

Issue: Telehealth/Telemedicine

ALERT: FCC Funds Going Fast! The COVID-19 Telehealth Program

As part of the CARES Act, Congress appropriated funds to the FCC for a \$200M Telehealth program. Through the “COVID-19 Telehealth Program”, the FCC will provide immediate support to nonprofit and public eligible health care providers to enable connected care services to patients at home or mobile locations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They will “fully fund” telecommunications services, information services and devices necessary to provide critical connected care services “until the funding is exhausted or until the current pandemic has ended”.¹

Applications are being accepted now on a rolling basis.

No single award will exceed \$1M. For maximum flexibility, applicants may purchase any necessary eligible services and connected devices, not just those identified in their applications.²

Applications accepted now at the Wireline Competition Bureau. Find information here:

<https://www.fcc.gov/covid-19-telehealth-program>

Awards are made weekly. As of May 28, 2020, nationwide 185 awards have been made, totaling over \$66M- over 25% of total funds awarded already. To date, five awards have been made in Michigan:

Award Locations in Michigan	Health Care Provider	Amount	As Described
Ann Arbor	The University of Michigan Hospital	\$649,000	To implement remote patient monitoring for high risk COVID-19 patients to reduce the need for hospital admissions, and to expand video visit capacity.
Grand Blanc	McLaren Health Care Corporation	\$626,328	To enhance telehealth connectivity for 12 telehealth providers across the state, in order to provide safe high-quality care to patients.
Kalamazoo	Community Healing Centers	\$36,673	To assist with substance abuse and mental health treatment using remote video sessions for children and adults staying at home.
Wyoming	Metro Health-University of Michigan Health	\$356,597	For laptops and tablets, network upgrades and telehealth software, and licenses to conduct primary and specialty care using video and voice consultations as well as remote monitoring.
Gwinn	Upper Great Lakes Family Health Center	\$213,997	For telemedicine carts, computers, monitors, and diagnostic equipment to be used for community-wide triage for COVID-19 screening and testing, as well as routine medical management of nursing home and congregate living patients.
		<i>Total: \$1.88 M</i>	
https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-telehealth-program-recipients.pdf			

¹ <https://www.fcc.gov/covid-19-telehealth-program>

² <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-44A1.pdf>