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WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF NEW INVOICING FORM FOR THE RURAL HEALTH CARE TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

WC Docket No. 02-60

The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) announces the release of the FCC Form 469 (Description of Invoice and Request for Disbursement), the new invoicing form for the Rural Health Care Telecommunications (Telecom) Program. The FCC Form 469 streamlines the invoicing process and offers greater program integrity protections than the previous Telecom Program invoicing form.

In January 2023, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) adopted rules creating a new Telecom Program invoicing form effective funding year 2024 and eliminated the FCC Form 467 (Connection Certification) and HCP Support Schedule (HSS), which were previously used for invoicing in the Telecom Program.¹ The new FCC Form 469 will ensure that invoicing in the Telecom Program occurs after services have actually started, that service providers are reimbursed for actual costs rather than predetermined amounts established by the HSS, and that participants need not take action to change an HSS if the services are terminated or never begin.²

Service providers initiate the invoicing process by submitting the FCC Form 469 in RHC Connect. The FCC Form 469 can be submitted any time after services have been provided and the service provider sends an invoice to the health care provider.³ A service provider can submit the FCC Form 469 after each month of service or, if it elects to, may alternatively wait until the end of the funding year to submit for all services provided during the funding year.⁴ Health care providers and service providers must make the same certifications on the new form that they have previously made on the old Telecom invoicing forms.⁵

For further information, please contact Sonam James, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at Sonam.James@fcc.gov.

¹ Promoting Telehealth in Rural America, WC Docket No. 17-310, Order on Reconsideration, Second Report and Order, Order, and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 38 FCC Rcd 827, 850 paras. 55-58 (2023) (Promoting Telehealth Second Report and Order). The FCC Form 469 was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act on Nov. 27, 2023. FCC, Promoting Telehealth in Rural America, 88 Fed. Reg. 83829, 83830 (Dec. 1, 2023).

² Promoting Telehealth Second Report and Order, 38 FCC Rcd at 851, paras. 56-57.

³ *Id.* at 851, para. 58.

 $^{^4}$ Id

⁵ See 47 CFR § 54.627(c)(1).