

FY23 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	47 U.S.C.§ 254(h)(1)(a) - Telecom; 47 U.S.C.§ 254(h)(2)(a) - Healthcare Connect
4	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. The RHC Program has an annual funding cap, which is adjusted for inflation each year. The cap for funding year 2023 is \$682.4 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, seeks to ensure 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>
5	CFDA	32.005
6	Program Website	https://www.usac.org/rural-health-care/
7	Type of funding	<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subsidy <input type="checkbox"/> Formula <input type="checkbox"/> Loan or loan guarantee

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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)	https://www.fcc.gov/general/rural-health-care-program
9	Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or Federal Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modification <input type="checkbox"/> Reissue/Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Other (i.e. one-time funding):
10	Important Dates (if applicable)	Funding Year 2023: July 1, 2022 – June 2023.
12	FY2023 Appropriations Amount	The program is part of the FCC's Universal Service Fund and thus is not funded through the appropriations process. The funding year 2023 funding cap is \$682,361,586.
13	Matching Requirement	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, what is the matching requirement: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other (i.e. if match is beneficial to an application but not required):
14	Complementary Federal Funding Option	Not Applicable
15	Broadband-related Program Purpose/Eligible Expenditures (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning (e.g., feasibility, data collection, mapping) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Broadband Infrastructure Deployment (e.g., construction, equipment, materials) <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Inclusion (e.g. Broadband Adoption, Devices, Public Access, Digital Skills Training, Tech Support) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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)	<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 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

		<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal/Native American Government, Alaska Native Controlled Organizations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety Entities <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals/Households <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Eligible health care providers and provider consortia.
18	Criteria for Eligible Recipients	Eligible health care providers include: (1) post-secondary educational institutions offering health care instruction, teaching hospitals, and medical schools; (2) community health centers or health centers providing health care to migrants; (3) local health departments or agencies; (4) community mental health centers; (5) not-for-profit hospitals; (6) rural health clinics; (7) skilled nursing facilities (as defined in section 395i-3(a) of title 42 and (8) consortium of health care providers consisting of one or more entities falling into the first seven categories. In addition, eligible health care providers must be non-profit or public.
19	Grant Beneficiaries (if different from eligible recipients)	Not Applicable
20	Programmatic Resources	https://www.fcc.gov/general/rural-health-care-program
21	Reporting Requirements	Not Applicable
22	Publicly-available programmatic data	https://opendata.usac.org/stories/s/Rural-Health-Care-Tools/qi66-q66c/
23	Contact information	RHC-Assist@usac.org
24	Additional Information	https://www.usac.org/lifeline/learn/
25	Updated	April 2023