WyTN Webinar

School-Based Telehealth Opportunities: Increasing Broadband and Access for Improved Student Health Outcomes

Presenter Information

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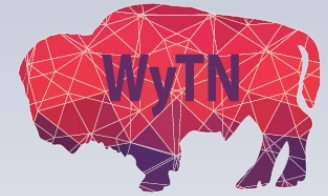Utah Education and Telehealth Network

https://utn.org

NORTHWEST REGIONAL TELEHEALTH RESOURCE CENTER

https://nrtrc.org

Telehealth Education and Training

https://nrtrc.catalog.instructure.com

23,000 registrations

18,747 course completions

CME available

Learning Objectives

- Learn about federal programs that support increased broadband and access to school-based health/telehealth programs

- Understand how the Utah Education and Telehealth Network provides broadband access to schools, libraries, and health care sites

- Discuss lessons learned and best practices in broadband and school-based telehealth

We connect people & technology to improve education and health care in Utah (1,600 locations)

- Provide broadband connectivity
- Education/Healthcare
- File for FCC discounts for member sites through USAC programs:
  - E-Rate
  - Telecommunications – Urban vs. Rural
  - Heath care Connect Fund – 65%
- Security services
- Telemedicine platform
- School-based telehealth

FCC Schools & Libraries:
E-Rate
Emergency Connectivity Fund

FCC Rural Health Care:
Health Connect Fund
Telecommunications

USDA DLT Program

FCC Programs:
Emergency Broadband (EBB)
Emergency Connectivity Fund

School

Home

Clinic
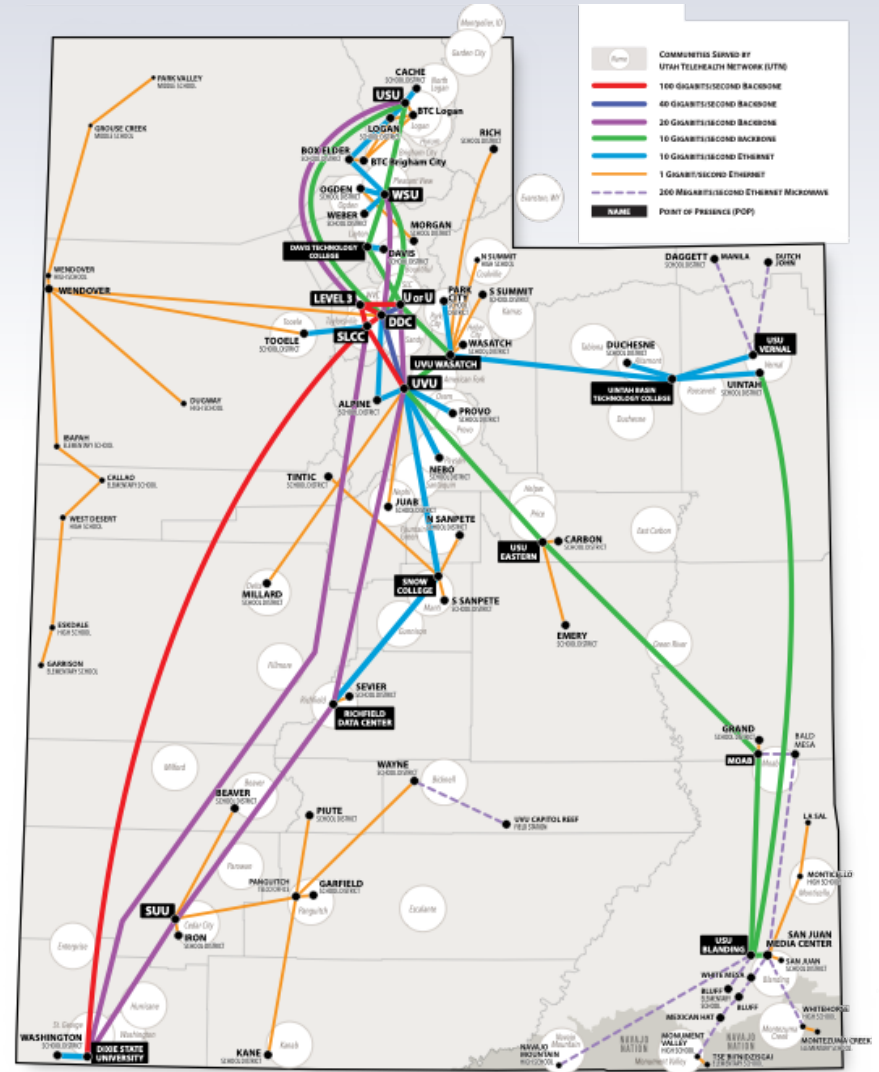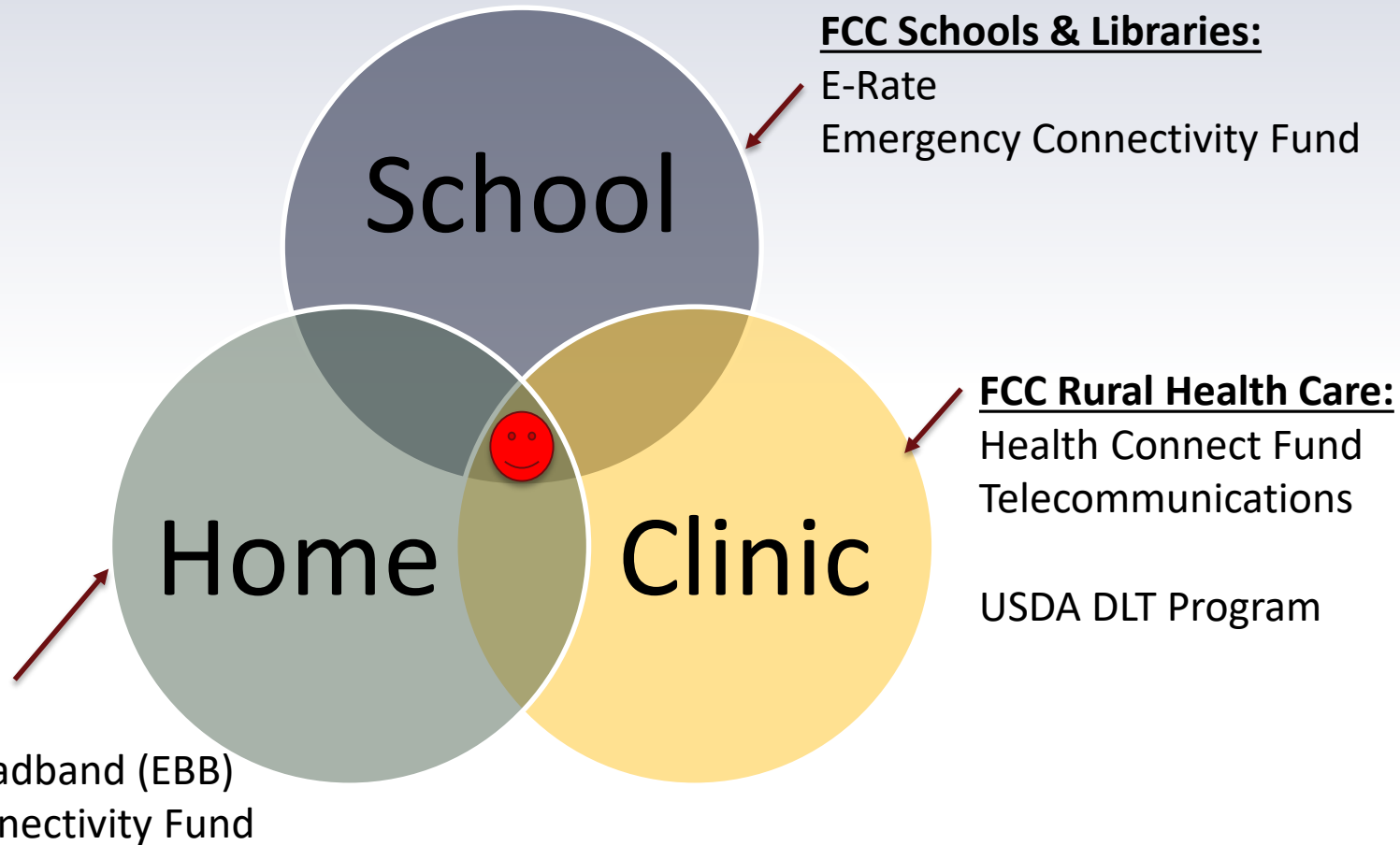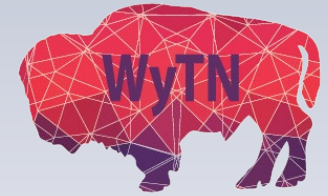
FCC E-Rate Program

E-Rate provides discounts for telecommunications, Internet access, and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries.

