



Federal
Communications
Commission



Charting the Broadband Future of Health and Care
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FCC Healthcare Initiatives

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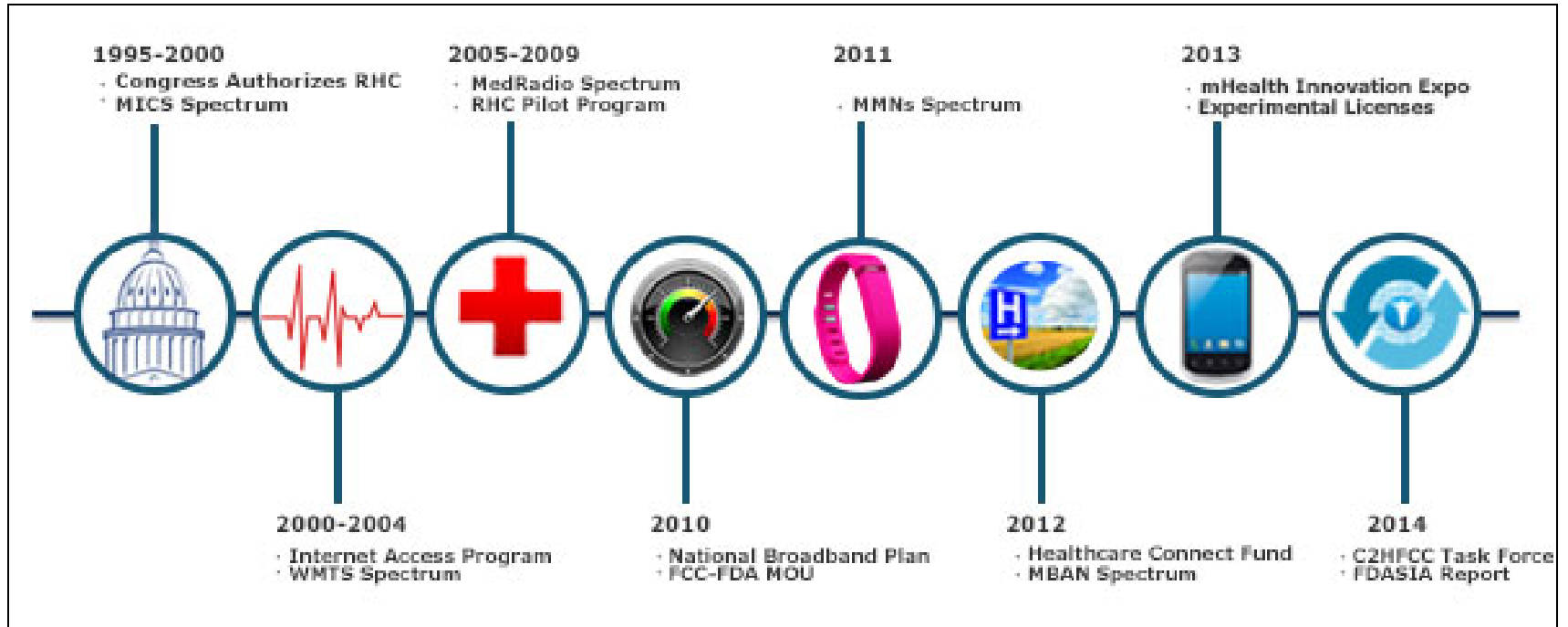


FCC Areas of Focus in Health

- **Rural Health Care Program:** Supports broadband for health care providers, which promotes telemedicine adoption to expand patient access to specialists and drive down costs.
- **Broadband:** Advances both wireline and wireless communications services and technologies, thus enabling many medical and medical-associated applications.
- **Spectrum:** Provides access to the airwaves for wireless medical devices and various radio services that support Health IT applications, while preventing harmful interference.
- **National Broadband Plan:** Engages in a variety of actions and activities to facilitate Health IT under NBP recommendations.
- **Connect2Health Task Force:** New umbrella for all FCC Healthcare activities.



