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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of,

Request for Waiver for Okanogan County Public
Hospital District No. 3, doing business as Mid-
Valley Hospital

Rural Health Care Program

Funding Year 2018

Form 463 RHC Invoice Number 1000065736

Funding Request Number ("FRN") 18355151

Form 463 RHC Invoice Number 1000065737

Funding Request Number ("FRN") 18450991

WC DOCKET NO. 02-60

Request for Waiver

WAIVER:

Pursuant to Section 54.645(b) of the Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations ("47 CFR"), Okanogan County Public Hospital District No. 3, doing business as Mid-Valley Hospital ("Mid-Valley"), files this Request for Waiver ("Request") to waive the regulatory deadline for submitting an FCC Form 463. The FCC Form 463 (Invoice and Request for Disbursement Form) must be submitted by the applicant to USAC, after approval by the service provider, within six months (180 days) of the end date of the funding commitment.¹

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.645(b).

Background

Mid-Valley Hospital is a licensed 44-bed acute care hospital in Omak, Washington. Mid-Valley, alongside Mid-Valley Clinic, (RHC) provides acute care and clinical services to patients in Omak and surrounding areas. The services include acute care, hospital inpatient and outpatient general surgery, emergency room, obstetrics, rehabilitation, primary care, orthopedic surgery, and the related ancillary procedures.

Mid-Valley filed Form 462 FRN 18450991 (Exhibit A) and 184355151 (Exhibit B) on June 27, 2018 and received Funding Commitment Letters ("FCLs") from The Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") on January 22, 2019 and January 25, 2019, respectfully. The period between form submission and USAC approval for FRN 18450991 was 209 days and for FRN 184355151 it was 215 days.

The funding period of both FRNs began July 1, 2018 and ended August 3, 2018. Pursuant to Section 54.645(b) of 47 CFR, the invoicing deadline, as noted on the FCLs, was February 3, 2019. This required Mid-Valley to submit the service-provider approved invoice to USAC within eight (8) business days for FRN 18450991 and five (5) business days for FRN 18355151. Mid-Valley submitted the Form 463s through the USAC portal on January 28th, 2019 (contained in Exhibits A and B). However, the service provider, GCL Communications Corp. ("GCI"), Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) 143001199, did not review and approve the invoices by the deadline.

On March 6, 2019 GCI requested USAC to waive the 180-day invoicing deadline and USAC denied the request. USAC cited their lack of authority to grant such a request (Exhibit C).

Due to the excessive period of time between Form 462 submission and the issuance of FCLs, many participants are likely to be affected similarly. Many FCLs have yet to be issued as of this date.

1
2 **Conclusion**

3 Mid-Valley respectfully requests that, for the above reasons, the Commission waive the 180-day Rule and
4 provide a one-time extension for filing service provider approved invoices for funding. The Commission
5 has granted such an extension in the past.²
6

7
8 Respectfully Submitted,

9 **Healthcare Funding Connection**

10 

11
12 Mark Boggs
13 President
14 PO Box 692
15 Prospect, KY 40059
16 Mark.boggs@hcfundconnect.com
17 (502) 292-2225

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27
28 Consultant for Okanogan County Public Hospital District No. 3,
DBA Mid-Valley Hospital (Exhibit E).

² Order DA15-163 Adopted and Released on February 6, 2015 (Exhibit D)

Exhibit - A

mark.boggs@hcfundconnect.com

From: rhcadmin@usac.org
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 5:55 PM
To: Ariel Burr
Subject: Rural Health Care HCF Funding Commitment Letter (FCL): HCP 10403, FRN 18450991

EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Funding Commitment Letter Date: 1/22/2019
Invoicing Deadline: 2/03/2019
Funding Year: 2018
Health Care Provider (HCP) Name: Mid Valley Hospital
HCP Number: 10403
HCP Contact Name: Christopher Freel
HCP Contact Email: freelc@mvhealth.org
HCP Contact Phone: (509) 826-8187
FCC Form 461 Application Number: 100026093
Funding Request Number: 18450991

The Rural Health Care (RHC) division of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has completed its review of the FCC Form 462 *Healthcare Connect Fund Funding Request Form* (Form 462) and the supporting information submitted by the HCP named above. Based on the information provided, RHC has determined that the HCP is eligible for the funding estimated below. It is the HCP's responsibility to review this FCL and verify that all information is accurate.

