Federal Communications Commission 45 L Street NE Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500 Internet: https://www.fcc.gov

TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU APPROVES FIFTH GROUP OF FUNDING AWARDS IN ROUND 2 OF COVID-19 TELEHEALTH PROGRAM

68 Health Care Providers Receive Critical Support for Telehealth and Connected Care Services

WC Docket No. 20-89

Today, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) approves the fifth group of funding commitments under Round 2 of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Telehealth Program (Program) and commits \$42,702,383 million in funding to 68 health care providers across the Nation. The funding commitments made today will provide critical support to health care providers on the front lines in the fight against the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. A full list of the funding awardees receiving funding commitments today is included in Appendix A of this Public Notice. To date, 348 awardees have received funding commitments totaling \$208,428,464.

The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) established the Program in April 2020 pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act² to provide \$200 million in emergency funding to health care providers for telehealth and connected care services in response to COVID-19.³ To build on the Program's success, Congress appropriated an additional \$249.95 million to fund the second round of the Program as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.⁴ On March 30, 2021, the Commission released the *Second COVID-19 Report and Order*,⁵ which initiated Round 2 of the Program by adopting additional requirements and processes to implement Congressional direction and

¹ See FCC Announces Awards For Round 2 of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program, WC Docket No. 20-89, Public Notices, DA 21-1052, 21-1221, 21-1319, and 21-1403 (WCB 2021).

² Promoting Telehealth for Low-Income Consumers; COVID-19 Telehealth Program, WC Docket Nos. 18-213, 20-89, Report and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 3366 (2020) (First COVID-19 Report and Order); Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Pub. L. No 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (2020) (CARES Act).

³ From April 16, 2020, through July 8, 2020, the Commission fully obligated the \$200 million by issuing awards on a rolling basis to 539 applications. Press Release, FCC, FCC Approves Final Set of COVID-19 Telehealth Program Applications (July 8, 2020), https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-approves-final-set-covid-19-telehealth-program-applications.

⁴ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No: 116-260, Division N-Additional Coronavirus Response and Relief, Title IX-Broadband Internet Access Service, § 903 "FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program" (2020), *available at* https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/133/text (Consolidated Appropriations Act).

⁵ COVID-19 Telehealth Program; Promoting Telehealth for Low-Income Consumers, WC Docket Nos. 20-89 and 18-213, Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, 36 FCC Rcd 7141 (2021) (Second COVID-19 Report and Order).

improve Program administration. Applications for Round 2 were accepted from April 29, 2021, through May 6, 2021.⁶

As the Commission established in the *Second COVID-19 Report and Order*, funding for Round 2 of the Program is to be awarded in two phases.⁷ In the initial commitment phase, at least \$150 million was be awarded based in part on geographic considerations and on the objective evaluation metrics outlined in the *Second COVID-19 Report and Order*.⁸ As directed by the *Second COVID-19 Report and Order*, once at least \$150 million was awarded, the Bureau issued a Public Notice announcing the remaining funding available for the final commitment window,⁹ along with guidance, as directed by the Commission, on how the applicants that did not receive funding during the initial commitment phase could supplement their applications with additional information.¹⁰ Applicants that did not receive funding in the initial commitment phase had ten days to supplement their application with any additional information they chose to include. The Public Notice announcing the ten-day period for applicants to supplement their applications was released on November 9, 2021, and the ten-day period closed on November 19, 2021.¹¹ As directed by the Commission, in the second phase, the remaining Program funding will be awarded to the highest-scoring remaining applications, until all funding has been committed.

For further information regarding this Public Notice, please contact Nathan Eagan, Attorney Advisor, Wireline Competition Bureau, Nathan.Eagan@fcc.gov or (202) 418-0991. For more information about Round 2, refer to USAC's website at www.usac.org/about/covid-19-telehealth-program.

For inquiries and support related to Round 2 invoicing, please contact Round2TelehlthInvoicSupp@FCC.gov.

