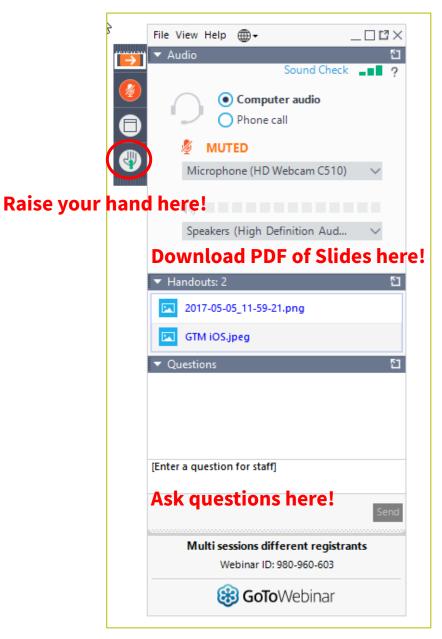
HCF Program Funding Request Office Hours

April 17, 2024



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 "**Raise Your Hand**" button to be unmuted and ask a question to the team!



Meet Our Team



Simone Andrews

Senior Communications Specialist| RHC Outreach



Blythe Albert

Advisor of Program Management | RHC Outreach

Agenda

- Introduction
- Program Updates
- Submitting Forms in RHC Connect
- Best Practices
- Resources

Introduction – Office Hours

- Subject matter experts are available to answer live questions from program participants.
- Today's presentation will focus on the HCF Program.
- Send FRN or HCP-specific questions to the RHC Customer Service Center at <u>RHC-Assist@usac.org</u>.
- Raise your hand or ask your question in the questions box.
- Please note, recordings of Office Hours webinars are not posted to the USAC website.
- You can download a PDF copy of the slide deck from the handout section on the GoToWebinar dashboard.

Glossary

Acronym	Definition
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
HCF	Healthcare Connect Fund
FY	Funding Year
НСР	Health Care Provider (your site)
HCP Number	Number associated with your site
PAH	Primary Account Holder
FCL	Funding Commitment Letter
NCW	Network Cost Worksheet
BAN	Billing Account Number
SPIN/498 ID	Service Provider Identification Number

Program Updates

HCF Program Funding Request Office Hours

RHC Connect Updates

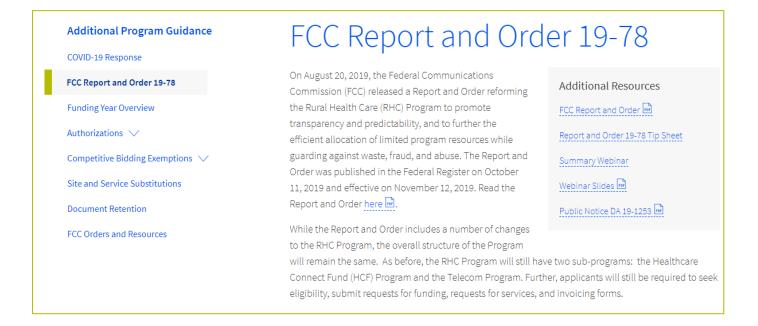
Form	Platform	Relevant Funding Years
FCC Forms 460 & 465	My Portal	Currently in development/release by July 1, 2024
- Letters of Agency (LOA)	My Portal	Currently in development/release by July 1, 2024
- Third Party Authorization (TPA)	My Portal	Currently in development/release by July 1, 2024
FCC Form 461	RHC Connect	FY2023 and forward
FCC Form 462	My Portal	FY 2021 and prior – Multi-year commitments
FCC Form 462	RHC Connect	FY2022 and forward
FCC Form 463	My Portal	FY 2021 and prior – Multi-year commitments
FCC Form 463	RHC Connect	FY2022 and forward
Post-commitment Change Requests	RHC Connect	FY2022 and forward
FCC Form 466	RHC Connect	FY2024 and forward
FCC Form 467 – Telecom Invoice	My Portal	Future development

FCC Order DA 24-214

- On March 7, 2024, the FCC released <u>Order DA 24-214</u> extending the deadline for the FY2024 application filing window to May 1, 2024.
- This means all funding requests (FCC Forms 462 or 466) must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on May 1, 2024.

Reminder: FCC Report and Order 19-78

• <u>FCC Report and Order 19-78</u> webpage summarizes the Report and Order's major changes.



FCC Report and Order 19-78 (continued)

- **Consortia Majority Rural Rule (HCF Only)** Every consortium participating in the HCF Program must consist of more than 50 percent eligible rural sites.
 - <u>Rurality Compliance Tip Sheet</u>
- **Consultant Registration** USAC will issue a unique registration number to the consultant or outside expert and that number will be linked to the HCP's organization.

Reminder: FCC Report and Order 19-78 (continued)

• SPIN CHANGES

- A corrective SPIN change is made when the SPIN associated with a Funding Request Number (FRN) is not correct. This occurs when:
 - The applicant or USAC made a data entry error,
 - SPIN has changed due to the merger of companies or the acquisition of one company by another; or
 - The applicant has not initiated the change (e.g., where the service provider declares bankruptcy).
- An operational SPIN change is a request to change the actual service provider associated with an FRN.
 - The change in service providers is the result of a deliberate decision by the applicant.
 - The applicant has a legitimate reason to change providers (e.g., breach of contract or the service provider is unable to perform).
- **Site and Service Substitutions** HCPs in both the HCF and Telecom program are required to submit site and service substitutions by the service delivery deadline.
 - This date can be found on the Funding Commitment Letter (FCL) for the FRN (FCC Form 462 Application)

