life of a multi-year contract designated as [evergreen](#) under the HCF or Telecom Programs.
- A contract may be designated as evergreen if the contract meets all of the following requirements:
  - Both parties are identified;
  - Contract specifies the service type, bandwidth, and quantity;
  - Contract is signed and dated by the HCP or consortium leader after the Allowable Contract Selection Date (ACSD);
  - Contract specifies the term and cost of service(s); and
  - Contract includes the physical addresses of the HCP(s) purchasing from the contract.
- To take advantage of the exemption from filing the FCC Form 461, USAC must have designated the contract evergreen **prior** to submission of the funding request.

# Site and Service Substitutions

- Site and service substitutions allow the HCP to reallocate un-invoiced committed funds to substitute the services, modify the services, or provide the requested services to other eligible sites.
- Substitutions allow the flexibility, for an HCP with an approved funding commitment, to spend all of the committed funds, even if the USAC-supported services or the service locations may change over the course of the commitment.
- An HCP 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; and
  - The substitution does not violate any contract provision or state, Tribal, or local procurement laws.
  - The site must be an eligible HCP and the service be an eligible service under RHC program rules.
- HCPs 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 the [Site and Service Substitutions](#) webpage.

# Requests for Proposal

- A [Request for Proposal](#) (RFP) is a comprehensive bidding solicitation that describes the business priorities and functional requirements of the HCP in sufficient detail to ensure an effective and fair and open competitive bidding process.
- Per [47 CFR § 54.622\(e\)\(5\)](#), an HCP is required to submit an RFP:
  - (A) If it is required under applicable state, Tribal, or local procurement rules or regulations;
  - (B) If the applicant is a consortium seeking more than \$100,000 in program support during the funding year, including applications that seek more than \$100,000 in program support for a multi-year commitment; or
  - (C) If the applicant is a consortium seeking support for participant-constructed and -owned network facilities.



# Requests for Proposal (continued)

- If the HCP chooses to include an [RFP](#), it must be submitted with the FCC Form 461 for USAC review and approval, and it should include, at a minimum:
  - A description of the service needs and a defined scope of the project and network costs (if applicable);
  - The number of days during which bids will be accepted (28 days or more);
  - Clearly delineated deliverables; and
  - The bid evaluation criteria, including the weight assigned to each criterion.
- The RFP should align with all of the data entered into the FCC Form 461 and provide more details.

**Questions?**

# **Submitting FCC Request for Services Forms in RHC Connect**

Submitting the FCC Form 461

# RHC Connect

- Log into My Portal and click on **RHC Connect**.

Dashboard

*ⓘ* In accordance with the Supply Chain orders, new certifications have been added to the following forms: RHC - FCC Form 463 and the Telecom invoice, E-rate - FCC Form 473, and High Cost & Lifeline - FCC Form 481. Service providers are required to submit these annual certifications. For additional information, visit the [USAC Supply Chain](#) page.

Upcoming Dates

06/12

Service Provider Training

07/10

07/31

HCF Consortium Best Practices Webinar

Rural Health Care

**RHC Connect** - Health care providers must use this section to create and submit forms for the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program for all required forms other than the FCC Form 460 for FY2022 and later, and the Telecommunications (Telecom) Program for the FCC Form 466 for FY2024 and later.

**RHC My Portal** - Health care providers must use this section to create and submit required forms for the Telecommunications (Telecom) Program for the FCC Form 465, the Connected Care Pilot Program (CCPP), the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program for the FCC Form 460 and all required forms for FY2021 and earlier, and the Telecommunications (Telecom) Program for the FCC Form 466 and Form 467 for FY2023 and earlier.

**Connected Care Pilot Program** - Health care providers must use this form to complete, certify, and submit their required Connected Care Pilot Program Annual Reports and Final Report.

USAC Customer Service Portal

Help?

Send us a message

[Click here](#)

