FY22 BroadbandUSA Federal Funding Site Update

Department: Federal Communications Commission

1	**Federal Agency/Bureau**	Federal Communications Commission/Wireline Competition Bureau
2	**Program Name**	Rural Health Care Program
3	**Authorizing Legislation**	Not Applicable
4	**Program Overview**	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. The RHC Program has an annual funding cap, which is adjusted for inflation each year. The cap for FY2022 is $637.7 million. 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.
5	**CFDA**	Not Applicable
6	**Program Website**	https://www.usac.org/rural-health-care/
7	**Type of funding**	☐ Discretionary ☒ Subsidy ☐ Formula ☐ Loan or loan guarantee ☒ Other (i.e. loan-grant combo; if there is a set-aside amount for certain recipients please indicate the amount): Discount on eligible telecommunications services.

8	Link to application site, NOFO, FOA, or Grants.gov (if different from program website above)	Not Applicable
9	Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or Federal Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Type	☐ Initial ☐ Modification ☐ Reissue/Renewal ☐ Other (i.e. one-time funding): *Other*
10	Important Dates (if applicable)	Funding Year 2021: July 1, 2021 – June 2022.
12	FY2022 Appropriations Amount	Total Amount: Approximately $611 million disbursed in FY2021 (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):
13	Matching Requirement	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Other (i.e. if a match is beneficial to an application but not required): If yes, what is the matching requirement:
14	Complementary Federal Funding Option	Not Applicable
15	Broadband-related Program Purpose/Eligible Expenditures (check all that apply)	☐ Planning (e.g., feasibility, data collection, mapping) ☒ Broadband Infrastructure Deployment (e.g., construction, equipment, materials) ☐ Digital Inclusion (e.g. Broadband Adoption, Devices, Public Access, Digital Skills Training, Tech Support) ☒ Other: (e.g. Research and/or Evaluation, Telehealth, etc): Telehealth
16	Speed/Technical Requirement for Broadband Infrastructure	Not Applicable
17	Eligible Recipients (check all that apply)	☐ Libraries ☐ K-12 Schools ☒ Healthcare Facilities ☐ Higher Education Institutions ☐ For-Profit Organizations (including Internet Service Providers) ☐ State Government ☒ Non-Profit Organizations ☐ Local Government

		☐ Territorial Governments ☐ Tribal/Native American Government, Alaska Native Controlled Organizations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations ☐ Public Safety Entities	☐ Electric Utilities/Co-ops ☐ Financial Institutions ☐ Individuals/Households ☒ Other: Eligible health care providers and provider consortia.
18	**Criteria for Eligible Recipients**	Not Applicable	
19	**Grant Beneficiaries (if different from eligible recipients)**	Not Applicable	
20	**Publicly-available programmatic data**	https://opendata.usac.org/stories/s/Rural-Health-Care-Tools/qi66-q66c/	
21	**Contact information**	RHC-Assist@usac.org	
22	**Additional Information**	https://www.usac.org/rural-health-care/learn/	
23	**Updated**	October 2022	