Eligible Services

- Category 1
  - Data Transmission Services and/or Internet Access
- Category 2
  - Internal Connections
  - Managed Internal Broadband Services
  - Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections

  These two service types include eligible products, such as access points, routers, switches, hubs, and wiring.

  Eligible products are located at the applicant site and must be necessary to transport information to classrooms or publicly accessible areas

FCC E-Rate Program
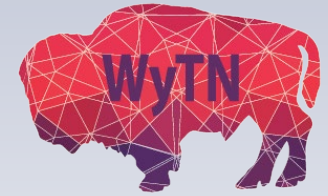
Available for Public Use

Universal Service Administrative Co.

Schools and Libraries (E-rate) Program
APPLICATION PROCESS

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

APPLICANTS: Applicants must first have an entity number and an E-rate Productivity Center (EPC) account.
SERVICE PROVIDERS: Service providers must first obtain a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN /service provider 498 ID) by submitting FCC Form 498.

COMPETITIVE BIDDING	APPLYING FOR DISCOUNTS	SERVICES START	INVOICING

APPLICANT

Request services by submitting **FCC Form 470** for bids

Evaluate bids received

Seek discounts for services by submitting **FCC Form 471** within the filing window

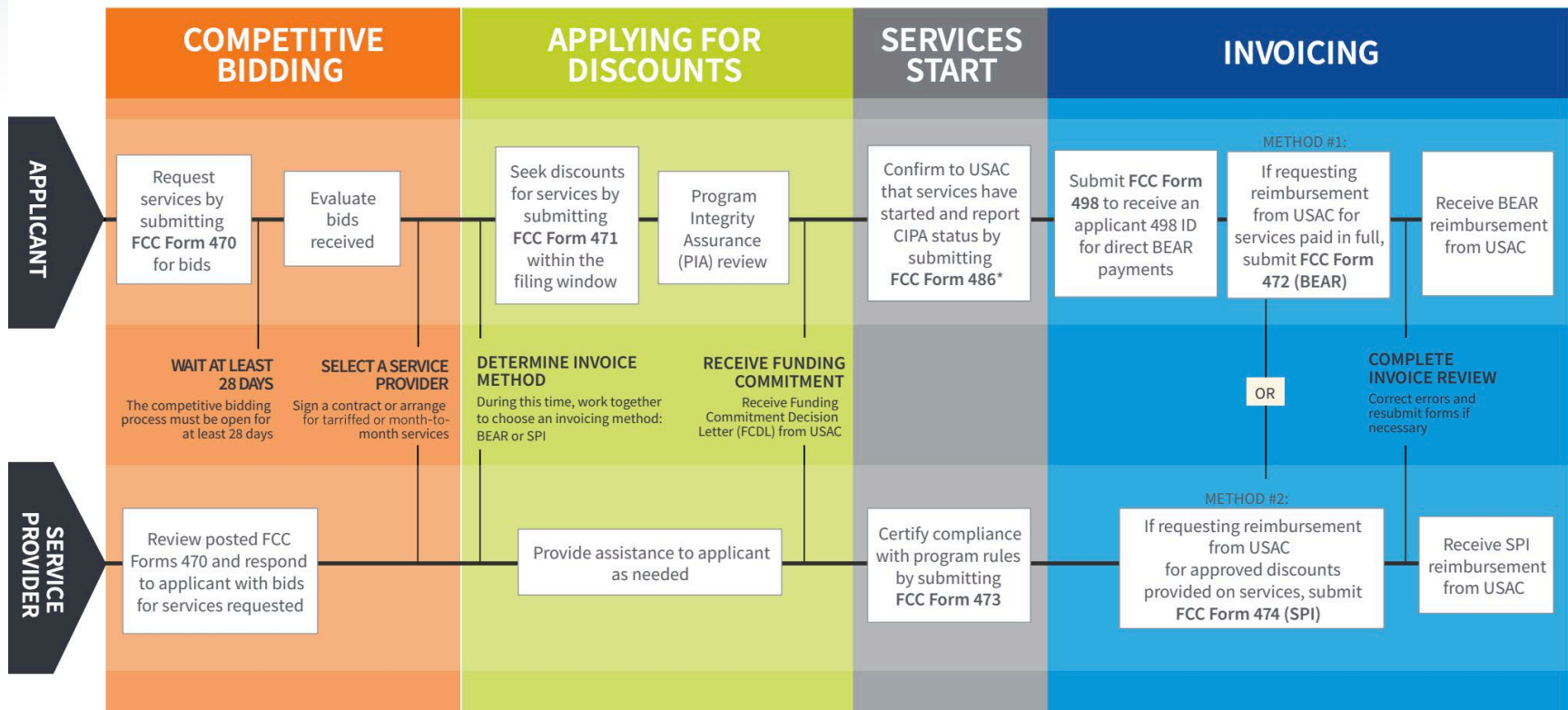Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review

