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Federal Communications Commission (FCC) COVID-19 Telehealth Program AMGA Summary

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) created the [COVID-19 Telehealth Program](#) to aid healthcare workers as they address the COVID-19 public health emergency. The FCC will distribute \$200 million allocated in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The program will help support eligible healthcare providers, whether located in rural or non-rural areas, purchase telecommunications, information services, and connected devices to provide connected care services in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The Commission does not anticipate awarding more than \$1 million to any single applicant. Funds for the program will be dispensed until they are depleted.

Eligible providers: The Commission limits the program to nonprofit and public eligible healthcare providers that fall within the categories of healthcare providers in section 254(h)(7)(B) of the 1996 Act:

1. Post-secondary educational institutions offering healthcare instruction, teaching hospitals, and medical schools
2. Community health centers or health centers providing health care to migrants
3. Local health departments or agencies
4. Community mental health centers
5. Not-for-profit hospitals
6. Rural health clinic;
7. Skilled nursing facilities
8. Consortia of healthcare providers consisting of one or more entities falling into the first seven categories

Note: Interested healthcare providers that do not already have an eligibility determination can obtain one by filing an FCC Form 460 with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

Application Process: Interested health care providers should submit an application that contains at a minimum the following:

- Names, addresses, county, and healthcare provider numbers (if available), for healthcare providers seeking funding through the COVID-19 Telehealth Program application and the lead healthcare provider for applications involving multiple healthcare providers
- Contact information for the individual that will be responsible for the application (telephone number, mailing address, and email address)
- 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.

- Description of the estimated number of patients to be treated
- 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 healthcare provider’s use. Notably, monitoring devices (e.g., pulse-ox, BP monitoring devices) will only be funded if they are themselves connected.
- Supporting documentation for the costs indicated in their application, such as a vendor or service provider quote, invoice, or similar information
- 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 of supported services and devices

COVID–19 Telehealth Program applicants will also be required, at the time of submission of their application, to certify, among other things, that they will 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.

Applications can be submitted through the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) under WC Docket No. 20-89. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until program funds have been depleted.

The FCC’s FAQs on the program can be found [here](#).