

FY21 BroadbandUSA Federal Funding Site Update

Department: Federal Communications Commission

1	Federal Agency/Bureau	Federal Communications Commission
2	Program Name	Rural Health Care Program
3	Program Overview	<p>The Rural Health Care (RHC) Program provides funding to eligible public or non-profit health care providers for broadband and telecommunications services necessary for the provision of health care. RHC Program support is provided on a funding year basis. Funding years run from July 1 through June 30 of the subsequent year. The RHC Program has an annual funding cap, which is adjusted for inflation each year. For FY2020, the funding cap was \$604,759,306. The RHC Program provides funding through two programs: the Telecommunications (Telecom) Program and the Healthcare Connect Fund Program. The Telecom Program, established in 1997, ensures that rural health care providers pay no more than their urban counterparts for eligible telecommunications services. Specifically, an applicant's program support is based on the difference between rural rates charged for telecommunications services in the rural area where the health care provider is located, and the urban rates charged for similar telecommunications services in the State. The rural health care provider pays only the urban rate for the telecommunications service, and the USF pays the difference between the urban rate and rural rate for the service to the service provider. The Healthcare Connect Fund Program, established in 2012, provides a flat 65% discount on an array of communications services to both individual rural health care providers and consortia, which can include non-rural health care providers (if the consortium has a majority of rural sites). These services include Internet access, dark fiber leases, business data, traditional DSL, and private carriage services, among others, along with funding for construction of health care provider-owned communications facilities. With the Healthcare Connect Fund Program, the Commission intended to promote the use of broadband services, recognizing the increasing need for rural health care providers to have access to specialists who are often located in urban areas, as well as the advent of certain communications-based trends in healthcare delivery, such as the move towards electronic health records.</p>
4	CFDA	
5	Program Website	https://www.usac.org/rural-health-care/
6	Type of funding	<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subsidy <input type="checkbox"/> Formula <input type="checkbox"/> Loan or loan guarantee Other: Discount on eligible telecommunications services.
7	Link to application site, NOFO or Grants.gov (if	Not Applicable

	different from program website above)	
8	NOFO Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial <input type="checkbox"/> Modification <input type="checkbox"/> Reissue/Renewal Other:
9	Important Dates (if applicable)	Funding Year 2021: July 1, 2021 – June 2022.
10	FY2021 Appropriations Amount	Total Amount: Approximately \$298 million disbursed in 2020 (the FCC's Universal Service Programs are not funded through appropriations; funding instead comes through contributions collected from providers of interstate and international telecommunications). Amount Available Towards Broadband (if specified):
11	Broadband-related Program Purpose/Eligible Expenditures (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning (e.g., feasibility) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Broadband Infrastructure Deployment (e.g., construction) <input type="checkbox"/> Broadband Adoption/Digital Literacy/Tech Support <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Skills Training (e.g., STEM/STEAM, Workforce Development) <input type="checkbox"/> Devices/equipment (e.g., laptops, hotspots) <input type="checkbox"/> Public Connectivity/Computer Access <input type="checkbox"/> Research and/or Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Data and/or Mapping <input type="checkbox"/> Smart Communities/Cities/Regions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telehealth Other:
12	Eligible Recipients (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Libraries <input type="checkbox"/> K-12 Schools <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education Institutions <input type="checkbox"/> State Government <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government <input type="checkbox"/> Territorial Governments <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal/Native American Government, Alaska Native Controlled Organizations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety Entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthcare Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> For-Profit Organizations (including Internet Service Providers) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Utilities/Co-ops <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Institutions Other: Eligible health care providers and provider consortia.
13	Publicly-available programmatic data	https://opendata.usac.org/stories/s/Rural-Health-Care-Tools/qi66-q66c/
14	Contact information	RHC-Assist@usac.org

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Additional Information

<https://www.usac.org/rural-health-care/learn/>