Confirm to USAC that services have started and report CIPA status by submitting **FCC Form 486***

Submit **FCC Form 498** to receive an applicant 498 ID for direct BEAR payments

METHOD #1:
If requesting reimbursement from USAC for services paid in full, submit **FCC Form 472 (BEAR)**

Receive BEAR reimbursement from USAC

WAIT AT LEAST 28 DAYS
The competitive bidding process must be open for at least 28 days

SELECT A SERVICE PROVIDER
Sign a contract or arrange for tarriffed or month-to-month services

DETERMINE INVOICE METHOD
During this time, work together to choose an invoicing method: BEAR or SPI

RECEIVE FUNDING COMMITMENT
Receive Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) from USAC

OR

COMPLETE INVOICE REVIEW
Correct errors and resubmit forms if necessary

SERVICE PROVIDER

Review posted FCC Forms 470 and respond to applicant with bids for services requested

Provide assistance to applicant as needed

Certify compliance with program rules by submitting **FCC Form 473**

METHOD #2:
If requesting reimbursement from USAC for approved discounts provided on services, submit **FCC Form 474 (SPI)**

Receive SPI reimbursement from USAC

FCC E-Rate Program

Types of Entities Eligible

- School District
- Individual School
- Library System or Consortium
- Library Branch (Outlet)
- Consortium or Statewide Application of Schools and/or Libraries
- School or Library Non-Instructional Facility
- New School Construction
- New Library Construction
- Head Start, Pre-kindergarten, Juvenile Justice, or Adult Education
- Alternate Discount Mechanisms

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Universal Service Administrative Co.

Discount Matrix

Applicants use the discount matrix to determine the correct discount level for a school district or library system.

To receive discounts on eligible equipment and services, an applicant must calculate the percentage discount that it (and the entities it represents) is eligible to receive. See the Calculating Discounts page for more information.

INCOME Measured by % of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	CATEGORY ONE (C1)		CATEGORY TWO (C2)	
	URBAN Discount	RURAL Discount	URBAN Discount	RURAL Discount
Less than 1%	20%	25%	20%	25%
1% to 19%	40%	50%	40%	50%
20% to 34%	50%	60%	50%	60%
35% to 49%	60%	70%	60%	70%
50% to 74%	80%	80%	80%	80%
75% to 100%	90%	90%	85%	85%

Emergency Broadband Program
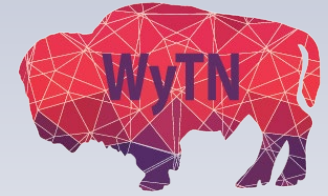
What Is the Benefit?
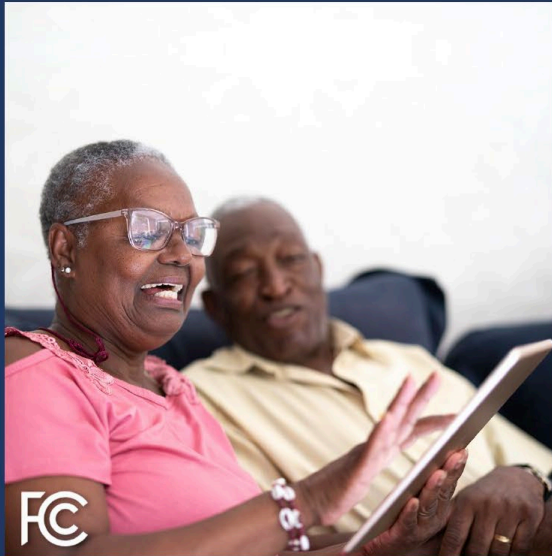
The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Program that provides a temporary discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households. Eligible households can receive:

- Up to $50/month discount for broadband service and associated equipment rentals;
- Up to $75/month discount for households on Tribal lands, and;
- A one-time discount of up to $100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

Emergency Broadband Program

Who Qualifies for the Benefit?