Total Committed Funding: \$1,539.34
HCP Physical Location: 810 Jasmine Street, P.O. Box 793, Omak, WA 98841
Service Provider Name: GCI Communication Corp
Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN): 143001199

Multiple Expense Information

Expense Item	Funding Start Date	Funding End Date	Undiscounted Recurring Expense	Undiscounted Non-Recurring Expense	Recurring Funding Amount	Non-Recurring Funding Amount	Total Funding Amount	Committed Funding Amount
1	7/01/2018	8/03/2018	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$356.45	\$0.00	\$356.45	\$356.45
2	7/01/2018	8/03/2018	\$1,659.25	\$0.00	\$1,182.88	\$0.00	\$1,182.88	\$1,182.88

Contract Summary

Expense Item	Contract ID	Contract Sign Date	Contract End Date	Determination
1	871400	8/03/2015	8/02/2018	Non-Evergreen
2	871400	8/04/2015	8/02/2018	Non-Evergreen

There is no pro-rata factor for this filing window period. ~~EC~~Committed funding amount is 100% of total qualifying funding amount.

This funding request was submitted during FY2018 Filing Window 1. All qualifying requests submitted within the filing window period will receive a pro-rated percentage of the total funds available during FY2018 Filing Window 1 based on the total amount of qualifying funding requested during the filing window period. For each filing window period, if the total demand for RHC Program funding exceeds the total remaining funding available for the fund year, USAC will apply a pro-rata factor to each funding request. Learn more about funding request filing window periods [here](#).

About pro-ration:

- If the final total dollar value of all qualifying funding requests exceeds the \$400 million cap for all qualifying funding requests by the close of a filing window period, qualifying funding requests submitted during that filing window period will receive a pro-rated percentage of the total funds available during the filing window period.
- If the final total dollar value of all qualifying upfront payments and qualifying multi-year funding requests exceeds \$150 million by the close of a filing window period, qualifying upfront payments and qualifying multi-year funding requests will receive a pro-rated percentage of the annual \$150 million limit on funding for upfront payments and multi-year funding requests. This annual limit on upfront payments and multi-year payments is included in, and not in addition to, the aggregate \$400 million annual cap on all qualifying funding requests. 47 C.F.R. § 54.675 (a)

Non-Evergreen (Month-to-Month): If an HCP submits a service agreement or contract that is not signed and dated, or if the type of service, the terms of service, or the duration of the service(s) are not specified, the service agreement or contract will be endorsed as Non-Evergreen (month-to-month). If an HCP requests a multi-year commitment, but the submitted contract is endorsed as Non-Evergreen, funding will be provided only for the period within that funding year. In all cases where a contract is endorsed as Non-Evergreen, the HCP must participate in competitive bidding for each funding year that funding is requested. **Reminder:** To be eligible for a full year of funding, the FCC Form 461 Healthcare Connect Fund Request for Services Form (Form 461) must be approved and posted no later than 28 days before the FCC Form 462 is submitted to allow for the required competitive bidding period prior to selecting services.

Your responsibility: It is the HCP's responsibility to review the information in this FCL. Contact RHC at rhc-hcp@usac.org if there is an error with the amount of funding or other information in this FCL.

If, at any time, the funded services are no longer provided to the HCP or the HCP is not otherwise receiving the approved funding, it is the HCP's responsibility to notify RHC immediately.

Information provided on Forms 461, 462, and the FCC Form 463 Healthcare Connect Fund Invoice and Request for Disbursement Form (Form 463) are subject to audit by RHC and the FCC. HCPs are subject to audits and other reviews by USAC and/or the FCC to ensure that the universal service funding is used in compliance with FCC program rules. If USAC discovers that funds are not used in compliance with program rules, an HCP may be subject to enforcement activities and other means of recourse by USAC and other appropriate federal, state, and local authorities.

Next Steps: The HCP must complete and submit the Form 463 through the "My Portal" website. The Form 463 will confirm receipt of the services and equipment for which funding has been approved and the date on which the service provider began providing those services. The service provider will 1) confirm the accuracy of the Form 463; 2) confirm that the HCP has paid its 35% contribution; and 3) submit the Form 463 to RHC for payment.

The Form 463 must be submitted by the date listed at the top of this letter (Invoicing Deadline) which is six months after the end date of the funding commitment. However, HCPs are encouraged to start the invoicing process as soon as services have started and a bill has been received from the service provider.

For a single Funding Year, if the total undiscounted one-time upfront costs for a consortium are more than \$50,000 when divided by the total number of eligible HCPs in the consortium, then those one-time upfront costs must be prorated over three years.

