

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER–FRL–9048–9]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements

Filed January 6, 2020 10 a.m. EST,

Through January 13, 2020 10 a.m. EST
Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9*Responsible Agency:* Office of Federal Activities, General Information 202–564–5632 or <https://www.epa.gov/nepa/>

Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA's comment letters on EISs are available at: <https://cdxnodengn.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-public/action/eis/search>.

EIS No. 20200006, Final Supplement, Caltrans, CA, State Route 241/91 Tolled Express Lane Connector Project, Review Period Ends: 02/18/2020, Contact: Smita Deshpande 657–328–6151

EIS No. 20200007, Final, USACE, MS, Bayou Casotte Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Review Period Ends: 02/18/2020, Contact: Jennifer Jacobson 251–690–2724

EIS No. 20200008, Draft, USFS, NM, Gila National Forest Draft Revised Forest Plan, Comment Period Ends: 04/16/2020, Contact: Jenny Natharius 575–388–8483

Dated: January 13, 2020.

Robert Tomiak,*Director, Office of Federal Activities.*

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[WC Docket No. 17–310; DA 19–1253; FRS 16373]

Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance on the Implementation Schedule for Reforms Adopted by the Rural Health Care Program Promoting Telehealth Report and Order**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Federal Communications Commission (the Commission or FCC) announces the intended schedule for the newly adopted reforms in the Rural Health Care Promoting Telehealth Report and Order.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Public Notice in WC Docket No. 17–310; DA 19–1253, released December 10, 2019. The full text of this document is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Room CY–A257, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554 or at the following internet address: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-19-1253A1.pdf>.

On August 20, 2019, the Commission released a Report and Order reforming the rules for the Rural Health Care (RHC) Program to promote transparency and predictability, and further the efficient allocation of limited program resources. The Commission stated the adopted reforms would generally become effective, unless otherwise indicated, 30 days after publication of both the Rural Health Care Promoting Telehealth Report and Order (*Order*), FCC 19–78 and the **Federal Register** final rule summary (84 FR 54952, October 11, 2019; effective November 12, 2019). The Commission separately indicated when particular reforms would apply in funding year 2020 versus funding year 2021, and provided an implementation schedule summary “to ease the burden on program applicants.” The Commission noted, however, that, to the extent reforms require review pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, such reforms would take effect immediately upon announcement in the **Federal Register** of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval.

To provide further guidance to RHC Program participants, the following is the intended implementation schedule for the newly adopted reforms:

Funding Year 2020 Competitive Bidding (January 1, 2020)

- Similar services evaluated based on advertised speeds 30% above or below the speed of the requested service, *Order* at paras. 15–16; and
- Revised and harmonized competitive bidding certifications, *Order* at paras. 156, 157, 172, 200; 47 CFR 54.622(e)(1)(i) through (ix).

Opening of Funding Year 2020 Application Window (February 1, 2020)

- Elimination of limitation on support for satellite services, *Order* at paras. 92–97;

- All Healthcare Connect Fund consortia must comply with majority-rural requirement, *Order* at paras. 147–49;

- Prohibition on directly or indirectly soliciting or accepting gifts, *Order* at paras. 166–69; 47 CFR 54.622(h)(1) through (4);

- Extension of Healthcare Connect Fund Program competitive bidding exemptions to the Telecommunications Program, *Order* at paras. 163–65; 47 CFR 54.622(i)(1) through (5); and

- Revised and harmonized funding request certifications, *Order* at paras. 156, 168, 170, 172, 200; 47 CFR 54.623(a)(1)(i) through (x).

Start of Funding Year 2020 (July 1, 2020)

- Annual inflation adjustment of \$150 million cap on multi-year commitments and upfront payments, *Order* at paras. 138–140; 47 CFR 54.619(a)(1) through (2);
- Prioritization of funding if demand exceeds the annual funding cap, *Order* at paras. 107–143; 47 CFR 54.621(b);
- Program-wide service delivery deadline, *Order* at paras. 180–82; 47 CFR 54.626(a);
- Program-wide invoice deadline, *Order* at paras. 188–89; 47 CFR 54.627(a); and
- Revised and harmonized invoice certifications for applicants and service providers, *Order* at paras. 168, 170, 172, 192–93, 200; 47 CFR 54.627(c)(3), (d).

FY 2021 Competitive Bidding (July 1, 2020)

- Competitive bidding begins on July 1 prior to the start of the applicable funding year, *Order* at paras. 173–75;
- Reformed method of determining urban and rural rates by the Administrator, including publishing median urban and rural rates for eligible services in a publicly available database, *Order* at paras. 21–67, 76–91; 47 CFR 54.604(a) through (b), 54.605(a) through (b);
- New standard of review for seeking a waiver of median rural rate determined by the Administrator, *Order* at paras. 68–75; 47 CFR 54.605(c);
- Establish expanded consultant registration process, *Order* at paras. 170–71;
- Applicants must list the services for which they are seeking bids rather than what they need services to do*, *Order* at paras. 154–55; 47 CFR 54.622(d);
- Applicants must specify minimum requirements for weighted bid evaluation criteria, including whether they require service level guarantees*, *Order* at para. 158; 47 CFR 54.622(d);
- Applicants must specify any disqualification factors that may be used