

## COVID-19 Telehealth Program

- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is acting in kind with other agencies such as the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Office of Civil Rights (OCR), and Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) to provide relief to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Full funding for eligible services and devices!
- \$200 million dollars for total funding and **no more than \$1 million per single applicant.**
- Healthcare Provider Application
  - Applicants that have received support may request additional support.
- ***Wireline Bureau will review applications in consultation with the Connect2Health Task Force.***
- ***Applications may be submitted after OMB Approval of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program.***
- Interested participants may apply to the COVID-19 Telehealth Program and the Connected Care Pilot but may not request funding for the same services at the same time.

## Criteria

1. Strong Interest in Targeting Areas that have been hit hardest by COVID-19. (e.g. New York)
2. Applicants should note within application (if applicable)
  - a. Low income population
  - b. Healthcare provider shortage
  - c. Rural hospital closures
  - d. Limited Broadband/Internet Access
3. Program not limited to only treating COVID-19, it can also be used to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.” **The Program will include End-User Devices!**
4. **Eligible Healthcare Provider:** nonprofit and public eligible healthcare providers are (1) post-secondary educational institutions offering healthcare instruction, teaching hospitals, and medical schools; (2) community health centers or health centers providing healthcare to migrants; (3) local health departments or agencies; (5) not-for-profit hospitals; (6) rural health clinics; (7) skilled nursing facilities; or (8) consortia of healthcare providers consisting of one or more entities falling into the first seven categories.
  - a. ***Fill out an FCC Form 460!***
  - b. ***USAC will review eligible healthcare provider eligibility forms***
5. **Connected Care Services:** a subset of telehealth that “uses broadband Internet access service-enabled technologies to deliver remote medical, diagnostic, patient-centered, and treatment related services directly to patients outside of traditional brick and mortar medical facilities—including specifically to patients at their mobile location or residence.” (§14)
  - a. Examples: services include, but are not limited to, remote patient monitoring, patient health education, store and forward services (e.g. transfer of patient images and data interpreted by a physician, video consultations and visits). (§ 16)
  - b. This program will only cover devices that are connected, **but not unconnected** devices that a patient uses at home to share their results with a medical professional. (§ 16)
6. Application must include:
  1. Proof that the applicant is an ***Eligible Healthcare Provider***. (USAC will determine eligibility *via FCC Form 460*).
  2. **Details of the Application:**
    - a. Names, addresses, county, and health care provider numbers (if available),<sup>52</sup> for health care providers seeking funding through the COVID-19 Telehealth Program

application and the lead health care provider for applications involving multiple health care providers.

- b. Contact information for the individual that will be responsible for the application (telephone number, mailing address, and email address).
  - c. Description of the anticipated connected care services to be provided, the conditions to be treated, and the goals and objectives. This should include a brief description of how COVID-19 has impacted your area, your patient population, and the approximate number of patients that could be treated by the health care provider's connected care services during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you intend to use the COVID-19 Telehealth Program funding to treat patients without COVID-19, describe how this would free up your resources that will be used to treat COVID-19 and/or how this would otherwise prevent, prepare for, or respond to the disease by, for example, facilitating social distancing.
  - d. Description of the estimated number of patients to be treated.
  - e. Description of the telecommunications services, information services, or "devices necessary to enable the provision of telehealth services" requested, the total amount of funding requested, as well as the total monthly amount of funding requested for each eligible item. If requesting funding for devices, description of all types of devices for which funding is requested, how the devices are integral to patient care, and whether the devices are for patient use or for the health care provider's use. As noted above, monitoring devices (e.g., pulse-ox, BP monitoring devices) will only be funded if they are themselves connected.
  - f. Supporting documentation for the costs indicated in their application, such as a vendor or service provider quote, invoice, or similar information.
  - g. A timeline for deployment of the proposed service(s) and a summary of the factors the applicant intends to track that can help measure the real impact supported services and devices.
  - h. *Certification*: Applicant must comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other applicable privacy and reimbursement laws and regulations, and applicable medical licensing laws and regulations, as waived or modified in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as all applicable COVID-19 Telehealth Program requirements and procedures, including the requirement to retain records to demonstrate compliance with the COVID-19 Telehealth Program requirements and procedures for three years following the last date of service, subject to audit. This document retention period appropriately balances the interests of program integrity while minimizing administrative burdens on health care providers during this emergency. Health care providers that participate in the COVID-19 Telehealth Program must also comply with all applicable federal and state laws, including the False Claims Act, the Anti-Kickback Statute, and the Civil Monetary Penalties Law, as waived or modified in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, applicants will also be required to certify that they are not already receiving or expecting to receive other federal or state funding for the exact same services or devices for which they are requesting support under the COVID-19 Telehealth Program.
7. Applications for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program will be submitted through the **FCC's ECFS under WC Docket No. 20-89** and entitled ***COVID-19 Telehealth Program Application for Funding***.

8. Applicants will be selected for funding on a rolling basis until the COVID-19 Telehealth Program funds have been depleted.