Receipt of funding commitments is contingent on compliance with all statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements of the Rural Health Care HCF Program. HCPs that receive funding commitments may be subject to random audits, site visits, and other reviews by USAC to assure that funds have been committed and are used in accordance with all such requirements. USAC may be required to reduce or rescind funding commitments that were not issued in accordance with such requirements, whether due to action, or inaction, including but not limited to that by USAC, the HCP or the service provider. USAC, and other appropriate authorities (including but not limited to the Federal Communications Commission), may pursue enforcement actions and other means of recourse to collect improperly disbursed funds.

If you wish to appeal this decision, you must file an appeal with USAC within 60 days of the date of this letter. Detailed instructions for filing appeals are available on the USAC website at <http://usac.org/about/about/program-integrity/appeals.aspx>.

For questions or assistance, or if this email has been received in error, contact Rural Health Care at (800) 453-1546, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time Monday through Friday or by email at rhc-hcp@usac.org.

All account holders and the service provider contact listed on the Form 498 will receive a copy of this FCL.

mark.boggs@hcfundconnect.com

From: Ariel Burr <aburr@gci.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 12:33 PM
To: Jennifer Bachman
Subject: FW: Action Required - RHC HCF Program - FCC Form 463 - Applicant Submission Notice - HCP# 10403
Attachments: Form_463.xls

From: rhcadmin@usac.org
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 8:33:18 AM (UTC-09:00) Alaska
To: Ariel Burr
Subject: Action Required - RHC HCF Program - FCC Form 463 - Applicant Submission Notice - HCP# 10403

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Date:	28-Jan-2019
Program:	HCF Program
Funding Year:	2018
Service Provider Name:	GCI Communication Corp
Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN)/498 ID:	143001199
Health Care Provider (HCP) Number:	10403
HCP Name:	Mid Valley Hospital
FCC Form 463 Invoice Number:	1000065737
Funding Request Number (FRN):	18450991
Invoice Amount:	\$1,539.33

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)'s Rural Health Care (RHC) Program received the FCC Form 463 (Invoice and Request for Disbursement Form) from the Health Care Provider (HCP) referenced above on 28-Jan-2019 at 12:22 PM. This notice is to inform you that the FCC Form 463 is ready for your review. Please complete your review as soon as possible.

To view the form, log into My Portal located at <https://forms.universalservice.org/usaclogin/login.asp>. To access the FCC Form 463:

1. Search on the "My SPINs/498 IDs" tab for the SPIN/498 ID associated with the form.
2. Click on the SPIN/498 ID.
3. Search for the FCC Form 463 invoice number referenced above.

Review the Form 463 for accuracy. If any revisions need to be made, you will need to indicate what needs to be changed in the "Notes" section provided and reject the form.

Next Steps

If the form is rejected, the HCP will receive a notice including the explanation that you have provided in the "Notes" section. The HCP will then need to revise and re-certify the form, and then submit it to USAC for final approval.

[illegible]

Block Five: Supporting Documentation

Line 10: Applicants and/or vendor may, if they so choose, attach supporting documentation, including, but not limited to, a copy of the bill(s) for the line item(s) being submitted on this Form 463. By providing copies of the bills and/or supporting documentation, the applicant and vendor will ensure that USAC has such documentation available for any future audit. See 47 C.F.R. § 54.648

Block Six: Vendor Certifications and Signatures

Line 11: I certify under penalty of perjury that I am authorized to submit this request on behalf of the service provider.

Line 12: I understand that the service provider must apply the amount submitted, approved, and paid by USAC to the billing account of the healthcare provider(s) and FRN/FRN ID listed on this invoice.

Line 13: I declare under penalty of perjury that I have examined this form and attachments to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the date, quantities, and costs provided are true and correct.

Line 14: Signature

Line 15: Date

Person

Line 18: Phone

Ext.

Line 19: Email

Line 20: Employer

Line 21: Employer's FCC RN

Exhibit - A

Block Seven: Applicant Certifications and Signatures

✓ Line 22: I certify under penalty of perjury that I am authorized to submit this request on behalf of the healthcare provider or consortium.

✓ Line 23: I declare under penalty of perjury that I have examined this form and attachments to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the date, quantities, and costs provided are true and correct.

✓ Line 24: I declare under penalty of perjury that the healthcare provider or consortium members have received the related services, network equipment, and/or facilities itemized on this Form 463.

✓ Line 25: I declare under penalty of perjury that the required 35 percent minimum contribution for each item on the Form 463 was funded by eligible sources as defined in the FCC rules and that the required contribution was remitted to the service provider.