FCC 23-110 Third Report and Order

- On December 14, 2023, the FCC released Order FCC 23-110. This order improves RHC Program administration and facilitates
 participation in the program by allowing health care providers that expect to become eligible during a funding year to complete the
 processes required to request funding, aligns program deadlines, simplifies rules for calculating urban rates, streamlines administrative
 processes, and frees up unused funding for other purposes. Changes to RHC Program rules are as follows:
 - Permits health care providers to be granted conditional eligibility, thus allowing them to initiate competitive bidding and request funding while awaiting a final eligibility determination (Prior to July 1, 2024, for purposes of competitive bidding FY2025).
 - Provides health care providers more time to complete Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) changes by moving the SPIN change deadline to align with the invoice filing deadline (Beginning in FY2023).
 - Simplifies urban rate calculations by eliminating the seldom-used "standard urban distance" component of the rule for determining urban rates in the Telecommunications (Telecom) Program (Beginning in FY2025).
 - Allows health care providers to request changes to the dates covered by an evergreen contract post-commitment (Beginning in FY2024).
 - Adopts the FCC Form 460 for eligibility determinations in the Telecom Program, which will eliminate the need for Telecom Program participants to seek an eligibility determine every time they engage in competitive bidding.
 - Establishes a deadline of July 1, 2024, for health care providers to claim undisbursed funding commitments that do not currently have an applicable invoice filing deadline from FY2019 and prior years.

Reminder: Information Requests

- If USAC requires information that cannot be located on the submitted supporting documentation, this will result in an **Information Request.**
- All account holders will receive all Information Requests.
- Applicants are given 14 calendar days to provide a response to the Information Request.
 - 11:59 p.m. ET on the 14th day would be the last time to respond to the Information Request.
- Information Requests not responded to within 14 calendar days **will result in a denial** of that form.
- An extension request must be received prior to the original 14-day Information Request deadline.

FY2024 Funding Request Reviews

- RHC may begin funding request reviews before the funding request window closes.
- No final decisions will be made prior to the close of the filing window.
- Some changes to submissions must occur prior to the close of the filing window.
- This means that you may receive an Information Request before May 1, 2024.
- For FY2024 FCC Forms 462, an auto-generated email will be sent with instructions to respond through RHC Connect.
 - HCPs should respond through RHC Connect only.
 - The auto-generated email comes from an unattended mailbox so please only respond through RHC Connect.

Update: FCC Form 463 in RHC Connect

- While it is no longer required in RHC Connect to move forward with the submission of Form 463, applicants are expected to have supporting documentation for invoices and proof of payment available at the time they submit the form.
- Upon selection for manual review or audit, RHC will require submission of all documents for all requested billing period(s).
- Please be mindful that program rules require applicants to have all supporting documentation available when forms are submitted, and for 5 years thereafter.

Reminder: Invoice Filing Deadlines

- Invoicing guidelines adopted in FCC <u>Report and Order 19-78</u> became effective beginning with FY2020 applicants.
- The invoice filing deadline will be four months (120 days) from the service delivery deadline in both the HCF and Telecom Programs, October 28 of a given funding year.
- Please use the <u>RHC Invoicing Deadline Tool</u> in the Open Data section of the USAC website to look up your invoice filing deadline deadline.
- For more information, please see the <u>HCF invoice page</u> and <u>Telecom invoice page</u>.

Supply Chain Order

- As a reminder, when service providers login to <u>My Portal</u> they will see two new supply chain certifications included in the FCC Form 463 and Telecom program invoice.
- The first certification affirms compliance with the <u>Section 54.9</u> prohibition on USF for specified transactions with companies deemed to pose a national security threat. 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>.
- **FY2023 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 FY2023, you cannot invoice for these funds. Instead, you should immediately request a <u>service substitution</u>.
- **FY2024 Applicants:** As you proceed with competitive bidding, please ensure you are not requesting funding for services or equipment from listed covered companies or any of their parents, affiliates and subsidiaries.

Supply Chain Web Page

Supply Chain webpage

_	About 🗸	E-rate \lor	Rural Health Care \smallsetminus	Lifeline \lor	High Cost \lor	Service Providers \checkmark
	USAC About Repo	rts & Orders Supply Ch	ain			
	Reports & Orders Annual Report		Supply C	Chain		
	FCC Filings FCC Orders		United States, the security networks or the communic	and safety of United Sta cations supply chain. The	r of actions to protect the na tes persons, and the integrity e FCC has also implemented	y of communications the <u>Secure and Trusted</u>
	Supply Chain		In November 2019, the FCC Section 54.9) which prohib maintain, improve, modify	C released the <u>Supply Ch</u> bits the use of Universal S , operate, manage, or ot und to pose a national se	C's actions can be found at y ain First Report and Order Service Fund (USF) support to herwise support equipment ecurity threat to the integrity	adopting a rule (47 CFR o purchase, obtain, or services produced or

Questions?

RHC Connect – Submitting the FCC Form 462

HCF Program Funding Request Office Hours

My Portal Landing Page

• Log in to My Portal and click "**RHC Connect**" to begin.

	rders, new certifications have been added to the following forms: RHC - FCC Form 463 and 1. Service providers are required to submit these annual certifications. For additional info	
Upcoming Dates	Rural Health Care	Help?
10/18 Invoicing Best 2023 Practices Webinar	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 FV2022 and later, and the Telecommunications (Telecom) Program for the FCC Form 466 for FV2024 and later.	Send us a message Click here Call us (888) 642-8722
	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 FV2021 and earlier, and the Telecommunications (Telecom) Program for the FCC Form 466 and Form 467 for FV2023 and earlier.	

