

containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States.

VI. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) requires an agency to prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis for rules unless the agency certifies that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The RFA applies only to rules for which an agency is required to first publish a proposed rule. See 5 U.S.C. 603(a) and 604(a). As explained above, GSA is not required to first publish a proposed rule here. Thus, the RFA does not apply to this final rule.

VII. Paperwork Reduction Act

This final rule imposes no new reporting or recordkeeping requirements necessitating clearance by OMB.

List of Subjects in 41 CFR Part 105–70

Administrative hearing, Claims, Program fraud.

Robin Carnahan,
Administrator.

Accordingly, 41 CFR part 105–70 is amended as set forth below:

PART 105–70—IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM FRAUD CIVIL REMEDIES ACT OF 1986

- 1. The authority citation for part 105–70 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 40 U.S.C. 121(c); 31 U.S.C. 3809.

§ 105–70.003 [Amended]

- 2. Amend § 105–70.003 by—
■ a. Removing from paragraph (a)(1)(iv) the amount “13,000” and adding “13,400” in its place; and
■ b. Removing from paragraph (b)(1)(ii) the amount “13,000” and adding “13,400” in its place.

[FR Doc. 2024–00446 Filed 1–10–24; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 54

[WC Docket Nos. 10–90, 14–58, 09–197, 16–271; RM 11868; FCC 23–60; FR ID 196019]

Connect America Fund

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; announcement of effective date.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) announces that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved, for a period of three years, an information collection associated with the rules for Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A–CAM) contained in the Commission’s *Enhanced A–CAM Order* (Order), WC Docket No. 10–90 et al., FCC 23–60. This document is consistent with the Order, which stated that the Commission would publish a document in the **Federal Register** announcing the effective date of the revised information collection requirements.

DATES: The amendments to § 54.308(e)(2) and (6) published at 88 FR 55918, August 17, 2023, are effective January 11, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jesse Jachman, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418–7400. For additional information concerning the Paperwork Reduction Act information collection requirements contact Nicole Ongele at (202) 418–2991 or via email at Nicole.Ongele@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission submitted new information collection requirements for review and approval by OMB, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, on November 22, 2023. OMB approved the new information collection requirements on January 2, 2024. The information collection requirements are contained in the Commission’s *Enhanced A–CAM Order*, FCC 23–60, published at 88 FR 55918, August 17, 2023. The OMB Control Number is 3060–1319. The Commission publishes this document as an announcement of the effective date of the rules published on August 17, 2023. If you have any comments on the burden estimates listed in the following, or how the Commission can improve the collections and reduce any burdens caused thereby, please contact Nicole Ongele, Federal Communications Commission, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554. Please include the OMB Control Number, 3060–1319, in your correspondence. The Commission will also accept your comments via email at PRA@fcc.gov. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418–0530.

Synopsis

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507),

the Commission is notifying the public that it received OMB approval on January 2, 2024, for the amendments to 47 CFR 54.308(e)(2) and (6) published at 88 FR 55918, August 17, 2023.

Under 5 CFR part 1320, an agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a current, valid OMB Control Number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act that does not display a current, valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number is 3060–1319. The foregoing notification is required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13, October 1, 1995, and 44 U.S.C. 3507.

The total annual reporting burdens and costs for the respondents are as follows:

OMB Control Number: 3060–1319.
OMB Approval Date: January 2, 2024.
OMB Expiration Date: January 31, 2027.

Title: Enhanced A–CAM Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management Plan Requirements.

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: New collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities, and State, Local or Tribal governments.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 450 respondents; 900 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: 10–50 hours.

Frequency of Response: One-time and on occasion reporting requirements.

Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for this information collection is contained in 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 214, 218–220, 254, 303(r), and 403.

Total Annual Burden: 27,000 hours.

Total Annual Cost: No Cost.

Needs and Uses: On July 24, 2023, the Commission released the *Enhanced A–CAM Order* (Order), 88 FR 55918, August 17, 2023, WC Docket No. 10–90 et al., FCC 23–60, which adopted a voluntary path for supporting the widespread deployment of 100/20 Mbps broadband service throughout the rural areas served by carriers currently receiving Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A–CAM) support and in areas served by rate-of-return carriers eligible to receive legacy support by the end of 2028. The Commission extended by 10 years beyond the remaining five years, for a total of 15 years, the term of support for electing carriers and set a methodology for determining support amounts for locations without 100/20 Mbps broadband service within a potential budget of no more than \$1.27

billion annually, or no more than \$1.33 billion annually if certain conditions are met, using an updated version of the A–CAM. By adopting this program, the Commission furthered its long-standing goals by promoting the universal availability of voice and broadband networks, while also taking measures to minimize the burden on the nation's ratepayers. The Commission also adopted requirements for the Enhanced A–CAM program to complement existing Federal, state, and local funding programs, so that broadband funding can be used efficiently to maximize the deployment of high-quality broadband service across the United States.