Line 26: Signature

Line 27: Date

01/28/2019

Person

Mark A. Boggs

Person

President

Line 30: Phone	(502) 292-2225	Ext.	Line 31: Email	mark.boggs@hcfundconnect.com
Line 32: Employer	Healthcare Funding Connection		Line 33: Employer's FCC RN	0022614465

mark.boggs@hcfundconnect.com

From: rhcadmin@usac.org
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2019 12:44 PM
To: mark.boggs@hcfundconnect.com
Subject: Rural Health Care HCF Funding Commitment Letter (FCL): HCP 43213, FRN 18355151

Funding Commitment Letter Date: 1/25/2019
Invoicing Deadline: 2/03/2019
Funding Year: 2018
Health Care Provider (HCP) Name: Mid-Valley Medical Group
HCP Number: 43213
HCP Contact Name: Christopher Freel
HCP Contact Email: freelc@mvhealth.org
HCP Contact Phone: (509) 826-8187
Funding Request Number: 18355151
Competitive Bidding Exemption: Evergreen Contract

The Rural Health Care (RHC) division of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has completed its review of the FCC Form 462 *Healthcare Connect Fund Funding Request Form* (Form 462) and the supporting information submitted by the HCP named above. Based on the information provided, RHC has determined that the HCP is eligible for the funding estimated below. It is the HCP's responsibility to review this FCL and verify that all information is accurate.

Total Committed Funding: \$433.87
HCP Physical Location: 529 JASMINE ST, OMAK, WA 98841
Service Provider Name: GCI Communication Corp
Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN): 143001199

Multiple Expense Information

Expense Item	Funding Start Date	Funding End Date	Undiscounted Recurring Expense	Undiscounted Non-Recurring Expense	Recurring Funding Amount	Non-Recurring Funding Amount	Total Funding Amount	Committed Funding Amount
1	7/01/2018	8/03/2018	\$608.60	\$0.00	\$433.87	\$0.00	\$433.87	\$433.87

Contract Summary

Expense Item	Contract ID	Contract Sign Date	Contract End Date	Determination
1	871401	8/03/2015	8/02/2018	Evergreen

There is no pro-rata factor for this filing window period. Committed funding amount is 100% of total qualifying funding amount.

This funding request was submitted during FY2018 Filing Window 1. All qualifying requests submitted within the filing window period will receive a pro-rated percentage of the total funds available during FY2018 Filing Window 1 based on

the total amount of qualifying funding requested during the filing window period. For each filing window period, if the total demand for RHC Program funding exceeds the total remaining funding available for the fund year, USAC will apply a pro-rata factor to each funding request. Learn more about funding request filing window periods [here](#).

About pro-ration:

- If the final total dollar value of all qualifying funding requests exceeds the \$400 million cap for all qualifying funding requests by the close of a filing window period, qualifying funding requests submitted during that filing window period will receive a pro-rated percentage of the total funds available during the filing window period.
- If the final total dollar value of all qualifying upfront payments and qualifying multi-year funding requests exceeds \$150 million by the close of a filing window period, qualifying upfront payments and qualifying multi-year funding requests will receive a pro-rated percentage of the annual \$150 million limit on funding for upfront payments and multi-year funding requests. This annual limit on upfront payments and multi-year payments is included in, and not in addition to, the aggregate \$400 million annual cap on all qualifying funding requests. 47 C.F.R. § 54.675 (a)

Evergreen: For the life of the original term of the contract, the HCP is not required to re-complete the service(s) identified above, nor post an FCC Form 461 Healthcare Connect Fund Request for Services Form (Form 461). An HCP that exercises an option to extend the duration of an Evergreen contract may do so without the competitive bidding process for that funding year; however, the option to extend the duration of an Evergreen contract must be memorialized in the terms of the original contract, and the HCP's decision to extend the duration of an Evergreen contract must occur before the HCP submits the Form 462 for the funding year in which the Evergreen contract expires.

Approved multi-year funding requests must have an Evergreen-endorsed contract. Once funding is approved for multi-year funding, the HCP does not have to submit a Form 462 for the service(s) identified above, through the funding end date shown above. An HCP with new services (or upgrades not requested in the original Form 461) must submit a Form 461, and participate in the competitive bidding process, before submitting a Form 462.

Your responsibility: It is the HCP's responsibility to review the information in this FCL. Contact RHC at rhc-hcp@usac.org if there is an error with the amount of funding or other information in this FCL.

If, at any time, the funded services are no longer provided to the HCP or the HCP is not otherwise receiving the approved funding, it is the HCP's responsibility to notify RHC immediately.