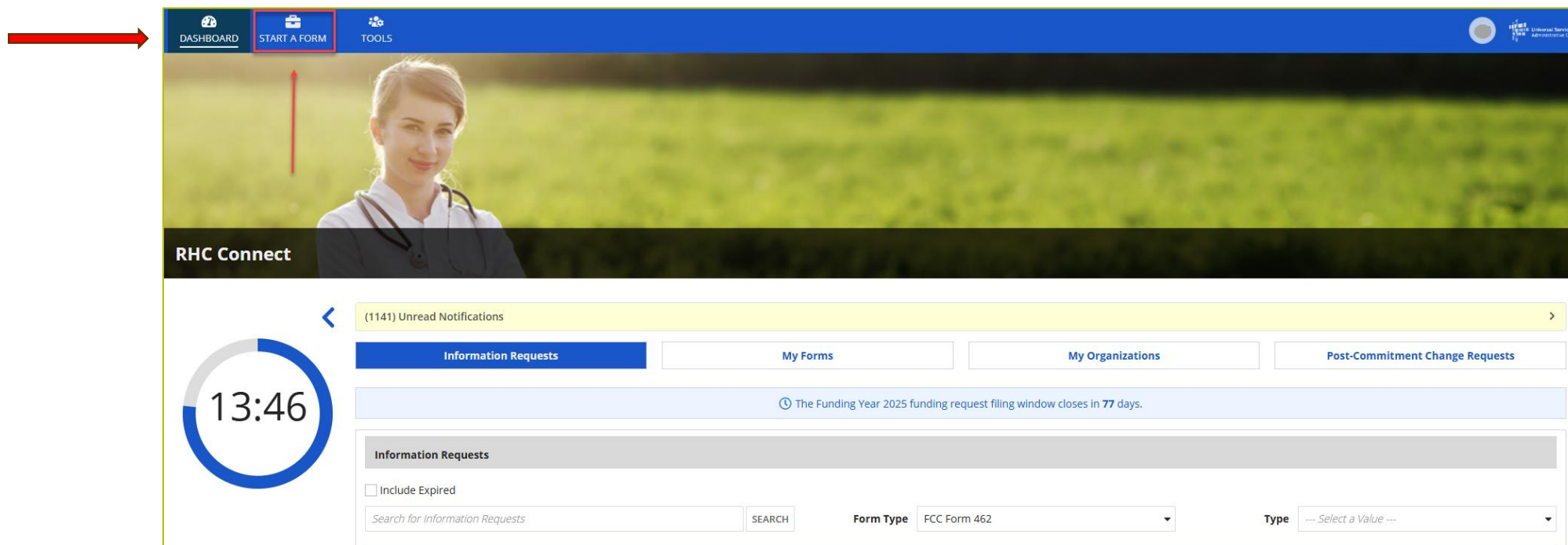
Call us

(888) 641-8722

36

# Start a Form

- On the **Dashboard**, click **Start a Form**.



# RHC Connect (continued)

- Click **FCC Form 461**, then click **Next**.

RHC Connect

< What type of Form would you like to file?

09:45

**FCC Form 461**  
Develop Bid Evaluation Criteria & Select Services

**FCC Form 462**  
Evaluate Bids & Select Service Provider

After determining that you are eligible, the next step is to identify the services you need and develop the bid evaluation criteria you will use to assess service provider bids by completing the FCC Form 461 (Request for Services Form).

This form provides information about the services, equipment, or network facilities selected, and certifies that those services were the most cost-effective option of the offers received.

**NEXT**

# Start

- Select the **HCP or Consortium** from the drop-down menu and select **Funding Year**.
- Click **Save & Continue**.

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services Dates & Timing Bid Evaluation Main Contact RFP & Summary Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

**Start**

Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) >

**Note:** Once you select HCP, and then Save & Continue, you will not be able to change the HCP. Please select carefully.

**Health Care Provider (HCP) Information**

HCP or Consortium  

FCC Registration Number

Address

State

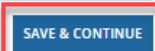
**Application Basics**

Application Nickname

Funding Year  FY 2023 

Application Number

Funding Priority Priority 6

EXIT  **SAVE & CONTINUE**

# Start - Consortia

- If you select a consortium, select all participating sites from the second drop-down menu.
- Click **Save & Continue**.

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services Dates & Timing Bid Evaluation Main Contact RFP & Summary Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

**Start**

Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) >

**Note:** Once you select HCP, and then Save & Continue, you will not be able to change the HCP. Please select carefully.

**Health Care Provider (HCP) Information**

HCP or Consortium

FCC Registration Number

Address

State

**Application Basics**

Application Nickname

Funding Year

Application Number

Funding Priority

**Consortium Participating Sites**

Select Participating Sites

Select Participating Sites

| HCP Number           | HCP Name             | LOA Expiry |   |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------|---|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | -          | x |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | -          | x |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | -          | x |

EXIT **SAVE & CONTINUE**



# Requested Services

- Click **Add Requested Services**.

The screenshot shows the FCC FORM 461 interface. The top navigation bar includes 'DASHBOARD' and 'START A FORM'. The main header is 'FCC FORM 461'. Below it is a progress bar with steps: Start, Requested Services (active), Dates & Timing, Bid Evaluation, Main Contact, RFP & Summary, Additional Documentation, Declaration of Assistance, Certifications, and Signature.

### Requested Services

| Type Of Services                         | If "Other", describe | Min Download Speed | Max Download Speed | Min Upload Speed | Max Upload Speed | Bits per Second | Allow Bids for Similar Services? ⓘ |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| No items available                       |                      |                    |                    |                  |                  |                 |                                    |
| <a href="#">+ Add Requested Services</a> |                      |                    |                    |                  |                  |                 |                                    |

Will the selected service(s) support an off-site data center? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☐ No

Will the selected service(s) support an off-site administrative office? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☐ No

EXIT

Approved by OMB 3060-0804

# Requested Services (continued)

- Select **Type of Service** from the drop-down menu.
- Enter minimum and maximum bandwidths.
- Answer **Yes** or **No** if you'll consider bids for similar services.

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services Dates & Timing Bid Evaluation Main Contact RFP & Summary Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

### Requested Services

| Type Of Services | If "Other", describe | Min Download Speed | Max Download Speed | Min Upload Speed | Max Upload Speed | Bits per Second | Allow Bids for Similar Services? |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Data             | If Other is selected |                    |                    |                  |                  | Mbps            | Yes                              |

[Add Requested Services](#)

Showing 1 - 1 of 1

Will the selected service(s) support an off-site data center? [?](#)

☐ Yes

☒ No

Will the selected service(s) support an off-site administrative office? [?](#)

☐ Yes

☒ No

EXIT [BACK](#) [SAVE & CONTINUE](#)

# Requested Services (continued)

- Answer questions about off-site data centers and off-site administrative offices.
- If you answer **Yes**, you'll be asked to select the off-site data center or off-site administrative office from the drop-down menu.