A Household is Eligible If Any Member

- Received a Pell Grant in the current award year;
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced school lunch program or school breakfast program in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income, due to a job loss or furlough since 2/29/20 and the household had a total income in 2020 below $99,000 (single filers) or $198,000 (joint filers); or
- Meets the eligibility of a participating providers' existing COVID-19 or low-income program.

Emergency Broadband Program

Who Qualifies for the Benefit?

Households That Qualify for Lifeline Also Qualify

What is Lifeline?

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the monthly cost of phone and internet. Eligible customers will get up to $9.25 (up to $34.25 on Tribal lands) toward their bill. Visit **www.LifelineSupport.org** for more information about the Lifeline Program.

How Do I Qualify for Lifeline?

Household income is less than 135% of the Federal poverty guidelines

or

A member of the household participates in one of these programs:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
- Tribal programs (and you live on qualifying Tribal lands)

Emergency Broadband Program
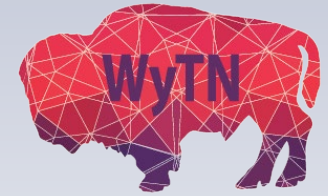
Additional Details

☑ The Emergency Broadband Benefit opened its enrollment on May 12, 2021.

☑ The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a temporary program developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will end once the program funds are exhausted, or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares and end to the pandemic, whichever comes first.

☑ The program is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). They also administer the Lifeline program. USAC hosts the application portal and the GetEmergencyBroadband.org consumer website. There is also a toll free number for questions open 7 days a week from 9am – 9pm est. 833-511-0311

Emergency Broadband Program

WyTN

How Do I Enroll?

FC

EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT

There are three ways to apply for the Emergency Broadband Benefit

Option 1: **Contact a participating broadband provider** directly to learn about their application process.

Option 2: **Go to GetEmergencyBroadband.org** to apply online and to find participating providers near you.

Option 3: **Send a mail-in application**, along with proof of eligibility to: Emergency Broadband
Support Center
P.O. Box 7081
London, KY 40742

Emergency Connectivity Fund

The ECF is a one-time, $7.171 billion program, authorized by the American Rescue Plan of 2021. It provides 100% reimbursements of eligible remote learning expenses for K-12 schools and public libraries.

The ECF will be administered by the Universal Administrative Company (USAC), leveraging much of the same infrastructure currently used to manage the E-rate funding program for schools and libraries. The initial 45-day application period is expected to open in **June and close in August of 2021**.

Emergency Connectivity Fund
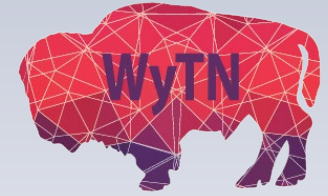
Broadband Connections	Broadband Equipment: Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, and routers, including cellular air-cards, will qualify for reimbursement. Wi-Fi hotspots will be capped at $250.

Broadband Services: There are no minimum standards for network connections. One Wi-Fi hot spot is allowed per user, and, for fixed internet connections, only one service connection is allowed per location. There are no price caps for broadband services but USAC will review costs for reasonableness.

Limited Support for Off-Campus Networks: Where applicants can prove there is no commercially available internet access available, applicants may seek funding for construction of such networks. |
| **Connected Learning Devices** | Laptops and Tablets up to $400: The Commission will approve reimbursement requests up to $400 for laptops and tablets. Smartphones will not be approved. One connected device per student is allowed. There is no allowance for breakage/spares. Applicants can purchase more expensive devices, but reimbursements will be capped at the $400 limit. |

Educational Funding Matrix
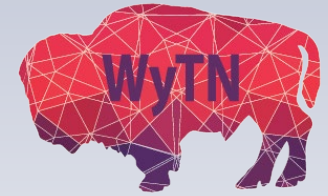
- https://www.educationsuperhighway.org/wp-content/uploads/Federal-Funding-Matrix_2021.pdf

Education SUPERHIGHWAY

FEDERAL FUNDING TO CLOSE THE HOMEWORK GAP & DIGITAL DIVIDE

The states and school districts that have the best understanding of which students are and aren't connected are best positioned to leverage these funding streams. The K-12 Bridge to Broadband program is the model facilitated by EducationSuperHighway, in coordination with states, school districts, and Internet Service Providers, to collect the most accurate, actionable home connectivity data.