FCC Health-Related Milestones





Current FCC Rural Health Care Programs

- **Telecommunications Program**
 - Funds urban/rural rate difference for telecommunications services for rural HCPs
- **Pilot Program**
 - Supports 50 state-wide and regional broadband HCP networks
 - Participants transition to Healthcare Connect Fund as Pilot funds are exhausted
- **Healthcare Connect Fund**
 - Supports telemedicine build out and development



Key Features of Healthcare Connect Fund

- Support for broadband connectivity and broadband networks for eligible healthcare providers (HCPs)
- Both consortium and individual HCPs may apply
- 35% HCP contribution required
- Funding began January 1, 2014 (July 1, 2013, for existing Pilot projects)
- Covers both broadband services and HCP-owned infrastructure
- Non-rural HCPs can participate if in majority-rural consortia
- Multi-year funding commitments available to consortia
- Connections to off-site administrative offices and data centers covered



Who is eligible to participate?

- To be eligible, an HCP must be **public or not-for-profit** and belong to one of these statutory categories: **hospitals, rural health clinics, community health centers, health centers serving migrants, community mental health centers, local health departments or agencies, post-secondary educational institutions/teaching hospitals/medical schools, or a consortia of the above.** 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(7)(B)
- Non-rural HCPs may participate in Healthcare Connect Fund if they belong to a consortium that has a majority of rural HCPs
- The largest HCPs (400+ patient beds) are eligible, but support is capped if non-rural.



What is supported?

- **For all applicants**
 - Broadband services
 - Reasonable and customary installation charges
 - Equipment necessary to make service functional
 - Connections to off-site administrative offices and data centers
 - Connections to research & education networks
- **Consortium applicants also may receive support for:**
 - Equipment necessary for network
 - Upfront charges for deployment of new or upgraded facilities, including dark fiber HCP constructed and owned facilities, if shown to be most cost-effective option



Funding Caps

- 400 million annual cap on total funding for FCC Rural Healthcare Programs
- \$150 million annual cap for up front payments in Healthcare Connect Fund



Connect2HealthFCC Task Force

- Established March 2014
- Umbrella for all Health related FCC activities
- Build on framework of the National Broadband Plan

Goals

- Explore intersection of broadband, health and advanced communications technologies
- Demonstrate the value proposition of Broadband in Healthcare
- Charting the broadband future of health and care at FCC



Connect2HealthFCC Task Force

- **Vision:** **EVERYONE CONNECTED**... to the people, services and information they need to get well or stay healthy.
- **Mission:** By identifying regulatory barriers as well as incentives and building stronger partnerships with public and private stakeholders in the areas of telehealth, mobile applications, and telemedicine, we seek to accelerate the adoption of advanced health care technologies — leveraging broadband and other next-gen communications services, highlighting promising health IT and telemedicine initiatives across the country and abroad, and expediting a vital shift to more ubiquitous, broadband-enabled health care solutions along the entire health and wellness continuum.



Connect2HealthFCC Task Force

- Tremendous opportunity to go beyond traditional telemedicine, mHealth, Health Apps and Big data
- Health and Care Ecosystem
 - Ubiquitous,
 - Broadband-enabled
 - Health & care solutions
 - Along the entire health and wellness continuum



Connect2HealthFCC Task Force

Connecting all consumers to the people, information and supports they need to get well or stay healthy

Imagine Ruby...



Thank You

- For more information:

- Healthcare Connect Fund order, at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-12-150A1.doc
- FCC Rural Health Care Program, <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/rural-health-care>
- Healthcare Connect Fund FAQs, <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/healthcare-connect-fund-frequently-asked-questions>
- USAC website, www.usac.org/rhc
- Pilot Program map, <http://www.fcc.gov/maps/rural-health-care-pilot-program>
- Connect2HealthFCC Task Force Announcement, <http://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-chairman-announces-new-connect2health-task-force>