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services Dates & Timing Bid Evaluation Main Contact RFP & Summary Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

### Requested Services

| Type Of Services                       | If "Other", describe | Min Download Speed | Max Download Speed | Min Upload Speed | Max Upload Speed | Bits per Second | Allow Bids for Similar Services? |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| No items available                     |                      |                    |                    |                  |                  |                 |                                  |
| <a href="#">Add Requested Services</a> |                      |                    |                    |                  |                  |                 |                                  |

Will the selected service(s) support an off-site data center?

☒ Yes  
☐ No

Select the supported off-site data center

Other

data center

Will the selected service(s) support an off-site administrative office?

☒ Yes  
☐ No

Select the supported off-site administrative office

EXIT BACK

SAVE & CONTINUE

Approved by OMB 3060-0804

# Requested Services (continued)

- Click **Add Requested Services** for each additional service and follow the same steps.
- Click **Save & Continue**.

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services Dates & Timing Bid Evaluation Main Contact RFP & Summary Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

### Requested Services

| Type Of Services | If "Other", describe | Min Download Speed | Max Download Speed | Min Upload Speed | Max Upload Speed | Bits per Second | Allow Bids for Similar Services? |   |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Data             | If Other is selected | 10                 | 250                | 10               | 250              | Mbps            | Yes                              | ✗ |
| Equipment        | If Other is selected |                    |                    |                  |                  | Select          | Yes/No                           | ✗ |

[Add Requested Services](#)

Showing 1 - 2 of 2

Will the selected service(s) support an off-site data center?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Will the selected service(s) support an off-site administrative office?

☐ Yes

☒ No

EXIT BACK

**SAVE & CONTINUE**

Approved by OMB 3060-0804

# Dates & Timing

- Use the drop-down menu to select **Up to** or **Equal to** to select the desired contract length.
- Enter number of year(s).

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services **Dates & Timing** Bid Evaluation Main Contract RFP & Summary Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

**Dates & Timing**

What is the HCP's desired service contract length?

Up to 3 Year(s)

Will the HCP consider bids with contract extension language?

☐ Yes, This is preferred

☒ Yes

☐ No

Will the HCP consider bids for month-to-month contracts?

☐ Yes, This is preferred

☒ Yes

☐ No

What is the HCP's desired time to publicly post this request for services?

28 Days

What is the HCP's expected bid evaluation period after the public posting?

5 Day(s)

EXIT BACK

**SAVE & CONTINUE**

Approved by OMB 3060-0804

# Dates & Timing (continued)

- Answer the questions about contract extensions and month-to-month agreements.

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services **Dates & Timing** Bid Evaluation Main Contact RFP & Summary Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

### Dates & Timing

What is the HCP's desired service contract length?

Up to  Year(s)

Will the HCP consider bids with contract extension language?

☐ Yes, This is preferred  
☒ Yes  
☐ No

Will the HCP consider bids for month-to-month contracts?

☐ Yes, This is preferred  
☒ Yes  
☐ No

What is the HCP's desired time to publicly post this request for services?

Days

What is the HCP's expected bid evaluation period after the public posting?

Day(s)

EXIT BACK **SAVE & CONTINUE**

Approved by OMB 3060-0804

# Dates & Timing (continued)

- Enter the desired time to publicly post the Request for Services.
  - Minimum of 28 days is required under program rules, but it can be longer.
- Enter the expected evaluation period after the public posting ends.
- Click **Save & Continue**.

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services **Dates & Timing** Bid Evaluation Main Contact RFP & Summary Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

**Dates & Timing**

What is the HCP's desired service contract length?

Up to 3 Year(s)

Will the HCP consider bids with contract extension language?

☐ Yes. This is preferred

☒ Yes

☐ No

Will the HCP consider bids for month-to-month contracts?

☐ Yes. This is preferred

☒ Yes

☐ No

What is the HCP's desired time to publicly post this request for services?

28 Days

What is the HCP's expected bid evaluation period after the public posting?

5 Day(s)

EXIT BACK **SAVE & CONTINUE**

Approved by OMB 3060-0804

# Bid Evaluation

- Choose the bid evaluation criteria from the drop-down menu.
  - If **Other** is selected, provide a description of the criterion.
- Enter a description of the minimum requirements for each criterion.
- Provide details about any disqualification factors.

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services Dates & Timing **Bid Evaluation** Main Contact RFP & Summary Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

### Bid Evaluation

Select the criteria that will be used to evaluate the bids collected

| Criteria                |                                      | Evaluation Weight (%) | Minimum Requirement                            |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Cost                    | <i>Describe if Other is selected</i> | 40                    |                                                |
| Quality of transmission | <i>Describe if Other is selected</i> | 30                    | Must include Service Level Agreement           |
| Technical support       | <i>Describe if Other is selected</i> | 30                    | Must outline all technical support in response |

[Add Criteria](#)

Showing 1 - 3 of 3

Does the HCP have any disqualifying factors that will remove bids or bidders from consideration?

☒ Yes  
☐ No

Describe the disqualifying factors

No Service Level Agreement

EXIT BACK **SAVE & CONTINUE**

Approved by OMB 3060-0804



# Main Contact

- Choose an account holder from drop-down menu.
- Information is pre-populated based on information from the FCC Form 460.

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services Dates & Timing Bid Evaluation **Main Contact** RFP & Summary Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

**Main Contact**

Who is the main contact for this request?