Information provided on Forms 461, 462, and the FCC Form 463 Healthcare Connect Fund Invoice and Request for Disbursement Form (Form 463) are subject to audit by RHC and the FCC. HCPs are subject to audits and other reviews by USAC and/or the FCC to ensure that the universal service funding is used in compliance with FCC program rules. If USAC discovers that funds are not used in compliance with program rules, an HCP may be subject to enforcement activities and other means of recourse by USAC and other appropriate federal, state, and local authorities.

Next Steps: The HCP must complete and submit the Form 463 through the "My Portal" website. The Form 463 will confirm receipt of the services and equipment for which funding has been approved and the date on which the service provider began providing those services. The service provider will 1) confirm the accuracy of the Form 463; 2) confirm that the HCP has paid its 35% contribution; and 3) submit the Form 463 to RHC for payment.

The Form 463 must be submitted by the date listed at the top of this letter (Invoicing Deadline) which is six months after the end date of the funding commitment. However, HCPs are encouraged to start the invoicing process as soon as services have started and a bill has been received from the service provider.

For a single Funding Year, if the total undiscounted one-time upfront costs for a consortium are more than \$50,000 when divided by the total number of eligible HCPs in the consortium, then those one-time upfront costs must be pro-rated over three years.

mark.boggs@hcfundconnect.com

From: rhcadmin@usac.org
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 12:22 PM
To: Jennifer Bachman
Subject: Action Required - RHC HCF Program - FCC Form 463 - Applicant Submission Notice - HCP# 43213
Attachments: Form_463.xls

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Date: 28-Jan-2019
Program: HCF Program
Funding Year: 2018
Service Provider Name: GCI Communication Corp
Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN)/498 ID: 143001199
Health Care Provider (HCP) Number: 43213
HCP Name: Mid-Valley Medical Group
FCC Form 463 Invoice Number: 1000065736
Funding Request Number (FRN): 18355151
Invoice Amount: \$433.87

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)'s Rural Health Care (RHC) Program received the FCC Form 463 (Invoice and Request for Disbursement Form) from the Health Care Provider (HCP) referenced above on 28-Jan-2019 at 12:10 PM. This notice is to inform you that the FCC Form 463 is ready for your review. Please complete your review as soon as possible.

To view the form, log into My Portal located at <https://forms.universalservice.org/usaclogin/login.asp>. To access the FCC Form 463:

1. Search on the "My SPINs/498 IDs" tab for the SPIN/498 ID associated with the form.
2. Click on the SPIN/498 ID.
3. Search for the FCC Form 463 invoice number referenced above.

Review the Form 463 for accuracy. If any revisions need to be made, you will need to indicate what needs to be changed in the "Notes" section provided and reject the form.

Next Steps

If the form is rejected, the HCP will receive a notice including the explanation that you have provided in the "Notes" section. The HCP will then need to revise and re-certify the form, and then submit it to USAC for final approval.

If the form is approved, certified, and submitted to USAC, the estimated processing time for the FCC Form 463 is 30 days*.

Once the FCC Form 463 has been reviewed and approved by USAC, you will receive payment either directly or as an offset to your universal service contribution obligation, depending on which option you have selected on your FCC Form 498.

[illegible]

Block Five: Supporting Documentation

Line 10: Applicants and/or vendor may, if they so choose, attach supporting documentation, including, but not limited to, a copy of the bill(s) for the line item(s) being submitted on this Form 463. By providing copies of the bills and/or supporting documentation, the applicant and vendor will ensure that USAC has such documentation available for any future audit. See 47 C.F.R. § 54.648

Block Six: Vendor Certifications and Signatures

Line 11: I certify under penalty of perjury that I am authorized to submit this request on behalf of the service provider.

Line 12: I understand that the service provider must apply the amount submitted, approved, and paid by USAC to the billing account of the healthcare provider(s) and FRN/FRN ID listed on this invoice.

Line 13: I declare under penalty of perjury that I have examined this form and attachments to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the date, quantities, and costs provided are true and correct.

Line 14: Signature

Line 15: Date

Person

Person

Line 18: Phone

Ext.

Line 19: Email

Line 20: Employer

Line 21: Employer's FCC RN

Block Seven: Applicant Certifications and Signatures

✓ Line 22: I certify under penalty of perjury that I am authorized to submit this request on behalf of the healthcare provider or consortium.

✓ Line 23: I declare under penalty of perjury that I have examined this form and attachments to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the date, quantities, and costs provided are true and correct.

✓ Line 24: I declare under penalty of perjury that the healthcare provider or consortium members have received the related services, network equipment, and/or facilities itemized on this Form 463.