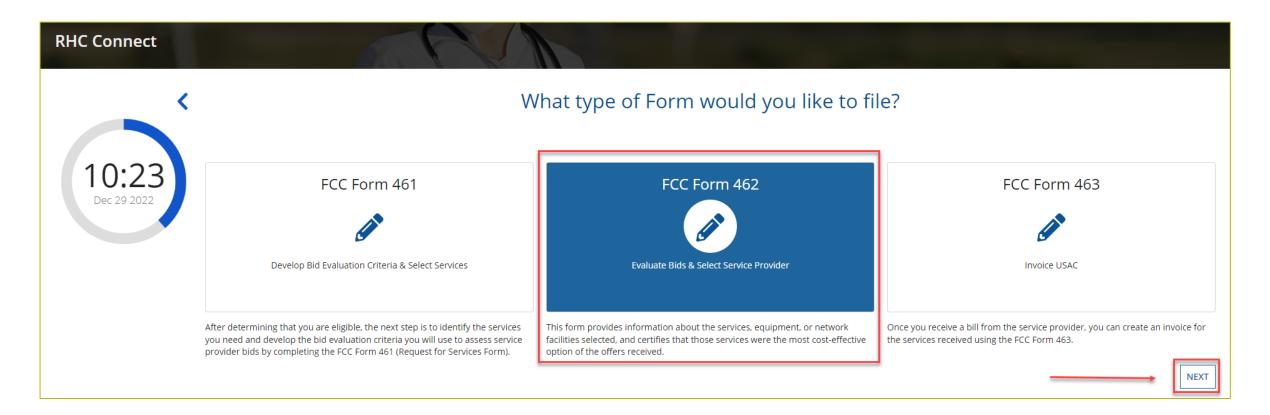
Dashboard

- Here you can start a new form, resume working on a draft or delete a draft FCC Form 461 or 462 for FY2023.
- There's a countdown banner displaying the days remaining in the filing window.

DASHBOARD START A FORM										
/	-	-	A		-	_	_			-
RI	HC Connect	18	114				5 No.			
	<	(151) Unread Notifications								>
		Information Reque	sts		My Forms		My Org	anizations		
	11:02			() The Funding	Year 202 funding request filing wind	dow closes in days.				
	Dec 29 2022	My Forms								
		Form Type								
		Q. Search Form 462s	SEARCH							τ-
		Site Name	Site Number	Application Number	Application Nickname	Form	Last Update	Status	Actions	
						Form 462	12/29/2022 10:57 AM EST	Draft	• •	Û
						Form 462	12/9/2022 2:59 PM EST	Submitted	• 4	X
						Form 462	12/8/2022 1:45 PM EST	Submitted	• 4	8
						Form 462	9/1/2022 10:37 AM EDT	Submitted	• 4	là -
						Form 462	9/1/2022 10:29 AM EDT	Processed	• 4	
						Form 462	10/26/2022 1:42 PM EDT	Draft	• •	<u>ا</u>

Start a New Form

• Select FCC Form 462, then click "Next".



Start

	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
tart							
Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)							
			FCC NOTICE REQUIRED BY T	HE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT			
Part 54 of the Federal Communications Com result in the form being returned without act							ation will delay processin
We have estimated that each response to thi	nis collection of information a	will take 2 hours. Our estimate includes the	e time to read the instructions,	look through existing records, gather and n	naintain the required data, and actu	ally complete and review the form or re	sponse. If you have any
comments on this estimate, or on how we ca you send them to pra@fcc.gov. Please DO No	an improve the collection an	id reduce the burden it causes you, please					
Remember - you are not required to respond has been assigned an OMB control number (ion sponsored by the Federal government,	, and the government may not o	conduct or sponsor this collection, unless it	displays a currently valid OMB cont	trol number or if we fail to provide you	with this notice. This colle
THE FOREGOING NOTICE IS REQUIRED BY TH		I ACT OF 1995, P.L. 104-13, OCTOBER 1, 19	95, 44 U.S.C. § 3507				
THE FOREGOING NOTICE IS REQUIRED BY TH	HE PAPERWORK REDUCTION		_				
	HE PAPERWORK REDUCTION		_				
THE FOREGOING NOTICE IS REQUIRED BY TH	HE PAPERWORK REDUCTION		_				
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25

Competitive Bidding

CASHBOARD	START A N					
		🖺 SAVE DRAFT				
		Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation
		Competitive Biddin	g			
		Is the HCP requesting that this a Yes No	pplication be exempt from competit	ive bidding? 🕖		
		Explanations				
		BACK EXIT				

Competitive Bidding (Continued)

E NEW FORM
SAVE DRAFT
Start Page Competitive Bidding Service Provider Information Expense Items Additional Documentation Confidentiality Certifications
Competitive Bidding
Is the HCP requesting that this application be exempt from competitive bidding? 3 Yes No
Explanations
If your site meets one of the competitive bidding exemptions below, you are not required to submit the FCC Form 461 and go through the competitive bidding process. You are exempt from competitive bidding if any of the following apply: 1. Government Master Service Agreement (MSA): You are seeking support for services and equipment purchased from master service agreements (MSAs) negotiated by a federal, state, Tribal, or local governmental entity on the applicant's behalf, and awarded pursuant to applicable federal, state, Tribal, or local competitive bidding requirements.
2. Master Service Agreements (MSA) Approved Under the Rural Health Care Pilot Program or HCF Program: You are opting into an existing MSA approved under the Rural Health Care Pilot program or the HCF program and seeking support for services and equipment purchased from the MSA, as long as the MSA was developed and negotiated in response to an RFP or request for services that specifically solicited proposals that included a mechanism for adding additional sites to the MSA.
3. Evergreen Contract: You have an existing contract already endorsed by USAC as evergreen.
4. Schools and Libraries Program Master Contracts: You are an eligible HCP in a consortium with participants in the Schools and Libraries (E-rate) program and are purchasing services and/or network equipment under a contract approved under the E-rate program as a master contract.
5. Annual Undiscounted Cost of \$10,000 or Less: If you are seeking support for \$10,000 or less of total undiscounted eligible expenses for a single year you may bypass the competitive bidding process.
 For consortia applicants, this exemption is \$10,000 for all funding requests submitted for the consortium. Note: If you select this option on your FCC Form 462, you will not be able to request a multi-year funding commitment.
BACK EXIT

Competitive Bidding Exemptions

🖺 SAVE DRAFT							
Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
Competitive Bidding	g						
Is the HCP requesting that this ap Yes No Explanations	plication be exempt from competit	ive bidding? 😧				>	
Select the exemption that the HCC Annual Undiscounted Cost of \$10 Government Master Services Agr Pre-Approved Master Services Ag Evergreen Contract E-rate Approved Contract Contracts	0,000 or less reement						
Contract Name	с	ontract Document	Contract Sign	Date	Contract End Date	Initial	Contract Term
			No iter	ms available			
BACK EXIT							ADD CONTRACT EDIT DELETE

Competitive Bidding Exemptions (Continued)

- If "Yes" is selected, choose the exemption type.
- Upload contract.
 - For Evergreen contracts, select a contract from the drop-down menu.
 - Evergreen exemption can only be selected if the contract was approved as Evergreen on a prior funding year funding requests.
- Enter the relevant contract information in the fields.
- Use the drop-down calendar to enter dates.