Primary - [Redacted]

Full Contact Information

|                   |                           |            |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| First Name        | Middle Initial (Optional) | Last Name  |
| [Redacted]        |                           | [Redacted] |
| Organization Name |                           |            |
| [Redacted]        |                           |            |
| Title             |                           |            |
| [Redacted]        |                           |            |
| Phone             | Extension (Optional)      |            |
| [Redacted]        |                           |            |
| Fax (Optional)    |                           |            |
| [Redacted]        |                           |            |
| Email             |                           |            |
| [Redacted]        |                           |            |
| Address Line 1    |                           |            |
| [Redacted]        |                           |            |
| Address Line 2    |                           |            |
| [Redacted]        |                           |            |
| City              | State                     | Zip Code   |
| [Redacted]        | [Redacted]                | [Redacted] |

EXIT BACK **SAVE & CONTINUE**

# RFP & Summary

- Answer questions about the RFP.
- Provide a summary of requested services and/or RFP (if applicable).

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services Dates & Timing Bid Evaluation Main Contact **RFP & Summary** Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

### RFP & Summary

→ Is the HCP likely to request more than \$100 000 in program support from this request for services? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☒ No

→ Do state, Tribal, or local procurement rules require the HCP to include an RFP with this request for services application?

☐ Yes

☒ No

→ Will the HCP be including an RFP with this application?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please provide a summary of the HCP's requested services. If an RFP is attached above, summarize that document.

Provide a summary of the HCP's requested services

EXIT BACK

**SAVE & CONTINUE**

Approved by OMB 3060-0804

# RFP & Summary (continued)

- If a consortium applicant answers **Yes** to the first question (e.g., more than \$100k of funding requested in the funding year), the third question defaults to **Yes** and requires the applicant to upload an RFP.
- Upload the RFP.

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services Dates & Timing Bid Evaluation Main Contact **RFP & Summary** Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

**RFP & Summary**

Is the HCP likely to request more than \$100 000 in program support from this request for services? ⓘ

☒ Yes  
☐ No

Do state, Tribal, or local procurement rules require the HCP to include an RFP with this request for services application?

☐ Yes  
☒ No

Will the HCP be including an RFP with this application?

☒ Yes  
☐ No

**UPLOAD** Drop files here  
Document is Required

Please provide a summary of the HCP's requested services. If an RFP is attached above, summarize that document.

Provide a summary of the HCP's requested services

EXIT BACK **SAVE & CONTINUE**

Approved by OMB 3060-0804

# Additional Documentation

- Click **Add documents** for each additional document included in the submission.

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services Dates & Timing Bid Evaluation Main Contact RFP & Summary **Additional Documentation** Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

### Additional Documentation

| Document Type            | Document                                                                                                  | Uploaded On |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Select a document type ▼ | Describe if Other is selected                                                                             |             |
| <b>Add Documents</b>     | UPLOAD  Drop file here |             |

<< < Showing 1 - 1 of 1 > >>

 Note: On this screen only, error messages may persist even after errors have been fixed. After fixing errors, please select **save and continue**.

EXIT BACK **SAVE & CONTINUE**

Approved by OMB 3060-0804

# Additional Documentation (continued)

- Use the drop-down menu to select **Network Plan** or **Other**.
  - Consortia applicants are required to upload a network plan.
  - If **Other** is selected, provide a description of the uploaded document.
  - [Network Plan](#) webpage

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services Dates & Timing Bid Evaluation Main Contact RFP & Summary **Additional Documentation** Declaration of Assistance Certifications Signature

### Additional Documentation

| Document Type                 | Document                             | Uploaded On              |                       |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Network Plan                  | <i>Describe if Other is selected</i> | 1 - 2<br>DOCX - 26.56 KB | 6/13/2022 3:07 PM EDT |
| <a href="#">Add Documents</a> |                                      |                          |                       |

<< < Showing 1 - 1 of 1 > >>

Note: On this screen only, error messages may persist even after errors have been fixed. After fixing errors, please select **save and continue**.

EXIT BACK **SAVE & CONTINUE**

Approved by OMB 3060-0804

# Declaration of Assistance

- If **Yes** is selected, Click **Add a New Contact** hyperlink.
- Enter information about third parties who assisted the HCP with preparing any FCC forms or participated in the competitive bidding process.

+ Add Contact

**Add a New Contact**

First Name  Middle Initial (Optional)  Last Name

Organization Type

Title/Role

Employer

Address 1  Address 2 (Optional)

City  State  Zip Code

Email

Phone  Extension (Optional)

Nature of Relationship

# Certifications

## FCC FORM 461

Start Requested Services Dates & Timing Bid Evaluation Main Contact RFP & Summary Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance **Certifications** Signature

