



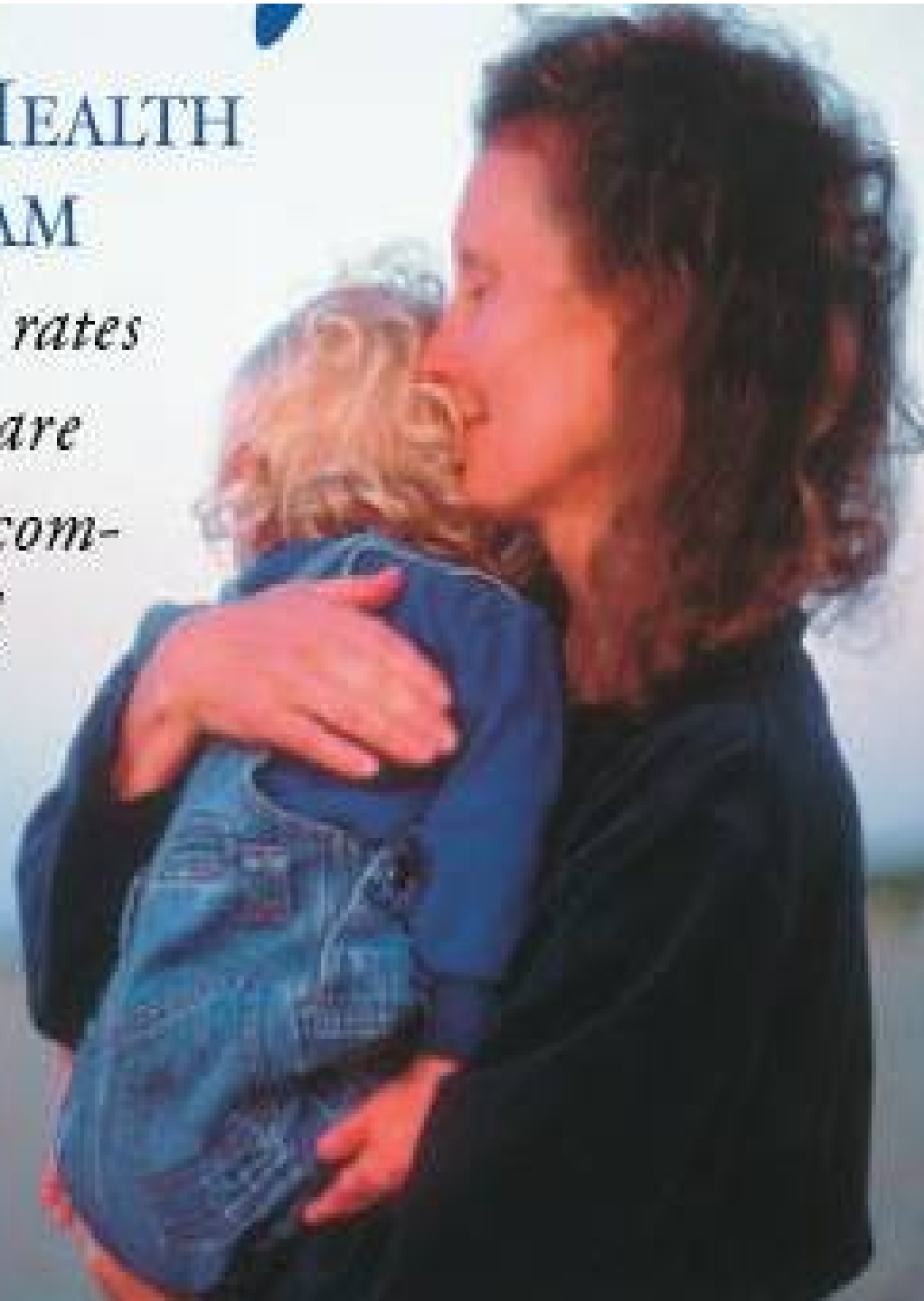
**Health Information Technology Summit
March 29, 2007**

***The Universal Service
Rural Health Care Program
and HIT Support***

**William England
Vice-President, Rural Health Care Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
Washington, D.C.**

The RURAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

*provides reduced rates
to rural health care
providers for telecom-
munications and
Internet services
necessary for the
provision of
health care.*



USAC Organization

FCC

Implemented Universal Svc. Program
of Telecommunications Act of 1996

USAC

(Fund Administration, Billing
Collection & Disbursement)

\$7 Billion

**Rural Health
Care Program
\$45 Million**

**School & Library
(E-Rate) Program
\$2.25 Billion**

**High Cost
Program
\$3.8 Billion**

**Low Income
Program
\$800 Million**

Overview of the USAC Rural Health Care Support Program

- Support for urban/rural cost difference of telecom or 25% of Internet (Access, web hosting, E-mail).
- Service must be for the provision of health care, or prorated if not 100% health care use.
- Support of monthly recurring costs.
- Support of “standard” installation cost (excludes wiring, cabling, equipment, or “build-out”), but new Pilot Program will support build-out.