Fund (Source)	Amount	Who Applies	When Fund is Available	Deadline to Use Funds	Uses	Agency Disbursing the Fund
Emergency Connectivity Fund (American Rescue Plan)	$7.17B	Local Education Agency (LEA)	45-day application window to open in mid to late June 2021 for eligible purchases made between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. Subsequent window to open later in 2021	When funding is no longer available or one year after pandemic declared over	Reimburse 100% of K-12 home connectivity costs (broadband + device) More info by Funds For Learning on eligible services	FCC with support from USAC Learn more
Title IV, Part A (Every Student Succeeds Act, 2015)	$1.2B	LEA	Confirm with SEA	Renewed annually	Funds can be used to support device and connectivity purchases	US DOE Learn more
Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (CRRSA)	$3.2B	Households with Free & Reduced Lunch students. View this list of all eligible households	May 12, 2021. First come, first served	When funding is no longer available or 6 months after pandemic declared over, whichever comes first	Up to $50 per month for broadband services	FCC with support from USAC; Learn more US DOE's toolkit
ESSER I (CARES)	$13.2B	State Education Agency (SEA)	SEA must award the funds within one year of receiving them, which will be April through June 2021, depending on an SEA's	Available for obligation by State educational agencies (SEAs) and subrecipients through September 30, 2021	Very broad; Home connectivity solutions are included (hardware, software, and internet access costs)	US DOE Learn more

FCC RHC Programs
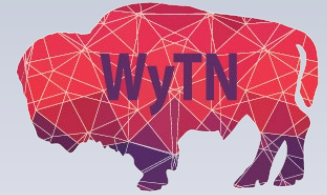
Healthcare Connect Fund Program

- The Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program provides a 65% discount on eligible broadband connectivity expenses for eligible rural health care providers (HCPs). You can apply as an individual health care provider or as a consortium, i.e., a group of HCPs that can be both rural and non-rural.

FCC RHC Programs

HCP Type

- Post-secondary educational institutions offering health care instruction, teaching hospitals, and medical schools

- Community health centers or health centers providing health care to migrants

- Local health departments or agencies

- Community mental health centers

- Not-for-profit hospitals

- Rural health clinics

- Dedicated emergency departments of rural for-profit hospitals

- Part-time eligible entities

- SNFs

- Consortia of the above entities

FCC RHC Programs
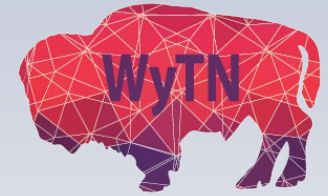
RURAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

Application Process

1 — Determine Eligibility

Must meet three eligibility criteria:
- Not-for-profit/public
- In a rural area
- One of the eligible facility types

HCF Program: **FCC Form 460**
Telecom Program: **FCC Form 465**

2 — Develop Evaluation Criteria and Request Services

Describe the services you need and develop scoring criteria to evaluate bids. Your request for services is posted to the USAC website for a minimum of 28 days.

HCF Program: **FCC Form 461**
Telecom Program: **FCC Form 465**

3 — Evaluate Bids and Select Service Provider

Once competitive bidding has ended, choose the most "cost-effective" service provider.

4 — Submit Funding Request

Provide information about the services selected: cost, service provider information, and terms of service agreement(s).

HCF Program: **FCC Form 462**
Telecom Program: **FCC Form 466**

5 — Certify Connection

Confirm service start and end dates.

HCF Program: **FCC Form 463**
Telecom Program: **FCC Form 467**

6 — Invoice

Submit invoice before deadline:
- **HCF Program:** Initiate invoicing process by submitting FCC Form 463 to service provider for review and submission to USAC.
- **Telecom Program:** Service provider completes invoicing process.

HCF Program: **FCC Form 463**
Telecom Program: **Invoice**

FCC RHC Programs

Telecommunications Program

- The Telecommunications (Telecom) Program provides reduced rates to rural health care providers (HCPs) for telecommunications and voice services for the use of telemedicine and telehealth. Eligible services are discounted at the difference in cost between urban and rural areas in your state.

USDA DLT Program

What does this program do? This grant program helps rural communities acquire the technology and training necessary to connect educational and medical professionals with students, teachers, and patients in rural areas.

