Coming Soon: UEI Requirement on FCC Form 498

September 12, 2022

On April 6, 2022, the FCC released a Public Notice (DA-22-371) announcing that the General Services Administration’s SAM.gov will transition from the use of the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to the SAM.gov assigned Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). USAC is continuing to work with the FCC to complete a full transition for the collection of UEIs and the use of SAM.gov to register for UEIs and to obtain payee Automated Clearing House (ACH) and Electronic File Transfer (EFT) information from Universal Service Fund (USF) recipients. The UEI will be required for all participants with a 498 ID in the Rural Health Care (including the Connected Care Pilot Program), Lifeline, E-Rate, and High Cost programs.

To prepare for this transition, USAC will update the FCC Form 498 for all service providers in the fourth quarter of 2022 to require entities to have an active UEI in order to submit or modify their FCC Form 498. After this deployment, the FCC Form 498 system will only accept the UEI if the following criteria are met:

• SAM.gov registration for your entity is active;
• Employer Identification Number (EIN) for the UEI matches the EIN for the FCC Registration Number; and
• EIN for the UEI matches the EIN on the FCC Form 498.

The update of the FCC Form 498 will only affect entities that must submit a new FCC Form 498 or revise their current FCC Form 498 after the fourth quarter 2022 deployment.

For USF program recipients, program payments will continue as normal without full entity SAM.gov registration. However, these USF program recipients that receive direct payments will required to complete the full entity registration when the transition to using SAM.gov for payment information is made by the U.S. Treasury in 2023.

Next Steps

Beginning in November, USF program recipients who submit a new FCC Form 498 or who want to revise their FCC Form 498 should complete their full entity registration in SAM.gov to obtain a UEI.

If you are already registered in SAM.gov, you have a UEI. To find your UEI, log into SAM.gov and select the Entity Management widget in your Workspace or log in and search Entity Information. Please ensure that your SAM.gov registration is active and the EIN for your UEI, the FCC Registration Number, and the FCC Form 498 numbers match. Once you’ve completed these steps, add your UEI to your FCC Form 498 ID. Entities’ registrations in SAM.gov require annual renewal or the accounts will be deactivated. Please ensure that your organization annually renews its SAM.gov registration prior to the expiration date listed in your entity’s record in SAM.gov.

If you are not registered in SAM.gov, you will need to register for a UEI and allow up to six weeks for the registration to be completed on SAM.gov. Once you are registered with SAM.gov, you will be automatically assigned a UEI and can add your UEI to your FCC Form 498 ID at USAC. Even if you don’t need to modify your FCC Form 498 ID immediately, you should go ahead and complete your SAM.gov registration as early as possible and add your UEI to your FCC Form 498 ID now so that you have it when it is required for all entities.
Need Help? Contact Us!
If you need help obtaining a UEI or have additional questions, please visit the Contact USAC page to contact USAC’s Customer Service Center (CSC) or visit SAM.gov for additional information on how to obtain a UEI or register your entity.

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