✓ Line 25: I declare under penalty of perjury that the required 35 percent minimum contribution for each item on the Form 463 was funded by eligible sources as defined in the FCC rules and that the required contribution was remitted to the service provider.

Line 26: Signature

Line 27: Date

01/28/2019

Person

Mark A. Boggs

Person

President

Line 30: Phone	(502) 292-2225	Ext.	Line 31: Email	mark.boggs@hcfundconnect.com
Line 32: Employer	Healthcare Funding Connection		Line 33: Employer's FCC RN	0022614465

mark.boggs@hcfundconnect.com

From: Ariel Burr <aburr@gci.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 5:39 PM
To: mark.boggs@hcfundconnect.com
Cc: Sandy Kukla; Alan Caruth; Jennifer Bachman
Subject: FW: [External Sender] Re: Denied FY2018 Invoicing

Mark,

Just wanted to pass along this email below from USAC.

Thanks,
Ariel

From: RHC-Invoicing <RHC-Invoicing@usac.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 11:41 AM
To: Jennifer Bachman <jbachman@gci.com>
Cc: RHC-Invoicing <RHC-Invoicing@usac.org>
Subject: RE: [External Sender] Re: Denied FY2018 Invoicing

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Good Afternoon Jennifer,

I was informed of your situation and wanted to take a moment to follow up on your question.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The original email response was correct since we do not have the authority to extend invoicing deadlines at this time, however, we are working on a resolution internally for this specific situation.

We will keep the HCP updated when we resolve this issue, however, the applicant still has the ability to submit an appeal.

Best Regards,

Khala Smith
Rural Health Care Program
1(800) 453-1546
rhc-invoicing@usac.org

From: rhc-assist@usac.org [<mailto:rhc-assist@usac.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 12:19 PM
To: jbachman@gci.com
Cc: aburr@gci.com
Subject: [External Sender] Re: Denied FY2018 Invoicing

Hello,

While we understand your frustration with this situation, USAC is unable to grant any extensions or exceptions to the invoicing deadline. Moving forward, your only option is to submit an appeal to the FCC seeking a waiver of the invoicing deadline.

Warm Regards,

Eric O.
RHC-Assist Support Team
Rural Health Care Program
Universal Service Administrative Company
RHC-Assist@usac.org

Be sure to check out our webinars in the Trainings and Outreach section of the website [here](#)

On 3/20/2019 11:14 AM, Jennifer Bachman wrote:

Hello,
We have not received an response to the email below. Please assist.
Thank you,
Jennifer Bachman
USF Account Administrator
907-868-6003
jbachman@gci.com



***The information provided herein is believed to be reliable, however no warranty express or implied is made by GCI regarding its accuracy or completeness. GCI shall not be liable for the use of the information in or attached to this email. The data pertains only to GCI services and is provided for your information only and not as a substitute for actual GCI billing data, other official data, or support program instructions available to the addressee.

From: Jennifer Bachman
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 10:18 AM
To: rhc-assist@usac.org
Cc: Ariel Burr <aburr@gci.com>
Subject: Denied FY2018 Invoicing

Hello,

We received funding commitment letters for FRN 18355151 and FRN 18450991 on 01/25/2019, but did not notice it had a deadline of 2/3/2019 which is only 10 days from receiving the funding commitment. Then we only received the action required email with the 463 on 1/28/2019, giving only 3 days to invoice the 463. This time frame is not the normal 6 months that we have seen in the past. The FCL was release so late and gave little time to process. So when we tried to invoice the 463 today it was denied, see the screenshot.

I called the helpdesk and was instructed to email FCLs and 463s, please see attached.

Exhibit - C

Please contact me at 1-907-868-6003 from 7-3pm Alaska time, or from Eastern time 11 am to 6 pm, or at jbachman@gci.com

Signature

Form Guide

Line 19: Email

Line 16: Printed Name of Authorized Person

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
<input type="text" value="Jennifer"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Bachman"/>

Line 17: Title/Position of Authorized Person

Line 18: Phone Ext.

Line 20: Employer

Line 21: Employer's FCC RN

- This invoice is unavailable because the invoicing deadline has passed.

Thank you,

Jennifer Bachman
USF Account Administrator
907-868-6003
jbachman@gci.com



***The information provided herein is believed to be reliable, however no warranty express or implied is made by GCI regarding its accuracy or completeness. GCI shall not be liable for the use of the information in or attached to this email. The data pertains only to GCI services and is provided for your information only and not as a substitute for actual GCI billing data, other official data, or support program instructions available to the addressee.

