WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
HEALTHCARE CONNECT FUND RULES AND AVAILABILITY OF FORMS

WC Docket No. 02-60

The Wireline Competition Bureau (“Bureau”) announces that the rules associated with
information collections for the new Healthcare Connect Fund have been approved by the Office of
Management and Budget (OMB) pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). As a result, those
rules and the associated FCC Forms are now effective.¹

In December 2012, the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) released the
Healthcare Connect Fund Order to create the Healthcare Connect Fund.² To create this new program, the
Commission amended Part 54 of its rules, 47 C.F.R. Part 54, and ordered that the amended rules become
effective thirty days after publication in the Federal Register, except for those rules with information
collections requiring OMB approval under PRA.³ The Commission also ordered that those rules with
PRA collections would “become effective immediately upon announcement in the Federal Register of
OMB [Office of Management and Budget] approval and of effective dates of such rules.”⁴ OMB has
approved these amended rules and notice of such approval has been published in the Federal Register, and
such rules therefore are now effective.⁵ The FCC forms associated with those rules also may now be
made available for use by applicants (i.e., FCC Forms 460-463).⁶

We also announce that FCC Form 460, which is used to determine whether healthcare provider
sites are eligible for Healthcare Connect Fund support and to register participating HCP sites, is now
available for online submission. Applicants can access the form on the Universal Service Administrative

¹ Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, 78 Fed. Reg. 54,967 (Sept. 9, 2013); see also Rural Health Care Support
Connect Fund Order”); 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.601(b), 54.603(a) and (b), 54.609(d)(2), 54.615(c), 54.619(a)(1) and (d),
54.623(a), 54.631(a) and (c), 54.632, 54.633(c), 54.634(b), 54.636, 54.639(d), 54.642, 54.643, 54.645, 54.646,
54.647, 54.648(b), and 54.675(d), and FCC Forms 460, 461, 462, and 463.


³ Id. at 16828, para. 380. Those amended rules were published in the Federal Register on March 1, 2013 and
became effective on March 31, 2013, to the extent they did not contain new or amended information collection
C.F.R. Part 54).

⁴ Healthcare Connect Fund Order, 27 FCC Rcd at 16828, para. 380. See n.1, supra.


⁶ Id.

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