

August 2010 RHC Monthly Conference Call Minutes

1. A Few Words from the FCC on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)

Tom Buckley (FCC) gave an overview of the NPRM that was issued on July 15, 2010. The NPRM proposes the following changes to the current RHC program:

- Health Care Broadband Access Fund: replaces current Internet Access Fund (466-A) and will provide 50% support instead of the current 25%
- Telecom Access Fund: current urban/rural difference funded in the Primary Program. This fund will be unchanged
- Health Care Broadband Infrastructure Fund: Non-recurring capital costs for network deployment (maximum of \$100M annually)

Mr. Buckley also spoke of changes to the current list of eligible entities. The NPRM proposes allowing administrative offices, data centers, skilled nursing facilities and renal dialysis centers to receive funding from the program. In addition, the NPRM also proposes developing performance measures to determine if the fund is actually improving health care.

The Public Notice is posted on RHC's website www.usac.org/rhc and both HCPs and Service Providers are urged to get their comments in prior to the September 8, 2010 comment filing deadline. The reply comment deadline is September 23, 2010.

2. Payment Quality Assurance (PQA) Program

The USAC PQA Program has officially launched. The purpose of this program is to enable USAC to make accurate, timely calculations for rates of improper payments for RHC (to be reported to the FCC). USAC previously used audits for this purpose.

USAC will randomly select a limited number of USF beneficiaries each month (30 in RHC). When selected, participants will receive a letter by email from USAC specifying the payment under assessment, instructions about what information and documents to provide, and how and when to submit these materials.

Producing documents should require just a few hours of participants' staff time and will involve no on-site work by USAC staff. USAC will select beneficiaries to

participate in this program within a few months of the relevant Universal Service disbursement, and participants will receive results of their assessment within a few months of submitting their information and documentation.

There is a dedicated team at USAC to help applicants through the assessment process. They can be reached at 866-348-5943 or RHC-PQA@usac.org

3. Service Provider Webinar: Tuesday, August 17, at 2:00 p.m. EDT

RHC will conduct a one-hour webinar for service providers to allow them to better understand their role in the RHC program. Information is posted online at <http://www.usac.org/rhc/about/training-presentations/training-2010/service-providers-webinar.aspx>. Registration is not required for the training. Following the webinar, a recording of the presentation will be available online.

4. Rural Health Care Training for New Applicants and Pilot Program

RHC will conduct a two-day training program for Pilot Program participants and new applicants to the Primary Program on October 19-20, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The training will begin with a one-day Pilot Program-focused training consisting of panel discussions followed by a training program focused on assisting participants who will be transitioning to the Primary Program. The following day, RHC will conduct a beginners training for health care providers who have been in the Primary Program for less than two years.

A notice will be sent out when registration opens later this month. You can book your hotel accommodations now:

Hotel: Hilton Salt Lake City Center
255 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

- Online Reservation Link: [Hilton Salt Lake City Center](#)
Enter the group code RHC in the 'Group/Convention Code' field.
- Phone Reservation: 801-328-2000 and use group code RHC