Start Page		Co	ompetitive Bidding	Service Provider Inform
Competitive B	idding	g		
s the HCP requesting	that this	application be	e exempt from compet	titive bidding? 😧 *
Yes				•
No				
elect the exemption	hat the H	HCP is claimin	g*	
🔵 Annual Undiscounte	d Cost of s	\$10,000 or less		
Government Master	Services A	Agreement		
Pre-Approved Maste	r Services	Agreement		
Evergreen Contract				
E-rate Approved Cor	tract			
New Contract				
New Contract				
Select an Existing Co	ntract*			
		-		
Contract Sign Date	Con	ntract End Dat	e (Optional)	
10/01/2021	09	/30/2024	曲	
Length of Initial Con	tract Ter	m		
36		Months 🔻		
Number of Contract	Extensio	ns (Optional)		
5				
Total Combined Len	gth of Op	tional Extensi	ons (Optional)	
5		Months 🔻		
CANCEL				
CANCEL				

Competitive Bidding Exemptions (Continued)

• Once the contract is selected, click "Save and Continue".

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
Competitive Bidding							
the HCP requesting that this a Yes) No	pplication be exempt from competi	tive bidding? 😮 *					
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Government Master Services Ag Pre-Approved Master Services A							
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ontracts							
	Contract Name	Contract Docume	ent	Contract Sign Date	Contract End Date	Initia	al Contract Term
	Contract Name	Contract Docume	ent	Contract Sign Date	Contract End Date 9/30/2024	Initia	al Contract Term 36 Months
Contracts	Contract Name	Contract Docume	ent	_			

Competitive Bidding Non-Exempt

- Click "No" if the HCP is not exempt from competitive bidding.
- Choose the related FCC Form 461 from drop-down menu.
 - All FCC Forms 461 for the HCP will be available.
- Enter the number of bids received.
- Copies of all bids received must be uploaded.

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information
A Competitive Biddir	ng	
Is the HCP requesting that this a Ves	application be exempt from competi	tive bidding? 🔂 *
O No +		
Related FCC Form 461 Applicatio	n *	
Is the HCP continuing with the c	urrent service provider?*	
() Yes		
O No		
Number of Service Providers Th	at Bid *	
3		
Upload Bids		
Do	cument Type	
O Add Documents		
Must Upload a file.		

Upload Bids				
Document Type	Document	Uploaded On		
Bids 👻	0	11/8/2021 9:26 AM EST	×	
Add Documents				
BACK EXIT				SAVE & CONT

Service Provider Information

- Select 498 ID/SPIN.
- Click "Save and Continue".

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
Service Provider Info	ormation						
498 ID/SPIN		ovider centurylink Name	SEARCH CLEAR				
498 ID/SPIN		Service Provider Name					
143003913		CenturyLink Coastal Long Distance S	ervices, Inc.				
143001613		CenturyLink CenturyTel of North Mis	ssissippi, Inc.				
143002125		CenturyLink CenturyTel of Minnesot	a, Inc.				
143001361		CenturyLink United Telphone Co. of	New Jersey				
143002131		CenturyLink - Embarq Minnesota, In	c (FKA Embarq)				
							🔍 🕻 1 - 5 of 83 🔪 ≫
You have selected 143002131 - Ce	enturyLink - Embarq Minnesota, Inc	(FKA Embarq)					
BACK EXIT							SAVE & CONTINUE

Expense Items – Summary Page

- Download the NCW Template and save.
- Populate all information and upload the NCW to RHC Connect.
- Any information entered manually will be overwritten by the NCW document once it's uploaded.

Start F	age	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Infor	mation Expense	Items Additional Doc	cumentation Confidentia	lity Certificatio	ns	Signature
								Dowr	nced Features nload NCW Template ad NCW Document
Ехре	ense Itei	m Summary						ENTE	ER A NEW EXPENSE ITE
Expe # 1	ense Iter	m Summary Site Name		Contract Number	Expense Type	Eligible Undiscounted Cost	Maxium Support Amount	ENTE	ER A NEW EXPENSE ITE Actions
-		-	۱	Contract Number	Expense Type Network Maintenance	Eligible Undiscounted Cost	Maxium Support Amount	ENTE	

Using the NCW Template

- Do not disturb the formatting.
 - When using "copy" and "paste" to enter data, be sure to paste using a "text" or "values" format.
 - If any data is entered manually prior to uploading the NCW, that data will be overwritten when the NCW is uploaded.
 - If after uploading the NCW data isn't saved or you're directed back to the summary page, the formatting has been changed.
 - Download a new NCW template and try again.