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⁶ Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Application Filing Window for Round 2 of COVID-19 Telehealth Program Will Open April 29, 2021, WC Docket No. 20-89, Public Notice, 36 FCC Rcd 7321 (WCB 2021).

⁷ Second COVID-19 Report and Order, 36 FCC Rcd at 7171-73, paras. 61-69.

⁸ *Id.* at 7157, para. 38.

⁹ *Id.* at 7172, para. 64.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 7172, para, 65.

¹¹ See Wireline Competition Bureau Completes Initial Phase of COVID-19 Telehealth Program Round 2 Awards and Commences Ten-day Resubmission Period, WC Docket No. 20-89, Public Notice, DA 21-1403 (WCB Nov. 9, 2021).

APPENDIX A

Lead Health Care Provider or Applicant	Eligible Funding Amount
Adena Regional Medical Center	\$532,000
AllianceChicago	\$975,124
Aspirus Wausau Hospital	\$999,463
Atrium Health	\$774,414
Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness	\$156,000
Axis Health System	\$300,027
Beaumont Hospital	\$850,789
Bingham Memorial Hospital	\$840,111
Burnett Medical Center	\$174,634
Carle Foundation Hospital	\$643,231
University of Cincinnati Medical Center	\$1,000,000
University of Colorado Hospital Authority	\$779,447
Community Care Network of Kansas	\$404,923
Community Health Center of Central Missouri	\$329,215
Community Health Center of the North Country	\$328,104
Community Health Centers, Inc.	\$956,655
Community HealthNet	\$885,000
Compass Community Health	\$151,879
Compass Health	\$967,371
Cook County Health	\$513,356
Coos County Family Health Services	\$68,750
County of Los Angeles – Department of Health Services	\$1,000,000
CoxHealth Consortium	\$553,551
Family Medicine Clinic for Health Equity	\$360,200
Heart of Florida Health Center	\$165,509
Henry County Memorial Hospital	\$338,511
Hutchinson Regional Medical Center	\$1,000,000
Jackson Parish Hospital	\$442,144
Kalkaska Memorial Health Center	\$526,250
Kenosha Community Health Center	\$988,540
Kettering Medical Center	\$273,194
Klickitat County Public Hospital	\$711,739

Lead Health Care Provider or Applicant	Eligible Funding Amount
LaSante Health Center	\$867,684
Little Rivers Health Care	\$872,381
Louisiana Primary Care Association	\$890,860
Lower Umpqua Hospital District	\$989,628
Marana Health Center	\$794,998
Mercy Hospital Fort Smith	\$647,154
Monongahela Valley Hospital	\$498,726
Na Pu'uwai	\$275,000
Nationwide Children's Hospital	\$964,076
Neighborhood Healthcare	\$998,675
Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center	\$176,054
Northern Arizona Healthcare	\$969,884
Northwestern Memorial HealthCare	\$1,000,000
Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and James Cancer Hospital	\$526,613
Piedmont Healthcare	\$197,789
Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services	\$398,825
Putnam County Hospital	\$934,736
Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services	\$697,179
The Ritchie County Primary Care Association	\$960,444
Sacopee Valley Health Center	\$616,532
Seattle Children's Hospital	\$1,000,000
Shands Jacksonville Medical Center	\$470,553
Sinai Health System	\$1,000,000
Siouxland Community Health Center	\$977,978
Sky Lakes Medical Center	\$226,092
Southeast, Inc.	\$51,733
St. Claire Medical Center	\$308,894
St. Joseph's Hospital	\$416,403
Summit Pacific Medical Center	\$977,994
Sun Life Family Health Center	\$907,887
Talbert House Health Center	\$153,208
Trinitas Reginal Medical Center	\$639,832
Union Hospital	\$173,450
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center	\$999,015

Lead Health Care Provider or Applicant	Eligible Funding Amount
Watauga Medical Center	\$131,975
Westchester County Health Care Corporation	\$1,000,000