

November 12, 2020

**ILLINOIS HEALTH AND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
M E M O R A N D U M**

SUBJECT: \$100 Million FCC Telehealth Funding Opportunity – Dec. 7 Deadline

The Federal Communications Commission will accept applications to the [Connected Care Pilot Program](#) through Dec. 7. The program will provide up to \$100 million from the Universal Service Fund over a three-year period to eligible healthcare providers to support the provision of telehealth and connected care services more broadly, primarily for low-income Americans and veterans. In order to support connected care services to the intended patient population, the pilot program will provide funding for selected pilot projects to cover 85% of the eligible costs of:

- **Broadband connectivity**, including Internet security firewall services necessary to protect personally identifiable information (PII) and other sensitive patient information;
- **Network equipment**, including routers at the healthcare provider premises, routers for use at participating patient residences, servers, switches, and costs of engineering, furnishing (i.e., as delivered from the manufacturer), and installing eligible network equipment; and
- **Information services**, including HIPAA-compliant (or requirement waived) telehealth solutions, packages, platforms, suites of services, licenses, subscriptions, one-time, annual or recurring telehealth charges, implementation, or integration costs that facilitate the capturing, storing, and transmitting of health care data between health care provider and patient for purposes of connected care services.

The remaining 15% share of the costs of eligible services must be paid by the selected pilot project recipients, as well as all of the costs of any ineligible expenses associated with their respective projects. The Pilot Program will not fund end-user devices or medical equipment.

The Pilot Program is open to eligible non-profit or public health care providers that fall within the categories in section 254(h)(7)(B) of the Telecommunications Act, including:

- Not-for-profit hospitals;
- Teaching hospitals, and medical schools;
- Rural health clinics;
- Post-secondary educational institutions offering health care instruction;
- Community health centers or health centers providing health care to migrants;
- Local health departments or agencies;
- Community mental health centers;
- Skilled nursing facilities; and

- Consortia of health care providers from one of the preceding seven categories.

For purposes of the Pilot Program, eligible healthcare providers and their patients may be located in rural or non-rural areas, and eligible non-rural healthcare providers are not required to be part of a majority rural consortium. The Commission will accept applications through an online application system available on the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) [website](#).

To complete an application, eligible healthcare providers should use their My Portal login credentials that were provided when their [FCC Form 460](#) (Eligibility and Registration Form) was approved for their eligible site. Prospective applicants must have an approved FCC Form 460 to access the application. Applicants that have not already requested or obtained an eligibility determination should immediately file an FCC Form 460 to initiate the eligibility determination process. All sites included in an application must be approved as eligible. For example, a single healthcare system or organization with multiple locations (sites) must have an approved eligibility determination for each location (site) that will be included in the application.

Interested healthcare providers can contact USAC for specific questions about eligibility via telephone at (800) 453-1546 or via email at RHCAssist@usac.org.

For questions or comments, please [contact IHA](#).