							Contract	Status								Exp	oense Informati	on			Expense	Туре			Band	lwidth			Service	Level Agr	eement					
	A	В	С	D	E	F	G	н	I	J	К	L	М	N	0	Р	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	×	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH		
			he service		e	(bb mm 4d)	otional) (yyyy-	+mm-dd)	(pp 4	ons (optional	act Term	contract tern	of Optional nal)	(optional)	d circuit?	(optional)	е (уууу-тт-	(bb-mm	ISe		(optional)	nds (optional)	nds Eligible fo al)		nit	d	Unit	rement (SLA) der for ptional)			880	a bility	(je	on the circuits	0	
Line Number	Site Number	Site Name	contract with t provider?	Contract ID	ntract Nicknam	tart Date (yyy	t End Date (ol mm-dd)	ign Date (yyy	Date (yyy-mr	ntract Extensi	of Initial Contre	ength of initial	ined Length c insions (optior	of Extensions	ı newly installe	ount Number (wice Start Dat dd)	on Date (yyyy-	gory of Exper	cxpense Type	in of Expense	of Fiber Strar	of Fiber Strar pport (option	Jpload Speed	load Speed U	wnload Spee	nload Speed I	vice level agre s service provi ense item? (O	LA for Latency	SLA for Jitter	for Packet Lo	or Packet Reli	cuit ID (option:	ite's location o	ls this MemberSite, Servic ProviderSite or Neither?	4 umber
			Is there a		Cor	Contract S	Initial Contrac	Contract S	Install	Number of Co	Length o	Time unit of L	Total Comb Exte	Time Unit	ls this is a	Billing Acc	Expected Ser	Installatic	Cate		Explanatio	Total Number	Total Number Su		Upl	Do	Down	ls there a ser with the this exp	0		SLA	SLA fo	Circ	Where is the s	ls this Membe Provider Sit	НСРЪ
1	-		aYes												No				Data	Dark Fiber		_		1.00	Mbps	1.00	Mbps	Yes	<8 ms	<10 MS	<0.001	0.9999		Circuit Start Location		
2			aYes												No				Data	Ethernet	_			500.00	Mbps	500.00	Mbps	Yes	<8 ms	<10 MS	<0.001	0.9999		Circuit Start Location		
3			aYes		-							_			No				Data	Dark Fiber				1.00	Gbps	1.00	Gbps	Yes	<8 ms	<10 MS	<0.001	0.9999		Circuit Start Location		
4			aYes		-							_			No				Data	Ethernet				100.00	Mbps	100.00	Mbps	Yes	<8 ms	<10 MS	< 0.001	0.9999		Circuit Start Location		
5			aYes	-	-										No				Data	Ethernet				50.00	Mbps	50.00	Mbps	Yes	<8 m s	<10 MS	< 0.001	0.9999		Circuit Start Location		

Expense Items – Contract Status

- For consortia applicants, choose a member site for each expense from dropdown menu.
- Select "no" for submission without contract (month-to-month).

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Ce
Expense Items						
Expense Item 1 of 1 Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$0.00 Maximum Support Amount \$0.00						
> Contract Status			Expense Item Site			•
O Expense Information	_	,	Does the HCP have a Contract Yes No (process this item as mon			_
O Expense Type						
O Bandwidth						
O Service Level Agreement						
O Circuit Information						
O Financial Information						
O HCP Contribution Source						
Sum of All Expense Item Total Eligible Undisco Sum of All Expense Item Maximum Support Ar BACK EXIT						

Expense Items – Contract Status (Continued)

- Select "yes" for submission with contract.
- Select an existing contract or upload a new contract.
- Enter information about the contract.

	Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality
Ex	pense ltems					
Fotal I	ense Item 1 of 1 Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$0.00 num Support Amount \$0.00					
>	Contract Status			Expense Item Site		•
0	Expense Information		`	Does the HCP have a Contract w Yes No (process this item as month		
0	Expense Type		Г	Select an Existing Contract	Contract Nickname	Upload a New Contract
0	Bandwidth			Select a contract already associate		UPLOAD C Drop file here
0	Service Level Agreement			Contract Start Date	Initial Contra mm/dd/yyyy	
0	Circuit Information			Length of Initial Contract Term		
0	Financial Information			Tin	ne Unit 🔻	
0	HCP Contribution Source			Number of Contract Extensions	(Optional)	
	All Expense Item Total Eligible Undiscount All Expense Item Maximum Support Amou			Total Combined Length of Option	nal Extensions (Optional) ne Unit 🔻	
				Contract Sign Date	Install Date	益

Expense Items – Contract Status (Continued)

• Enter contract start date, initial contract end date, contract sign date and installation date for confirmation in review.

Does the HCP have a Cont	ract with the Serv	rice Provider? 🝞		
• Yes				
No (process this item as item)	month-to-month)			
Select an Existing Contract		Contract Nickname	Upload a New Co	ntract
	DR			
			UPLOAD 🔓 D	op nie nere
Contract Start Date		Initial Cont	ract End Date	
11/01/2021		10/31/202	4	
· · · · ·				
Length of Initial Contract	Term			
3	Years 🔻			
Number of Contract Exten	sions (Optional)			
5				
Total Combined Length of	Optional Extensi	ons (Optional)		
5	Years 🔻			
Contract Sign Date		Install Date	•	

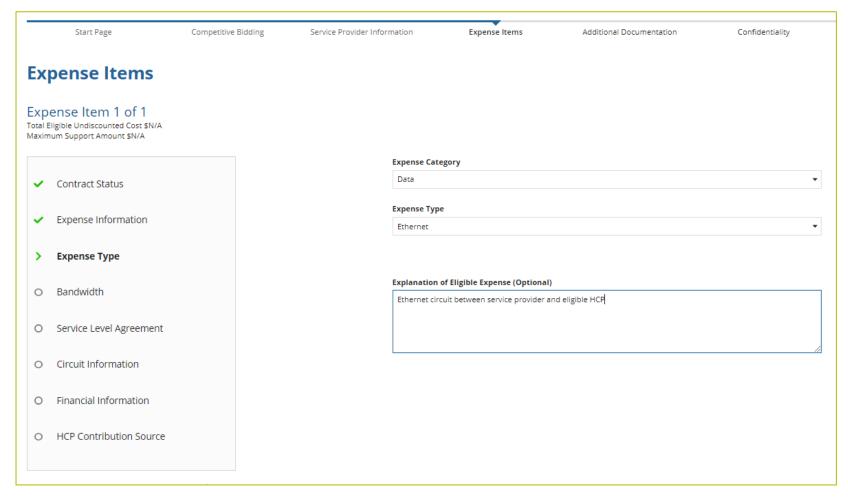
Expense Items – Expense Information

• Enter the "Expected Broadband Service Start Date" and "Installation Date".