### Certifications

- ☒ I certify under penalty of perjury that I am authorized to submit this request on behalf of the healthcare provider or consortium.
- ☒ I certify under penalty of perjury that I have examined this request and all attachments, and to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, all statements contained herein and in any attachments are true.
- ☒ I certify under penalty of perjury that the applicant seeking supported services has complied with any applicable state, Tribal, or local procurement rules.
- ☒ I certify under penalty of perjury that all requested RHC Program support will be used solely for purposes reasonably related to the provision of health care service or instruction that the health care provider is legally authorized to provide under the law of the state in which the services are provided.
- ☒ I certify under penalty of perjury that the applicant seeking supported services satisfies all of the requirements under section 254 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 254, and applicable Commission rules.
- ☒ I certify under penalty of perjury that the applicant seeking support has reviewed and is compliant with all applicable RHC Program requirements.
- ☒ I understand that all documentation associated with this request, including a copy of the signed Request for Services (FCC Form 461), any bids/contracts resulting from the FCC Form 461 posting, scoring sheet, and other information that was used in the decision making process, must be retained for a period of at least five years pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.631, or as otherwise prescribed by the Commission's rules.
- ☒ I certify under penalty of perjury that the applicant seeking supported services is a nonprofit or public entity that falls within one of the seven categories set forth in the definition of health care provider listed in 47 CFR §54.600 of the Commission's rules.
- ☒ I certify under penalty of perjury that the applicant seeking supported services is physically located in a rural area as defined in section 47 CFR § 54.600 of the Commission's rules, or is a member of a consortium which satisfies the majority-rural composition requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.607 of the Commission's rules.
- ☒ I certify under penalty of perjury that the services will not be sold, resold, or transferred in consideration for money or any other thing of value.

EXIT

BACK

SAVE & CONTINUE

Approved by OMB 3060-0804

# Signature

- Sign by typing your first and last name in the **Digital Signature** field.
- Click **Certify & Submit**.

**FCC FORM 461**

Start Requested Services Dates & Timing Bid Evaluation Main Contact RFP & Summary Additional Documentation Declaration of Assistance Certifications **Signature**

### Signature

Current User Information

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Name              |  |
| Email             |  |
| Phone             |  |
| Employer          |  |
| Title             |  |
| Employer's FCC RN |  |

Signature

Certifier's Full Name

Digital Signature

Date 06/13/2022

EXIT BACK **CERTIFY & SUBMIT**



# After Submitting

- Once the FCC Form 461 is submitted, navigate to the RHC Connect **Dashboard**.
- Click the **Form 461** tab under **My Forms**.
- To view the form, click the “eye” icon under the **Actions** column.

The screenshot displays the RHC Connect Dashboard. At the top, there is a header with a background image of a woman and the text 'RHC Connect'. Below the header, a navigation bar contains four tabs: 'Information Requests', 'My Forms' (highlighted with a red box), 'My Organizations', and 'Post-Commitment Change Requests'. A circular clock icon shows the time '16:15'. A yellow notification bar at the top of the main content area states: '(14) Unread Notifications'. Below this, a yellow banner reads: 'The Funding Year Funding Request Filing Window is closed. You cannot submit applications at this time.' The 'My Forms' section is active, showing a row of tabs for 'Form 460', 'Form 461' (highlighted with a red box), 'Form 462', 'Form 463', 'Form 465', 'Form 466', 'Form 469', 'TPA', and 'Annual Report'. Below the tabs is a search bar with the text 'Search Form 461 - Applicants' and a 'SEARCH' button. A table with columns 'Site Name', 'Site Number', 'Application Number', 'Application Nickname', 'Form', 'Last Update', 'Status', and 'Actions' is shown. The 'Form' column contains 'Form 461'. The 'Status' column has a red box around it, and the 'Actions' column contains an eye icon, also highlighted with a red box.

## After Submitting (continued)

- An email will be sent confirming that the form was submitted along with a copy of the PDF form.
  - If you do not receive a confirmation email, reach out to the RHC Customer Service Center at [RHC-Assist@usac.org](mailto:RHC-Assist@usac.org).
- 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.
- Applicants will receive HCF Program Information Requests through RHC Connect.
- For FCC Forms 461, an autogenerated email will be sent directing applicants to RHC Connect to respond.
- Applicants should respond through RHC Connect only.
- Do not respond to the autogenerated email, as the [rhcadmin@usac.org](mailto:rhcadmin@usac.org) mailbox is unattended.

# **Search Posted Services**

Submitting the FCC Form 461

# HCF & Telecom Search Posted Services

- You can find the posted services from the FCC Form 461 (Search Posted Services tool) for the HCF and Telecom Programs on the Open Data platform on the USAC website under [Tools](#).

| About ▾                                       | E-Rate ▾                                           | Rural Health Care ▾            | Lifeline ▾ | High Cost ▾ | Service Providers ▾ |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------|
| RHC Home                                      | Telecommunications Program                         | Connected Care Pilot Program   | Learn      |             |                     |
| Get Started                                   | Determine Eligibility of Your Site                 | Additional Program Guidance    | Videos     |             |                     |
| Commitment Info                               | Prepare For Competitive Bidding & Request Services | COVID-19 Response              | Webinars   |             |                     |
| Service Providers                             | Evaluate Bids & Select Service Provider            | FCC Report and Order 19-78     | Newsletter |             |                     |
| Healthcare Connect Fund Program               | Submit Funding Requests                            | Funding Year Overview          | FAQs       |             |                     |
| Determine Eligibility of Your Site            | Review Funding Commitment Letter (FCL)             | Authorizations                 | Contact Us |             |                     |
| Develop Evaluation Criteria & Select Services | Invoice USAC                                       | Competitive Bidding Exemptions |            |             |                     |
| Evaluate Bids & Select Service Provider       |                                                    | Document Retention             |            |             |                     |
| Submit Funding Requests                       |                                                    | FCC Orders and Resources       |            |             |                     |
| Review Your Funding Commitment Letter (FCL)   |                                                    | Resources                      |            |             |                     |
| Post-Commitment Actions                       |                                                    | Announcements                  |            |             |                     |
| Invoice USAC                                  |                                                    | Appeals & Audits               |            |             |                     |
| What is a Consortium?                         |                                                    | Forms                          |            |             |                     |
|                                               |                                                    | My Portal                      |            |             |                     |
|                                               |                                                    | Sample Documents               |            |             |                     |
|                                               |                                                    | Tools                          |            |             |                     |
|                                               |                                                    | Upcoming Dates                 |            |             |                     |

# Search Posted Services (continued)

- [Request for Services](#) is a streamlined tool and [Request for Services Data Set](#) is the complete data set on the RHC [Tools](#) page.

