

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. To provide maximum flexibility, applicants may purchase any necessary eligible services and connected devices, not just those written into 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 already. To date, seven awards have been made in Pennsylvania:

Award Locations in Pennsylvania	Health Care Provider	Amount	As Described
Lancaster	Lancaster Health Center	\$75,710	To expand telehealth capacity to screen and treat COVID-19 patients and manage care for patients at risk of severe complications if exposed to COVID-19.
Philadelphia	Delaware Valley Community Health, Inc.	\$504,880	To provide telehealth services to its patients who are predominantly vulnerable and high-risk for COVID-19.
Philadelphia	Spectrum Health Services, Inc.	\$40,417	To implement telehealth services to allow providers to continue to care for their vulnerable patient population.
Philadelphia	Public Health Management Corporation	\$202,065	For laptop computers, tablets, phones, a VPN, and network upgrades to leverage telehealth and provide an outlet for underinsured individuals to avoid emergency departments for healthcare needs and reduce the need for patients with COVID -19 to access hospital services wherever possible.
Philadelphia	Temple University Hospital	\$902,290	For a remote monitoring platform, symptom diagnosis software, tablets, phones, and other telecommunications equipment to diagnose and treat patients who are COVID-19 suspected and/or confirmed, as well as to conduct telemedicine interventions for other patients who require consultation.

Pittsburgh	UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh	\$192,500	To provide telehealth services to children who have received organ transplants and are thus immune compromised and at high risk for COVID-19.
Scranton	Wright Center Medical Group	\$629,051	To deploy in-home patient monitoring kits and expand its video telehealth services to provide remote care to its high-risk and vulnerable populations.
		<i>Total: \$2.55M</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>