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	
Expense Items						
Expense Item 1 of 1 iotal Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$N/A Maximum Support Amount \$N/A	ι.					
 Contract Status 			Is this a newly installed circui Yes No Billing Account Number (Optic			
> Expense Information				onal)		
O Expense Type			Expected Broadband Service S 07/01/2022	itart Date		
O Bandwidth				ding year start date. Please make sure th or have already started this service.	nat this is the date when you act	ually
O Service Level Agreemen	t		Installation Date			
O Circuit Information						
O Financial Information						
O HCP Contribution Sourc	e					
im of All Expense Item Total Eligible Undis im of All Expense Item Maximum Support						
BACK EXIT						

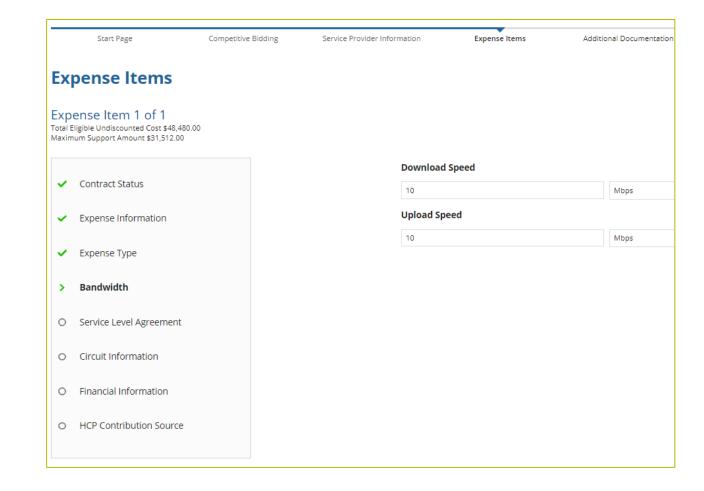
Expense Items – Expense Type

• Enter "Expense Category" and "Expense Type" and an optional explanation of the eligible expense.



Expense Items – Bandwidth

• Enter Bandwidth.



Expense Items – Bandwidth (Continued)

- For equipment, installation, construction and network management services, bandwidth does not have to be entered if not applicable.
- For all other services, bandwidth is required.

Ibile Unidescurred Cost SNA Support Amount SN/A Contract Status Expense Information Expense Type Bandwidth Service Level Agreement Circuit Information Enancial Information	Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidenti
bible Undiscounted Cost SN/A is Support Amount SN/A Contract Status	pense ltems					
Expense Information Expense Type Bandwidth Service Level Agreement Circuit Information HCP Contribution Source Expense Type Expense Typ	ense Item 1 of 1 Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$N/A num Support Amount \$N/A					
Expense Information Expense Type Bandwidth Service Level Agreement Circuit Information Financial Information HCP Contribution Source			Download	Speed		
Expense Information Expense Type Expense Type Bandwidth Service Level Agreement Circuit Information Financial Information HCP Contribution Source Expense Item Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost: \$N/A	Contract Status		1		Select	
Experise term Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost: \$N/A	Expense Information					
Bandwidth Service Level Agreement Circuit Information Financial Information HCP Contribution Source Expense kem Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost: \$N/A	Expense Type				Select	
Circuit Information Financial Information HCP Contribution Source Expense Item Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost: \$N/A	Bandwidth		Leave blank if	bandwidth is not applicable		
Financial Information HCP Contribution Source Expense Item Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost: \$N/A	Service Level Agreement					
HCP Contribution Source	Circuit Information					
Expense Item Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost: \$N/A	Financial Information					
	HCP Contribution Source					
	of All Expense Item Total Eligible Undisco					

Expense Items – Service Level Agreement (SLA)

- If "no" is selected, fields will not appear.
- If "yes" is selected, enter the information about the SLA.

Expense Items	
Expense Item 1 of 1 Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$48,480.00 Maximum Support Amount \$31,512.00	
 Contract Status 	Is there a service level agreement (SLA) with the service provider for this expense item? (Optional) Yes No
 Expense Information 	What is the SLA for Latency? (Optional)
 Expense Type 	What is the SLA for Jitter? (Otional)
✓ Bandwidth	What is the SLA for Packet Loss? (Optional)
> Service Level Agreement	
O Circuit Information	What is the SLA for Packet Reliability? (Optional)

Expense Items – Circuit Information

- Address of the HCP on expense item will pre-populate based on information in the FCC Form 460.
- "Start location" and "End location" cannot be the same address.

Expense Items Expense Item 1 of 1 Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$48,480.00 Maximum Support Amount \$31,512.00 Circuit ID (Optional) Contract Status Image: A second s Where is the site's location on the circuit? The circuit starts at the site location Expense Information The circuit ends at the site location ~ Expense Type **Circuit Start Location** Bandwidth ~ Address Line 1 Service Level Agreement \checkmark Address Line 2 **Circuit Information** > City Financial Information 0 State CO HCP Contribution Source 0 **ZIP** Code

Expense Items – Circuit Information (Continued)

 If the HCP is an Off-Site Administrative Office or Data Center, the location on the other end of the circuit is required.

Rpense Item 1 of 1 tal Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$N/A ximum Support Amount \$N/A		
	Circuit ID (Optional)	
 Contract Status 		
	Where is the site's location on the circuit	?
 Expense Information 	The circuit starts at the site location The circuit ends at the site location	
	0	
 Expense Type 		
	Circuit Start Location	Circuit End Location
Bandwidth		O Location is a Member Site
		O Location is the Service Provider
Service Level Agreement		Cocation is not a Member Site or Service Provid
Circuit Information	Address Line 1	Address Line 1
C Financial Information	Address Line 2	Address Line 2
, manetal mornation	City	
D HCP Contribution Source	city	City
	State	State
n of All Expense Item Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost: \$N/A	CO	Choose a State
n of All Expense Item Maximum Support Amount: \$N/A	ZIP Code	ZIP Code

Expense Items – Financial Information

- If you select "no" for "is this entire expense eligible for support", you're indicating that this expense is cost-allocated.
- Enter the eligible percentage and an explanation of the methodology used to determine percent entered
- Upload the required document