## Open Data

|                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Funding Commitments</a>              | Look up funding commitments (FCC Form 462 and 466) information for both the HCF and Telecom Programs.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <a href="#">Requests for Services</a>            | Look up request for services (FCC Form 461 and 465) information for both the HCF and Telecom Program. Please keep in mind that this information is updated daily, so if your requests for services was approved today, it will appear in the Open Dataset tomorrow.                    |
| <a href="#">Request for Services Data Set</a>  | The Request for Services data set is also available in the USAC Open Data Portal. In this data set you can view both HCF and Telecom program information for FCC Forms 461 and 465 for current and past funding years. Please note that the data set contains the previous day's data. |

# Search Posted Services – Requests for Services

- A PDF copy of the FCC Form 461, RFP (if applicable), and any additional posted supporting documentation can be downloaded by clicking the hyperlink under each column.
- The allowable contract selection date (ACSD) is clearly displayed.

**How to use this Feature >**

The Search Posted Services Tool allows service providers to view service request information provided by individual health care providers (HCPs) and consortia applying for funding through the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) and Telecommunications Program.

Requests for services may include the following information:

- **Posting Start Date:** Date that the request for services is posted to this page.
- **Posting End Date:** Date that the request for service posting will expire - applicants are required to post for a minimum of 28 days but may choose to post for a period exceeding 28 days.
- **ACSD:** The Allowable Contract Selection Date (ACSD) is the date that the applicant can enter into a contract with the selected service provider.
- **Other Documentation:** Links to documents related to the request for services as submitted by the applicant, such as FCC Form 461, Request for Proposal (RFP), Network Plan. The FCC Form 461, the RFP and any additional documents uploaded, by the applicant, can be accessed using the hyperlinks in the columns with their respective names.

To search for requests for services, type the full or partial criteria in the appropriate box below.

The search results will show a summary of each HCP whose service request(s) match the search criteria entered, with options to view additional information. View more information about each HCP by clicking on the corresponding row in the search results. All supporting documentation will be available for download on this expanded view.

**Filters**

Clear All

Funding Year: Select... Program: Select... HCP Number: Select... Application Number: Select... Site State: Select... Site County: Select... Site City: Select... Posting Start Date: Select... More ▾

| tion Number | HCP Number | HCP Name                | Funding ... | Applicant Type | Request for Services | Posting Start Date | Posting End Date | Allowable Contract | Link to FCC Form PDF                                            | RFP Submitted | RFP 1                                   | RFP 2 | RFP 3 | RFP 4 |
|-------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 100016789   | 28102      | Liberty Dayton Regional | 2026        | INDIVIDUAL     |                      | 2025-07-21         | 2025-08-18       | 2025-08-19         | <a href="http://publicdata.usac.o">http://publicdata.usac.o</a> | 0             |                                         |       |       |       |
| 100016747   | 15698      | Richland Hospital, Inc. | 2026        | INDIVIDUAL     |                      | 2025-07-21         | 2025-08-18       | 2025-08-19         | <a href="http://publicdata.usac.o">http://publicdata.usac.o</a> | 0             |                                         |       |       |       |
| 100016744   | 64393      | Ascension Health        | 2026        | CONSORTIUM     |                      | 2025-07-21         | 2025-08-18       | 2025-08-19         | <a href="http://publicdata.usac.o">http://publicdata.usac.o</a> | 1             | <a href="http://publi">http://publi</a> |       |       |       |
| 100016796   | 14479      | McCamey County Hospi    | 2026        | INDIVIDUAL     |                      | 2025-07-21         | 2025-08-18       | 2025-08-19         | <a href="http://publicdata.usac.o">http://publicdata.usac.o</a> | 0             |                                         |       |       |       |
| 100016807   | 27373      | Grafton City Hospital   | 2026        | INDIVIDUAL     |                      | 2025-07-21         | 2025-08-18       | 2025-08-19         | <a href="http://publicdata.usac.o">http://publicdata.usac.o</a> | 0             |                                         |       |       |       |

# Request for Services Posted Services Data Set

- View the dataset directly on the screen or Export the data to an Excel spreadsheet.

USAC Open Data Dataset Catalog ▾ Video Trainings Release Notes FAQs

**BETA** Introducing our new data shaping and exploration experience: Filter, group, aggregate, and more! [Try it now](#) [Learn more](#)

## Rural Health Care Posted Services (FCC Form 461/465) Rural Health Care

[View Data](#) [Visualize ▾](#) [Export](#) [API](#) [...](#)

This dataset contains data allowing service providers to view service request information provided by individual Health Care Providers (HCPs) and consortia applying for funding through the Rural Health Care (RHC) Program. The data is collected from the FCC Forms 461 and 465, which includes the service request information.

