



FCC Adopts \$200 Million COVID-19 Telehealth Program

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On April 2, the Federal Communication Commission voted to adopt a \$200 million telehealth program to support healthcare providers responding to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program implements a provision of the CARES Act to ensure access to connected care services and devices in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The support provided through the COVID-19 Telehealth Program will help eligible health care providers purchase telecommunications services, information services, and devices necessary to provide critical connected care services, whether for treatment of coronavirus or other health conditions during the coronavirus pandemic.

Funding applications from healthcare providers will be processed on a rolling basis. The FCC will announce selected participants and funding amounts for each selected applicant as rapidly as possible, and will continue selecting participants until it has expended all funding or the pandemic has ended.

Funding will be targeted towards areas hardest hit by COVID-19. Applicants are encouraged to target the funding they receive to high-risk and vulnerable patients to the extent practicable. While health care providers may use the COVID-19 Telehealth Program to treat patients who have COVID-19, the program is not limited to treating those types of patients as long as program funds are used “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.”

The program is limited to nonprofit and public eligible health care providers that fall within the categories of health care providers in section 254(h)(7)(B) of the 1996 Act: (1) post-secondary educational institutions offering health care 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 clinics; (7) skilled nursing facilities; or (8)



consortia of health care providers consisting of one or more entities falling into the first seven categories.

To be considered for participation in the COVID-19 Telehealth Program, interested eligible health care providers must submit applications that, at a minimum, contain the information detailed below.

- Names, addresses, county, and health care provider numbers (if available), 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.
- Contact information for the individual who 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 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.
- Supporting documentation for the costs indicated in your 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.

Applications for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program must be submitted through the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) under **WC Docket No. 20-89**. The Commission will begin accepting applications for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program after publication of this Report and Order and notice of OMB's approval of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program information collection requirements in the Federal Register.

Applications must be filed electronically using the internet **by accessing ECFS**, see *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998). All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission. The Commission's hand-delivery filing location is closed for the foreseeable future and cannot be used to submit applications for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program. Applicants must also send a courtesy copy of their application via email to EmergencyTelehealthSupport@fcc.gov. If you have questions, please contact (1) Rashann Duvall at (202) 418-1438, Rashann.Duvall@fcc.gov or (2) Hayley Steffen at (202) 418-1586, Hayley.Steffen@fcc.gov.

You can [access the text of the FCC report and order here](#).

FMA members can also contact our Legal Department at legal@flmedical.org for assistance.



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