Total E	ense Item 1 of 1 igible Undiscounted Cost \$0.00 um Support Amount \$0.00	
~	Contract Status	
~	Expense Information	
~	Expense Type	
~	Bandwidth	
~	Service Level Agreement	
~	Circuit Information	
>	Financial Information	
0	HCP Contribution Source	
	All Expense Item Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost: \$N/A All Expense Item Maximum Support Amount: \$N/A	

Does this expense item represent multiple items	or circuits? 📀
○ Yes	
O No	
Multi-year Funding Request	
○ Yes	
O No	
How often is this item expensed?	
Monthly	-
How many expense periods will there be total?	
12	
Undiscounted Cost Per Expense Period (Excluding	Taxes and Fees)
\$1,000.00	
Taxes and Fees per Expense Period	
\$50.00	
ls this entire expense eligible for support? 🚱	Percent Eligible for Support
Ves	90
O No	50
Explanation	
Ten locations use this service but one site is ineligib	le for funding
	70/1000

Expense Items – Multiple Items

• The quantity of items should match the quantity on the documentation.

Expense Items	
Expense Item 2 of 2 Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$0.00 Maximum Support Amount \$0.00	
	Does this expense item represent multiple items or circuits? 🕢
	• Yes
 Contract Status 	○ No

Expense Items – Financial Information (Continued)

• Check all that apply.

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality
Expense Items					
Expense Item 1 of 1 Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$12,6 Maximum Support Amount \$8,190.00					
 Contract Status Expense Information Expense Type Bandwidth Service Level Agreement Circuit Information Financial Information HCP Contribution Sour 			How will the HCP cover their of that apply) The HCP will cover the differe State grants, funding, or appr Federal funding, grants, loans Tribal government funding Other grant funding including	nce opriations s, or appropriations	e not covered by HCF support? (select all
Sum of All Expense Item Total Eligible Undist \$12,600.00 Sum of All Expense Item Maximum Support. BACK EXIT					

Expense Items – Summary

Ехре	nse Item S	ummary					ENTER A NEW EXPENSE ITEM
# 1	Site #	Site Name	Contract Number	Expense Type	Eligible Undiscounted Cost	Maxium Support Amount	Actions
1				Ethernet	\$24,240.00	\$15,756.00	Edit Delete
Show 5 records/page Total Eligible Undiscounted Cost \$24,240.00 Total Maximum Support \$15,756.00							
EXIT							SAVE & COM
							Approved by OMB 30
		lfuo	ou have questions please contact our Help Desk at ((800) 453 1546 or PHC Assist@ut		abaasab Faidas faa aasiataa aa	

Additional Documentation

• Consortia applicants are required, at minimum, to upload a Viable Source Letter before continuing.

Sta	art Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature		
Addition	dditional Documentation									
Use	e this tab to upload additiona	l documentation that is relevant to	the application. Ensure that all bandwidth	s, costs, service locations, and ex	pense types are supported with document	ation.				
9	Service provider document	ation required to confirm expenses								
D	ocument Type		Description		Document		Uploaded On	t		
				No items avai	lable					
U	PLOAD DOCUMENT(S)									
M	/lust upload a file of docume	nt type Viable Source Letter								
BACK EXIT	r							SAVE & CONTIN		

Additional Documentation (continued)

• To upload more than 10 documents, follow the instructions in the blue banner.

	Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature	
Additio	nal Documentati	on							
	Service provider docum	entation required to confirm expo	enses						
	Docun	nent Type			Document		Uploaded On		
	No items available								
	O Add Document								
	Bulk Upload *								
_	UPLOAD Drop files her	e					_		
- [🕐 Note: 10 files can be uploaded at a time (up to 100 total). Click Next on this screen once the 10 document limit has been reached; you may then click UPLOAD DOCUMENT(S) again to add another batch of files.								
BACK	хіт							N	
								Approved by OMB 3060-	

Confidentiality

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items
Confidentiality			
	Is the HCP requesting confidential	treatment and non-disclosure of comm	nercial and financial information?*
	⊖ Yes		
	○ No		
	Explanation		
BACK EXIT			

Certifications

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
Certification	s						
l certify under pen	alty of perjury that I a	m authorized to submit	t this request on beha	alf of the applicant or co	onsortium.		
l certify under pen contained therein		ave examined this requ	iest and all attachmei	nts and to the best of n	ny knowledge, informa	ation, and belief, all sta	tements of fact
services. "Cost-effe	ective" is defined as th	e applicant or consortiu ne "method that costs th method of providing th	ne least after conside	ration of the features, o	quality of transmissior		· · · ·
I certify under pen	alty of perjury that all	RHC Program support	will be used only for e	eligible health care pur	poses.		
l certify under pen Healthcare Conne		e applicant or consortiu	im is not requesting s	support for the same se	ervice from both the T	elecommunications Pro	ogram and the
		e applicant or consortiu ninistrator that erroned					ion rules, and
l certify under pen	alty of perjury that I h	ave reviewed all applica	able rules and require	ements for the RHC Pro	gram and complied w	ith those rules and req	uirements.
bidding process, a	II billing records for se	ociated with this applic ervices received and any ered in a particular fund	other documentatio	n demonstrating comp	liance with the rules r	nust be retained for a p	period of at least fiv
		e applicant or consortiu ing to participate in the		ant, if applicable, has no	ot solicited or accepte	d a gift or any other thi	ng of value from a
or other financial s		ny consultants or third p losen to provide the req re bidding.					
BACK EXIT							SAVE & CONTINUE

Signature

 Sign by typing your first and last name in the "Digital Signature" field.

Start Page	Competitive Bidding	Service Provider Information	Expense Items	Additional Documentation	Confidentiality	Certifications	Signature
ignatur	e						
Current User Infor	mation						
		Name					
		Email					
		Phone Employer					
		Title					
		mployer's FCC RN					
Signature							
	Ce	rtifier's Full Name					
		* Digital Signature					
		Date	#				
						ſ	
BACK EXIT							CERTIFY & SU

After Submitting

- You will receive an email letting you know that your form has been received.
 - If you do not receive an email, please go back into My Portal and be sure that you actually signed and submitted the form.
- Draft forms remain in RHC Connect but are not considered submitted until signed, certified, and submitted.
- The reviewer will reach out if additional information is needed.
- No funding decisions will be issued until after the close of the filing window period.
- Once your funding request has been approved, you will receive a Funding Commitment Letter (FCL) that will include all corresponding information to your funding request.

