



The FCC's Healthcare Connect Fund



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Goals of FCC's Rural Health Care Programs

- Increase access to broadband for HCPs, especially those serving rural areas
- Foster development and deployment of broadband health care networks
- Maximize cost-effectiveness of the program

Overview: FCC Rural Health Care Programs

- Telecommunications Program
 - Funds urban/rural rate difference for telecommunications services for rural HCPs
 - Remains in place after Healthcare Connect Fund is implemented
- Internet Access Program
 - Provides 25 percent discount on Internet access services for rural HCPs
 - Ends June 30, 2014, as participants transition to Healthcare Connect Fund
- RHC Pilot Program
 - Supports 50 state-wide and regional broadband HCP networks
 - Participants transition to Healthcare Connect Fund as Pilot funds are exhausted

FCC's Healthcare Connect Fund

- Who is eligible: Public and non-profit HCPs
 - Rural HCP sites – individually or as part of a consortium
 - Non-Rural HCP sites – only as part of a majority rural consortium
- What is eligible: Connectivity -- covers broadband services, HCP-owned infrastructure, and network equipment
- What is the support level: 65% discount (35% HCP contribution required)
- When is support available: Beginning January 1, 2014 (for existing Pilot projects, beginning July 1, 2013)
- How to apply: Online through the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)

Skilled Nursing Facility Pilot Program

- Purpose is to test how to support broadband connections for skilled nursing facilities
- Pilot will get underway in 2014
- Funding will be up to \$50 million total over a three-year period
- FCC is soliciting input regarding design of the pilot program
- Participants will be required to collect data and submit reports

Questions?

- For more information:
 - Healthcare Connect Fund order, at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-12-150A1.doc
 - FCC website, www.fcc.gov/health
 - USAC website, www.usac.org/rhc
 - RHC Pilot Program map, <http://www.fcc.gov/maps/rural-health-care-pilot-program>
 - Questions: rhc-assist@usac.org

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