

Rural Health Care (RHC) Program

FCC RHC 2018 Funding Cap Order FAQs

Q1: What do the new rules adopted by the FCC RHC 2018 Funding Cap Order do?

A1: The FCC RHC 2018 Funding Cap Order adopts rules that: (1) increase the annual RHC Program funding cap to \$571 million and apply it to funding year (FY) 2017; (2) annually adjust the RHC Program funding cap for inflation, beginning with FY2018; and (3) establish a process to carry-forward unused funds from past funding years for use in future funding years. A copy of the Order may be found [here](#).

Q2: When do the new rules adopted by the FCC RHC 2018 Funding Cap Order go into effect?

A2: The rules became effective on June 29, 2018 when the Order was published in the Federal Register.

Q3: What is the impact to previously approved FY2017 FRNs?

A3: Previously approved FY2017 funding requests will receive 100% of their approved funding amount (i.e., the commitment amount approved by USAC after its review of the funding requests for compliance with RHC Program rules). The proration that was previously applied to FY2017 funding commitments will be removed and revised Funding Commitment Letters (FCLs) will be issued.

Q4: Does the increased funding cap for FY2017 mean that health care providers (HCPs) may file additional funding requests for FY2017?

A4: No. The application filing window for FY2017 closed, and FY2017 will end on June 30, 2018. USAC will not accept any new requests for FY2017 funding.

Q5: When will USAC issue revised FCLs?

A5: USAC began processing revised FCLs when the new rules went into effect on June 29, 2018, and will issue revised FCLs on a rolling basis. We will make every effort to complete the process as expeditiously as possible.

Q6: How will I receive a revised FCL from USAC?

A6: HCPs and service providers will receive revised FCLs through email. The revised FCL will be sent to all account holders.

Q7: Should I continue submitting invoices to USAC requesting disbursements based on the previously issued, prorated FY2017 funding commitments?

A7: No. Please do not submit further invoices for disbursements based on the previously issued, prorated commitments at this time. Instructions on how to proceed with invoicing after you receive your revised FCLs are provided below.

Q8: How should I invoice for disbursements after I receive my revised FY2017 FCL?

A8: After you receive your revised FY2017 FCL, you can begin invoicing normally in My Portal. Depending on the complexity of your invoice, you may receive two payments instead of one payment – one based on the existing, prorated commitment in the system, and one for the additional funding available based on your revised FCL. Our review of your invoices should proceed on the usual timetable, though if a second payment is involved, you may receive it slightly later.



Q9: If I previously received a prorated FY2017 commitment, will I be able to see the reversal of the proration in my account information on My Portal, or via the public data tools on USAC's website?

A9: No. Your account information on My Portal and reports generated by the data tools on USAC's website will continue to reflect the prior FY2017 prorations until USAC updates the information at a later date. The revised FCLs will show the full commitment amount available to you based on the previous approval of your FY2017 funding requests, and the payments will be made on that amount.

Q10: Will the service start and end dates on my revised FY2017 FCL change?

A10: No, the only piece of information that will change between the prorated FY2017 funding commitment that you previously received and the revised FY2017 FCL that you will receive is the commitment amount.

Q11: What if I am participating in the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program and my invoice deadline passes before I can submit all of my invoices based on the revised FY2017 FCL?

A11: Applicants and service providers participating in the HCF Program must submit their invoices within six months of the end date on their FCL. As noted above, the end dates on the revised FY2017 FCLs that USAC issues will not change. The issuance of revised FCLs should not create an invoice deadline issue for program participants.

Q12: What if I believe the commitment amount on the revised FY2017 FCL that I receive is incorrect?

A12: The funding commitment letter that you received for your prorated FY2017 commitment showed the "Total Funding Amount" as well as the "Committed Funding Amount". The commitment amount in the revised FY2017 FCL should match the "Total Funding Amount" from your first FCL.

Please note that if more than 60 days have passed since USAC issued your prorated FY2017 funding commitment, your time to appeal USAC's determination of your FY2017 funding commitment has lapsed. The only action that USAC is taking by issuing the revised FY2017 FCL is reversing the proration of your previously approved commitment amount.

Q13: What if my FY2017 funding request is still pending?

A13: If your FY2017 funding request is still pending, there will be no need to reverse any proration applied to your funding request, and it will proceed through the normal commitment process once program compliance review is complete.

Q14: What does this mean for the FY2018 filing window?

A14: As noted in the FCC's RHC 2018 Funding Cap Order, the RHC Program funding cap for FY2018, with the inflation adjustment, will be \$581 million. As a reminder, the FY2018 filing window closes on Friday, June 29, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. ET. To be considered eligible for funding, you must submit your funding requests (FCC Form 462 for the HCF Program and FCC Form 466 in the Telecom Program) by that deadline.