Available for Public Use

Questions?

Available for Public Use

Best Practices

HCF Program Funding Request Office Hours

Submission Checklist

- Document(s) confirming the monthly cost for your services (e.g., a copy of your bill dated within the requested funding period) or the most currently available bill as the filing window closes before the funding year opens
- A copy of all bids that were received for your request for services including the winning bid, all bids that were rejected and any bids that were disqualified and why
- A list of the bid evaluation criteria and copy of the bidding evaluation matrix
- A list of people who evaluated bids including title, role, and their relationship to the applicant
- Internal documents related to the selection of the service provider (upon request)
- Copies of any correspondence with service providers prior to and during the competitive bidding process (upon request)
- A copy of any new contract signed for your services
- Award letter to winning vendor (upon request)
- Contact information for the service provider and all responsible account holders
- □ The start and end location of your services.
- □ Viable source letter for consortia applicants (35 percent contribution)

* Any information that cannot be located on the submitted supporting documentation will result in an Information Request

Best Practices – Competitive Bidding

- Begin your competitive bidding process early.
 - Bidding period opened on July 1, 2023, for FY2024.
- Once the 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 minimum of five years.

Best Practices – FCC Form 462 (Funding Request)

- Do not enter into an agreement with a service provider until after the ACSD has passed.
- Include all required documentation when submitting your FCC Form 462.
- Include a cover letter if needed to clarify information entered into the FCC Form 462.
- If submitting funding requests for equipment, data center or administrative offices or network expenses, tip sheets can be found on the <u>Step 4: Submit Funding Requests</u> webpage under the Additional Resources section.
- Be sure to actually sign, certify and submit all FCC Forms 462 before 11:59 p.m. ET on May 1, 2024 (Drafts are not considered submitted).
- HCPs and service providers are required to retain documentation for a minimum of five years.

Available for Public Use

Resources

HCF Program Funding Request Office Hours

Upcoming Trainings

Please join the RHC Outreach team for the following webinars:

- Telecom Office Hours Webinar:
 - When: Wednesday, April 24, 2024, from 2-3 p.m. ET <u>Register</u>
- Service Provider Training:
 - When: Wednesday, June 12, 2024, from 2-3 p.m. ET <u>Register</u>
- For a list of upcoming webinars, check the RHC <u>Upcoming Dates</u> webpage for dates and details.

Online Resources

- <u>RHC Learn</u>
- <u>Step 4: Submit Funding Request</u> webpage
- <u>Welcome to RHC Connect FCC Form 462</u> webpage
- <u>Competitive Bidding Exemptions</u>
- <u>Consortia Majority Rural Compliance Tip Sheet</u>
- <u>Request for Proposals (RFPs)</u>
- <u>Network Plans</u>
- Funding Limitations Tip Sheet
- Off-site Data Centers and Admin Offices Tip Sheet
- <u>Equipment Tip Sheet</u>

Online Resources - RHC Connect

- Welcome to RHC Connect FCC Form 461 webpage
 - <u>RHC Connect User Guide</u>
 - <u>Welcome to RHC Connect FCC Form 461</u> self-paced video training guide
- <u>Welcome to RHC Connect FCC Form 462</u> webpage
 - <u>RHC Connect User Guide</u>
 - <u>RHC Connect FCC Form 462</u> self-paced video training guide
- <u>Welcome to RHC Connect FCC Form 463</u> webpage
 - <u>RHC Connect Form User Guide</u>
 - <u>RHC Connect FCC Form 463</u> self-paced video training guide
- Information Request Tip Sheet

RHC Program Customer Service Center



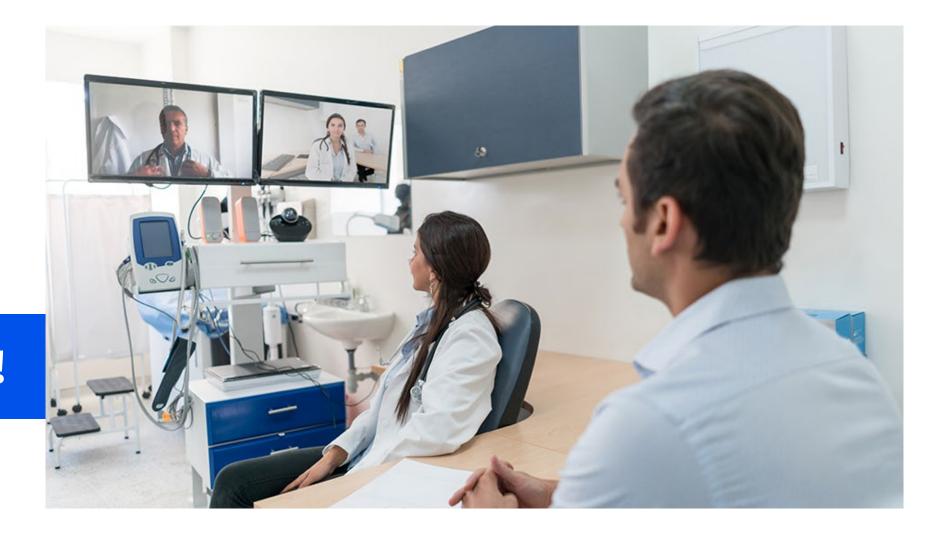
- Email: <u>RHC-Assist@usac.org</u>
- Include in your email:
 - HCP Number
 - FRN Number
- Phone: (800) 453-1546
 - Hours are 8 a.m. 8 p.m. ET
 - Monday- Friday
- Additional Hours Filing Window Close:

The 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 Report and Order 19-78 and other 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 My Portal
Assist with My Portal and RHC Connect	Transfer a call to a specific form reviewer

Available for Public Use

Questions?



Thank You!

Available for Public Use