To ensure that the Enhanced A–CAM program does not deprive rural consumers in high-cost areas of broadband service that is as secure as the service deployed pursuant to other Federal funding initiatives, the Commission required Enhanced A–CAM carriers to implement operational cybersecurity and supply chain risk management plans by January 1, 2024—the start of the Enhanced A–CAM support term. Enhanced A–CAM carriers must submit such plans to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and certify they have done so, by January 2, 2024, or within 30 days of approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act, whichever is later. Failure to submit the plans and make the certification shall result in 25% of monthly support being withheld until the carrier comes into compliance. If a carrier makes a substantive modification to its cybersecurity or supply chain risk management plan, the Commission requires that the carrier submit its updated plan to USAC within 30 days of making that modification.

The purpose of this information collection is to collect the operational cybersecurity and supply chain risk management plans required of the Enhanced A–CAM carriers by the start of the Enhanced A–CAM support term and address the burdens associated with that requirement.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,

Secretary, Office of the Secretary.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 54

[WC Docket No. 17–310; FCC No. 23–110; FR ID 195910]

Promoting Telehealth in Rural America

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) seeks to provide vital support to assist rural health care providers with the costs of broadband and other eligible services. By offering discounted rates for these services, the Rural Health Care (RHC) Program enables health care providers to better treat patients in rural areas that often have fewer medical resources and higher service rates than in urban areas.

DATES: Effective February 12, 2024, except for §§ 54.601(b) and (c) (amendatory instruction 2) and 54.622(e)(1)(i) through (ii) and (i)(3)(iv) (amendatory instruction 4), which are delayed indefinitely. The Commission will publish a document in the **Federal Register** announcing the effective date for those rule sections.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Philip A. Bonomo, *Philip.Bonomo@fcc.gov*, Wireline Competition Bureau, 202–418–7400 or TTY: 202–418–0484. Requests for accommodations should be made as soon as possible in order to allow the agency to satisfy such requests whenever possible. Send an email to *fcc504@fcc.gov* or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418–0530 (voice), 202–418–0432 (TTY).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Third Report and (*Third R&O*) in WC Docket No. 17–310; FCC No. 23–110, adopted on December 13, 2023, and released on December 14, 2023. The full text of this document is available for public inspection during regular business hours at Commission's headquarters 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554 or at the following internet address: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-23-110A1.pdf>.

I. Introduction

1. In the *Third R&O*, the Commission continues its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Rural Health Care (RHC) Program. The RHC Program offers discounted rates for broadband and other communications services to health care providers who

use these increasingly essential services to better treat patients in rural areas that may have limited resources, fewer medical professionals, and higher rates for these services than in urban areas. Broadband-enabled telehealth and telemedicine services in particular have proven to be critical tools for the effective delivery of health care to millions of patients in rural areas, as demonstrated by the heightened dependency on these services during the COVID–19 pandemic. Telemedicine and telehealth make the provision of high-quality health care a reality for patients regardless of location or ability to travel. The measures adopted will enhance the provision of these vital services through the RHC Program.

2. The Commission adopts four revisions to the RHC Program as proposed in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 88 FR 17495, March 23, 2023 (Second FNPRM) (FCC 23–6), aimed at facilitating participation in and improving the administration of the Program. First, the Commission revises the RHC Program rules to permit conditional approval of eligibility for health care providers that expect to be eligible in the near future to allow them to initiate competitive bidding and request funding. Second, to give participants more flexibility with deadlines, the Commission revises its rules to move back the RHC Program's Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) change deadline to align with the invoice deadline. Third, the Commission simplifies the rules for determining urban rates by eliminating the seldom-used “standard urban distance” component of the urban rate rules. Fourth, in a separate action to provide more flexibility with deadlines, the Commission revises the RHC Program rules to permit health care providers to request changes to the dates of their evergreen contracts following a funding commitment.

3. In addition to these revisions, the Commission also on its own motion makes two programmatic improvements to the administration of the RHC Program and Universal Service Fund. To reduce burdens and promote efficiency, the Commission harmonizes the RHC Program eligibility determination process by shifting to the use of a single universal eligibility form for all program participants. Finally, to free up for other uses unclaimed RHC Program support, the Commission establishes a deadline by which health care providers must submit invoices for any undisbursed funding commitments from funding year 2019 and prior that do not currently have an applicable invoice deadline.