

Via Electronic and Certified Mail

January 6, 2014

Mrs. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Entity Name: Sanford Health – Fargo Region
Contact Person: Brian Schuster
200 45th Street S, Fargo ND 58103
(701) 234-4922
Brian.Schuster@sanfordhealth.org

HCP Numbers: 10798, 10799, 11181, 13030, 13681, 18531, 18532, 18533, 18534, 18535,
15536, 11178, 10452, 10454, 10798, 11073, 11144, 11176, 11179, 11181
13681, 17054, 16536, 10393

Re: Letter of Appeal – Request for Review

USAC Decision on Sanford Health's Request for Waiver of Funding Year 2012 Deadline

Dear Mrs. Dortch,

On August 5, 2013 Sanford Health submitted a letter of appeal to USAC asking that USAC waive the Funding Year 2012 deadline for submission of certain 466 forms. The appeal was made on behalf of 24 HCP's located in ND and MN. Our appeal was subsequently denied by USAC on December 19, 2013.

This appeal is based on the fact that the above mentioned HCP sites filed their Form 465 on a timely basis for Funding Year 2012, but due purely to an administrative oversight, missed the Form 466 filing deadline of June 30, 2013. Approximately \$400,823 total RHC funding is in jeopardy for 24 Rural Health Care facilities, and 26 FRN's. These are rural health care facilities in rural North Dakota and Minnesota who rely heavily on RHC funding for their financial stability.

For over a decade Sanford has successfully participated in the program, and has diligently adhered to the published time frames for program form submission. Our failure to meet the June 30th,

2013 submission deadline was purely an unfortunate oversight committed by Sanford administrative personnel.

The timely filed Form 465's for Funding Year 2012 did not result in any bids or contracts and the applications would have been filed as month-to-month.

This request for waiver constitutes no waste, fraud or abuse.

I respectfully request the FCC to direct USAC to grant Sanford Health's appeal for waiving the form 466 filing deadline for Funding Year 2012.

Sincerely,

 *Caryn J. Hewitt, RN, BSN, MBA, CIO*

Caryn Hewitt, Chief Information Officer
Sanford Health - Fargo Region