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⁶ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.645; FCC Form 463, Rural Health Care Universal Service, Healthcare Connect Fund, Invoice and Request for Disbursement Form, OMB 3060-0804 (September 2014),

months (180 days) of the end date of the funding commitment.⁷ Thus, for funding year 2013 funding commitments ending on June 30, 2014, the FCC Form 463 must be submitted by the applicant to USAC, after approval by the service provider, by December 31, 2014.

3. The filing of the FCC Form 463 is a joint process between the applicant and the service provider.⁸ Prior to electronic submission of the FCC Form 463, the applicant must certify that the form is accurate and that it has paid its 35 percent contribution as required under the HCF program.⁹ Upon receipt of a completed FCC Form 463 from the applicant, USAC then notifies the service provider that the invoice is ready for review.¹⁰ The service provider must then review and certify to the form's accuracy.¹¹ After the service provider has made its certifications, it must re-submit the form to USAC.¹² If the service provider makes any revisions to the FCC Form 463 (including the attachment of any supporting documentation), the applicant must review and re-certify the form before USAC will begin processing it.¹³ Once the FCC Form 463 has been reviewed and approved by USAC, the service provider will receive payment either directly or as an offset to its universal service contribution obligation.¹⁴

4. *Discussion.* We grant a limited waiver of the relevant invoicing deadline for all applicants under the HCF program for funding year 2013 by providing a single one-time 60-day extension of the invoice filing deadline.¹⁵ For funding year 2013 funding commitments ending on June 30, 2014, the FCC Form 463 must be submitted by the applicant to USAC, after approval by the service provider, by December 31, 2014. This one-time 60-day extension will provide those applicants whose FCC Forms 463 were due on December 31, 2014 with an extension until March 2, 2015 to file their FCC Forms 463 and any necessary supporting documentation. For those applicants whose funding commitments ended prior to June 30, 2014, the 60-day extension will begin six months after the end date of their funding commitment. Thus, all applicants under the HCF program for funding year 2013 will be provided up to eight months (240 days) after the end date of their funding commitment to complete and submit their invoice forms and any supporting documentation to USAC.

https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-328682A1.pdf (last visited Feb. 6, 2015); FCC Form 463 Instructions, Rural Health Care Universal Service, Invoice and Request for Disbursement Form, OMB 3060-0804 (September 2014), https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-328681A1.pdf (last visited Feb. 6, 2015) (FCC Form 463 Instructions).

⁷ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.645(b). The deadline will generally be six months after the end of the relevant funding year, unless the funding commitment is a multi-year commitment.

⁸ See FCC Form 463 Instructions at 2.

⁹ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.645(a); FCC Form 463 Instructions at 2.

¹⁰ FCC Form 463 Instructions at 2.

¹¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.645(b); FCC Form 463 Instructions at 2.

¹² FCC Form 463 Instructions at 2.

¹³ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.645(b); FCC Form 463 Instructions at 2.

¹⁴ See FCC Form 463 Instructions at 3.

¹⁵ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.645(b). Generally, the Commission's rules may be waived if good cause is shown. 47 C.F.R. § 1.3. The Commission may exercise its discretion to waive a rule where the particular facts make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest. *Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) (*Northeast Cellular*). In addition, the Commission may take into account considerations of hardship, equity, or more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis. *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969); *Northeast Cellular*, 897 F.2d at 1166. Waiver of the Commission's rules is appropriate only if both (i) special circumstances warrant a deviation from the general rule, and (ii) such deviation will serve the public interest. *Northeast Cellular*, 897 F.2d at 1166.

5. The Commission adopted the HCF program in December 2012¹⁶ and support under HCF became available to healthcare provider applicants on a staggered basis as early as July 1, 2013.¹⁷ Since that time, there have been a variety of applicant concerns regarding the filing system during the first year of the HCF program that were recently addressed by USAC, including a number of system enhancements, the addition of staff, and an ongoing plan for future system enhancements.¹⁸ We thus recognize that there may have been circumstances beyond some applicants' or service providers' control that prevented them from meeting the invoice filing deadline. Additionally, this is the first time applicants and service providers are filing under the new HCF rules and procedures. Thus, in order to provide applicants and service providers sufficient flexibility during the first funding year of the HCF program in meeting the invoice filing deadline, we find that providing a single one-time 60-day extension of the invoice filing deadline for funding year 2013 provides the right balance between the need for efficient administration of the HCF program and the need to ensure that applicants and service providers have adequate time to finish their own invoicing processes. By providing an extension of the invoice filing deadline, we also ensure that otherwise eligible health care providers receive the funding that they need to obtain the advanced telecommunications and information services, network equipment, and/or facilities necessary for the provision of health care. Moreover, an extension will not reduce or eliminate any invoice review procedures or program requirements that applicants must comply with to receive funding from the HCF program.