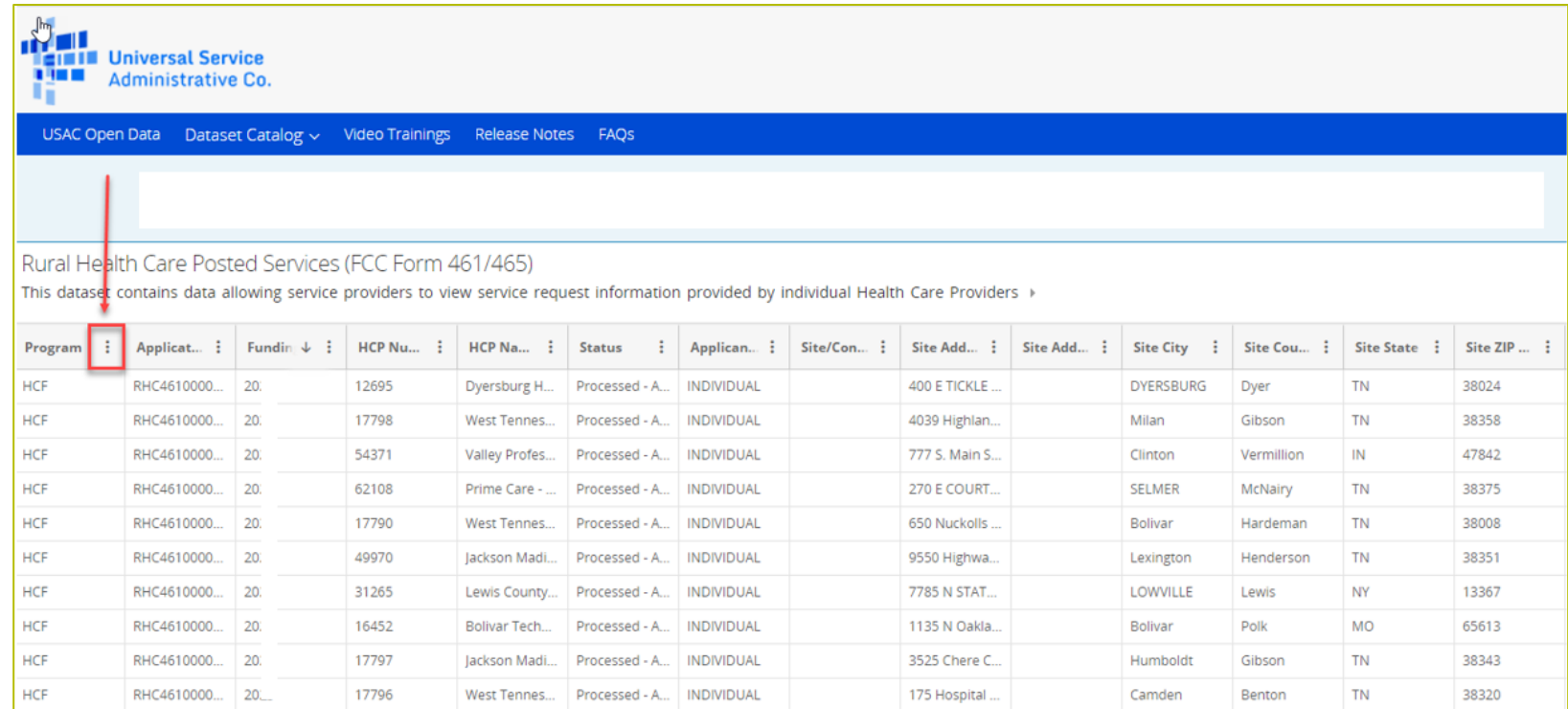
[More](#)

**Updated**  
July 27, 2022

**Data Provided by**  
Universal Service Administrative Company

# RHC Posted Services (FCC Form 461/465) Data Set

- This is the on-screen view of the dataset.
- Click the three dots beside each column title to sort and filter.



Universal Service Administrative Co.

USAC Open Data Dataset Catalog Video Trainings Release Notes FAQs

Rural Health Care Posted Services (FCC Form 461/465)

This dataset contains data allowing service providers to view service request information provided by individual Health Care Providers

| Program | Applicat...   | Fundin | HCP Nu... | HCP Na...        | Status           | Applican... | Site/Con... | Site Add...      | Site Add... | Site City | Site Cou... | Site State | Site ZIP ... |
|---------|---------------|--------|-----------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| HCF     | RHC4610000... | 20.    | 12695     | Dyersburg H...   | Processed - A... | INDIVIDUAL  |             | 400 E TICKLE ... |             | DYERSBURG | Dyer        | TN         | 38024        |
| HCF     | RHC4610000... | 20.    | 17798     | West Tennes...   | Processed - A... | INDIVIDUAL  |             | 4039 Highlan...  |             | Milan     | Gibson      | TN         | 38358        |
| HCF     | RHC4610000... | 20.    | 54371     | Valley Profes... | Processed - A... | INDIVIDUAL  |             | 777 S. Main S... |             | Clinton   | Vermillion  | IN         | 47842        |
| HCF     | RHC4610000... | 20.    | 62108     | Prime Care - ... | Processed - A... | INDIVIDUAL  |             | 270 E COURT...   |             | SELMER    | McNairy     | TN         | 38375        |
| HCF     | RHC4610000... | 20.    | 17790     | West Tennes...   | Processed - A... | INDIVIDUAL  |             | 650 Nuckolls ... |             | Bolivar   | Hardeman    | TN         | 38008        |
| HCF     | RHC4610000... | 20.    | 49970     | Jackson Madl...  | Processed - A... | INDIVIDUAL  |             | 9550 Highwa...   |             | Lexington | Henderson   | TN         | 38351        |
| HCF     | RHC4610000... | 20.    | 31265     | Lewis County...  | Processed - A... | INDIVIDUAL  |             | 7785 N STAT...   |             | LOWVILLE  | Lewis       | NY         | 13367        |
| HCF     | RHC4610000... | 20.    | 16452     | Bolivar Tech...  | Processed - A... | INDIVIDUAL  |             | 1135 N Oakla...  |             | Bolivar   | Polk        | MO         | 65613        |
| HCF     | RHC4610000... | 20.    | 17797     | Jackson Madl...  | Processed - A... | INDIVIDUAL  |             | 3525 Chere C...  |             | Humboldt  | Gibson      | TN         | 38343        |
| HCF     | RHC4610000... | 20...  | 17796     | West Tennes...   | Processed - A... | INDIVIDUAL  |             | 175 Hospital ... |             | Camden    | Benton      | TN         | 38320        |