How may funds be used? Grant funds may be used for:

• Audio, video and interactive video equipment
• Broadband facilities that support distance learning or telemedicine
• Computer hardware, network components and software
• Acquisition of instructional programming
• Acquisition of technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment

Who may apply for this program? Eligible applicants that provide education or health care services through telecommunications facilities, include:
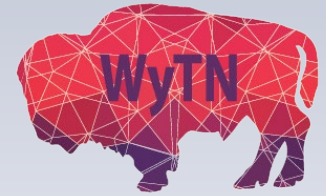
• State and local governmental entities
• Federally recognized Tribes
• Nonprofit organizations
• For-profit businesses
• Consortia of eligible entities

What are some grant requirements?

• Awards can range from $50,000 to $1 million
• A minimum 15 percent match is required and cannot be from another federal source
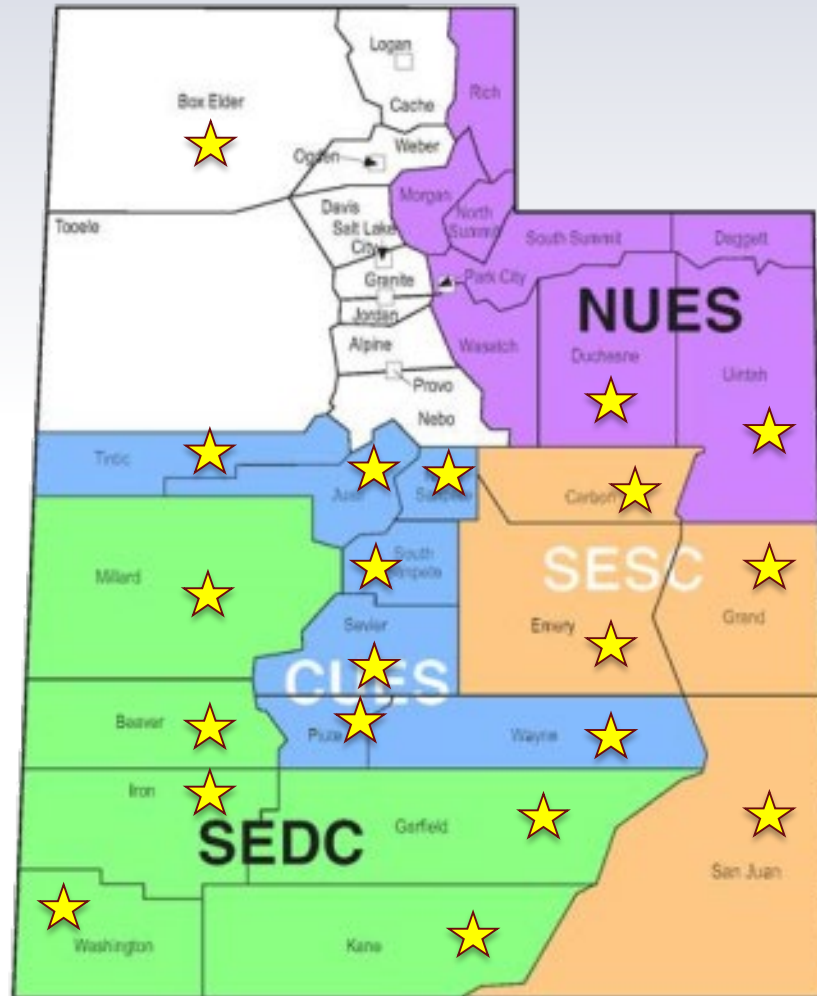
APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 4, 2021
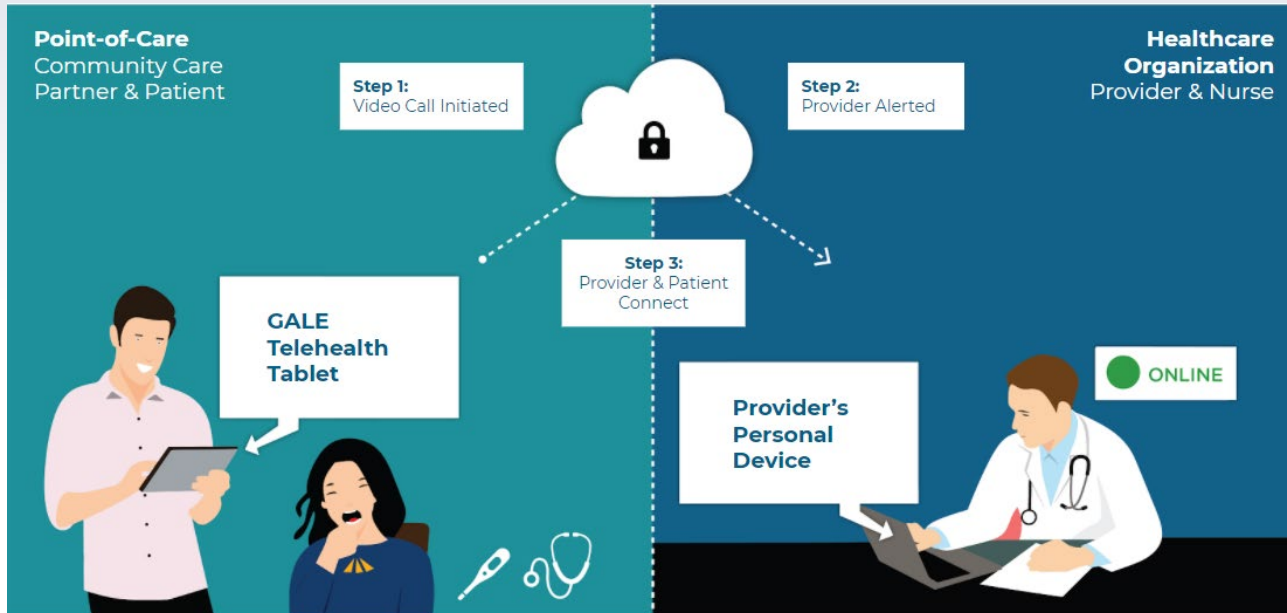
School-Based Telehealth