6. Although we grant a single one-time 60-day extension for applicants to complete and submit their invoices and supporting documentation under the HCF program for funding year 2013, we remind applicants that adherence to the filing deadlines and program rules are necessary for the efficient administration of the HCF program. Therefore, applicants and service providers must make every attempt to adhere to the program filing deadlines. Thus, this limited waiver does not reduce or eliminate any HCF program procedures or lessen the program requirements with which participants must comply to receive funding under the HCF program. All existing HCF program rules and requirements will continue to apply. Further, as health care providers and service providers continue to participate in the HCF program, participants should become more experienced with the invoice requirements of the program. Applicants are encouraged to start the invoicing process as soon as services have started and a bill has been received from the service provider. Therefore, we expect that, in subsequent funding years, participants will timely submit and complete their invoice forms and any necessary supporting documentation by the relevant invoice filing deadline.

7. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED, that pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1-4, 254, and 403 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-154, 254, and 403, and sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.3 and 54.722(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.3 and 54.722(a), that this Order IS ADOPTED.

8. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1-4 and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-154 and 254, and sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.3 and 54.722(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.3 and 54.722(a), that section 54.645(b) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 54.645(b), IS WAIVED to the limited extent provided herein.

9. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1-4 and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-54, 254, and pursuant to sections

¹⁶ See *Rural Health Care Support Mechanism*, WC Docket No. 02-60, Report and Order, 27 FCC Rcd 16678 (2012).

¹⁷ Existing Pilot Program participants could seek support on July 1, 2013, while new applicants could not seek funding under HCF until January 1, 2014. *Id.* at 16818-19, paras. 353-354.

¹⁸ See FCC-USAC Webinar, Healthcare Connect Fund Program at 18-27 (Oct. 28, 2014), <http://www.usac.org/res/documents/rhc/training/2014/FCC-USAC-HCF-Program-Webinar.pdf>.

0.91, 0.291, 1.3, and 54.722(a), of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, and 54.722(a), that the Petition for Waiver and Extension of Time filed by The United States Telecom Association on December 23, 2014 IS GRANTED to the extent provided in this Order.

10. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to section 1.103(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.103(a), that this Order SHALL BE EFFECTIVE upon release.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Ryan B. Palmer
Chief
Telecommunications Access Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau



PO Box 793 - Omak, WA. 98841

www.mvhealth.org

509.826.1760

Mr. Mark Boggs
Healthcare Funding Connection

Dear Mr. Boggs:

This letter grants BB&G Ltd., d/b/a/ Healthcare Funding Connection (HFC)¹, the authority to file for the Telecommunications Services Program and Healthcare Connect Fund programs on behalf Okanogan County Public Hospital District #3 d/b/a Mid-Valley Hospital (HCP). This third party authorization covers the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020.

This authority covers the locations listed on "Attachment A" of this document and any locations that may be added between now and the expiration of this letter. HCP may update this 3rd Party Authorization by revising the entities listed on Attachment A. All are owned and operated by HCP.

The HCP understands and accepts all potential liabilities from errors, omissions, or misrepresentations of the forms or documents submitted by HFC. The HCP understands that the funding decisions made by USAC as a result of the representations made during the funding process by HFC bind the HCP. The HCP also understands that it is subject to all Rural Health Care program rules and requirements including 47 C.F.R.54.601 et. seq.²

Regards,


Signature

11-2-17
Date

Name Christopher Freel
Title CIO/IT Manager
Phone 509-826-1760
Email freelc@mvhealth.org

¹ Healthcare Funding Connection contact information -- (502) 292-2225; P.O. Box 692, Prospect, KY 40059; Mark Boggs, mark.boggs@hcfundconnect.com; Kathy Kenner, kathy.kenner@hcfundconnect.com.

² Regarding the eligibility of healthcare providers, primarily public or non-profit healthcare providers.

Attachment A

Mid-Valley Hospital

HCP	Name	Address	City	County	State	Zip
10403	Okanogan County Public Hospital District #3 d/b/a Mid-Valley Hospital	810 Jasmine St., P.O. Box 793	Omak	Okanogan	WA	98841
43213	Mid-Valley Medical Group	529 Jasmine St.	Omak	Okanogan	WA	98841

Exhibit - E