# Questions?

# **Best Practices and Resources**

Submitting the FCC Form 461

# Best Practices: Communicating with Service Providers

- All bid correspondence should be handled via email for audit purposes.
- Include language in your competitive bidding documents (e.g., FCC Form 461 or RFP) bid documentation that confirms the service provider will act in compliance with all RHC program rules and FCC Orders.
- Once the ACSD has passed and you've chosen a service provider, include them when you reply to Information Requests.
- Ensure your service provider is aware of all the necessary documentation needed for future steps in the application process.
- HCPs and service providers are required to retain documentation for a minimum of five years.

## Milestones to Apply for Funding for FY2027: RHC Program

### Recommended Last Day to Submit for HCPs NOT using a Request for Proposal (RFP)

| RHC Program Form                       | Last Day to Submit for HCPs NOT using a Request for Proposal (RFP) |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FCC Form 460<br>(Eligibility)          | January 8, 2027<br>Recommended Date                                |
| FCC Form 461<br>(Request for Services) | February 10, 2027<br>Recommended Date                              |
| FCC Form 462<br>(Funding Request)      | April 1, 2027<br><b>Deadline to Submit</b>                         |

\*Please note that the FCC Form 460 and 461 submission dates are not mandatory deadlines, but rather recommended milestones to ensure that the FCC Form 461 is posted to USAC's website early enough for a 28-day competitive bidding period before the deadline to submit an FCC Form 462.

## Milestones to Apply for Funding for FY2027: RHC Program Recommended Last Day to Submit for HCPs using a Request for Proposal (RFP)

| RHC Program Form                       | Last Day to Submit for HCPs using a Request for Proposal (RFP) |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| FCC Form 460<br>(Eligibility)          | January 5, 2027<br>Recommended Date                            |
| FCC Form 461<br>(Request for Services) | February 2, 2027<br>Recommended Date                           |
| FCC Forms 462<br>(Funding Request)     | April 1, 2027<br><b>Deadline to Submit</b>                     |

\*Please note that the FCC Form 460 and 461 submission dates are not mandatory deadlines, but rather recommended milestones to ensure that the FCC Form 461 is posted to USAC's website early enough for a 28-day competitive bidding period before the deadline to submit an FCC Form 462.

# Resources

- [RHC Posted Services Tool](#)
- [RHC Program Request for Services Dataset](#)
- [Welcome to RHC Connect – FCC Form 461](#)
- [RHC Connect User Guide – FCC Form 461](#)
- [How to File the FCC Form 461](#) – self-guided training module
- [Information Request tip sheet](#)
- [Network Plan](#) webpage
- [RHC Learn](#) webpage
- Subscribe to the [RHC Monthly Newsletter](#)

# Upcoming Trainings

Please join the RHC Outreach team for the following webinars:

- FY2027 Telecom Program Request for Services Webinar:
  - When: Wednesday, August 26, 2026, from 2-3 p.m. ET – [Register](#)
- HCF Program Invoicing Webinar:
  - When: Wednesday, September 2, 2026, from 2-3 p.m. ET – [Register](#)
- Telecom Program Invoicing Webinar:
  - When: Wednesday, September 9, 2026, from 2-3 p.m. ET – [Register](#)
- For a list of upcoming webinars, check the RHC [Upcoming Dates](#) webpage for dates and details.

# RHC Program Customer Service Center



Email: [RHC-Assist@usac.org](mailto:RHC-Assist@usac.org)

- Include in your email
  - HCP Number
  - FRN Number



- Phone: **(800) 453-1546**
  - Hours are 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET
  - Monday- Friday



# RHC Customer Service Center

| The RHC Customer Service Center CAN                    | The RHC Customer Service Center CANNOT                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Answer general questions regarding both programs       | Determine eligibility of a specific site or service before an official form submission |
| Provide account holder information for an HCP          | Review a form or document for accuracy before an official submission                   |
| Provide clarity regarding FCC Orders                   | Contact a service provider or other account holder on someone else's behalf            |
| Provide helpful resources and best practices for forms | Provide documents that are not already accessible in RHC Connect                       |
| Assist with RHC Connect                                | Transfer a call to a specific form reviewer                                            |

# Questions?

**Thank You!**





**Universal Service**  
Administrative Co.