- 170 schools in 20 rural school districts
- Connect students to School Nurse
- Model of program is important
  - Technology
  - Consent
  - Security & privacy
  - Reimbursement
  - Sustainability
- Mental Health Access

School-Based Telehealth

School-Based Telehealth

School health aid
School secretary, librarian, etc.

What can the remote provider/nurse do
from their end of the camera?

Gale allows both viewing and controlling
of peripheral devices.

Proposed Legislation

Hallways to Health Care Act (May 20, 2021)

The bill was introduced by Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.). If enacted, the Hallways to Health Care Act would:

- Provide $200 million in new funding to help school-based health centers provide comprehensive health care to students nationwide.
- Provide $50 million in new funding specifically for expanding behavioral health care at school-based health centers.
- Provide $100 million for the construction of new clinics and improvements and expansions of existing clinics.
- Create demonstration programs to increase and establish telehealth services at school-based health centers.
- Ensure clinics can receive technical assistance to improve their services.
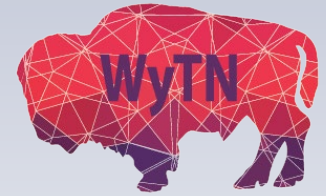
This new bill follows Congress' earlier passage of the School-Based Health Centers Reauthorization Act into law. Enacted in December 2020, this legislation authorizes funding for school-based health centers through 2026.
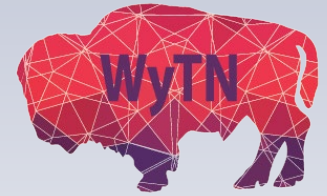
Summary
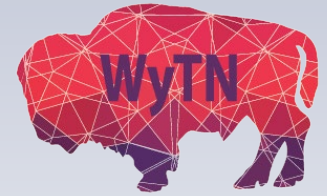
- Federal programs to expand broadband to the school/library, clinic/hospital, and home.

- USDA program to purchase telemedicine equipment

- More funding and programs are coming

- Find the right stakeholders

- Now is the time!

Resources

- FCC E-Rate Program

  https://www.usac.org/e-rate/

- FCC RHC Programs

  https://www.usac.org/rural-health-care/

- FCC EBB Program

  https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit

- FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund Program

  https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-launch-717-billion-connectivity-fund-program-0

- USDA Distance Learning & Telemedicine Program

  https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants

- Hallways to Health Care Act

  https://www.sbh4all.org/2021/05/school-based-health-alliance-celebrates-introduction-of-hallways-to-health-care-act/

Thank you!

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