ELIGIBLE

ENTITIES

Post-secondary institutions offering health care instruction, teaching hospitals, or 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, including mobile clinics



Consortia of HCPs consisting of one or more of the above entities



Part-time eligible entities located in otherwise ineligible facilities



Emergency departments of rural for-profit hospitals

ELIGIBLE

Urban-Rural difference,
if any, or mileage charges for
Telecom Services, such as:

T1, T3, DS3, or Fractional T1

■
ISDN (BRI and PRI)

■
Frame Relay

■
ATM

■
Satellite Service

■
Centrex

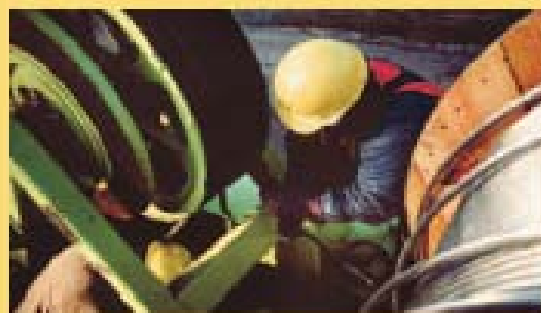
■
Private Line, Foreign
Exchange Line

■
Off-Premise Extension

■
NRS, DID

■
Standard Installation Charges

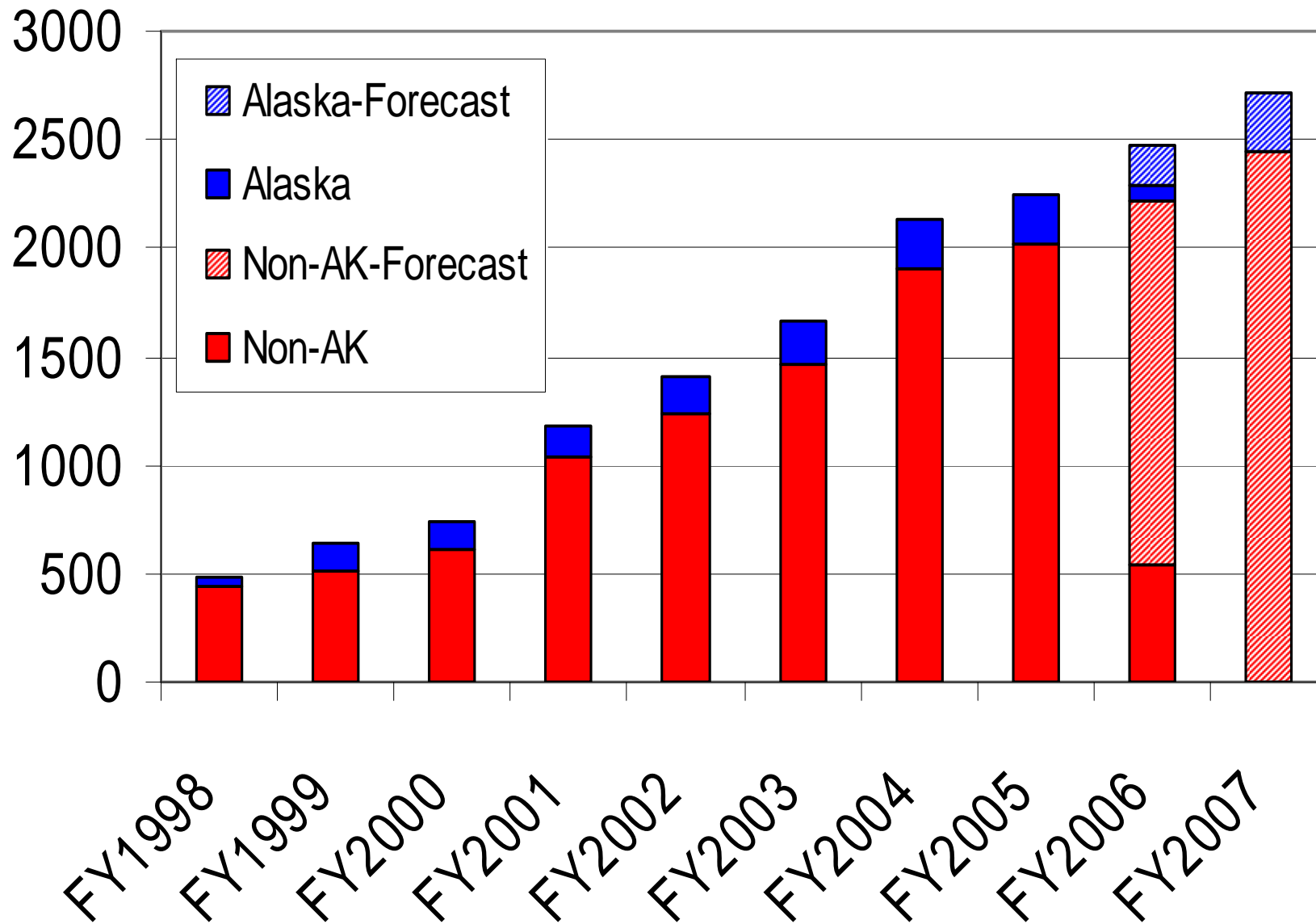
SERVICES



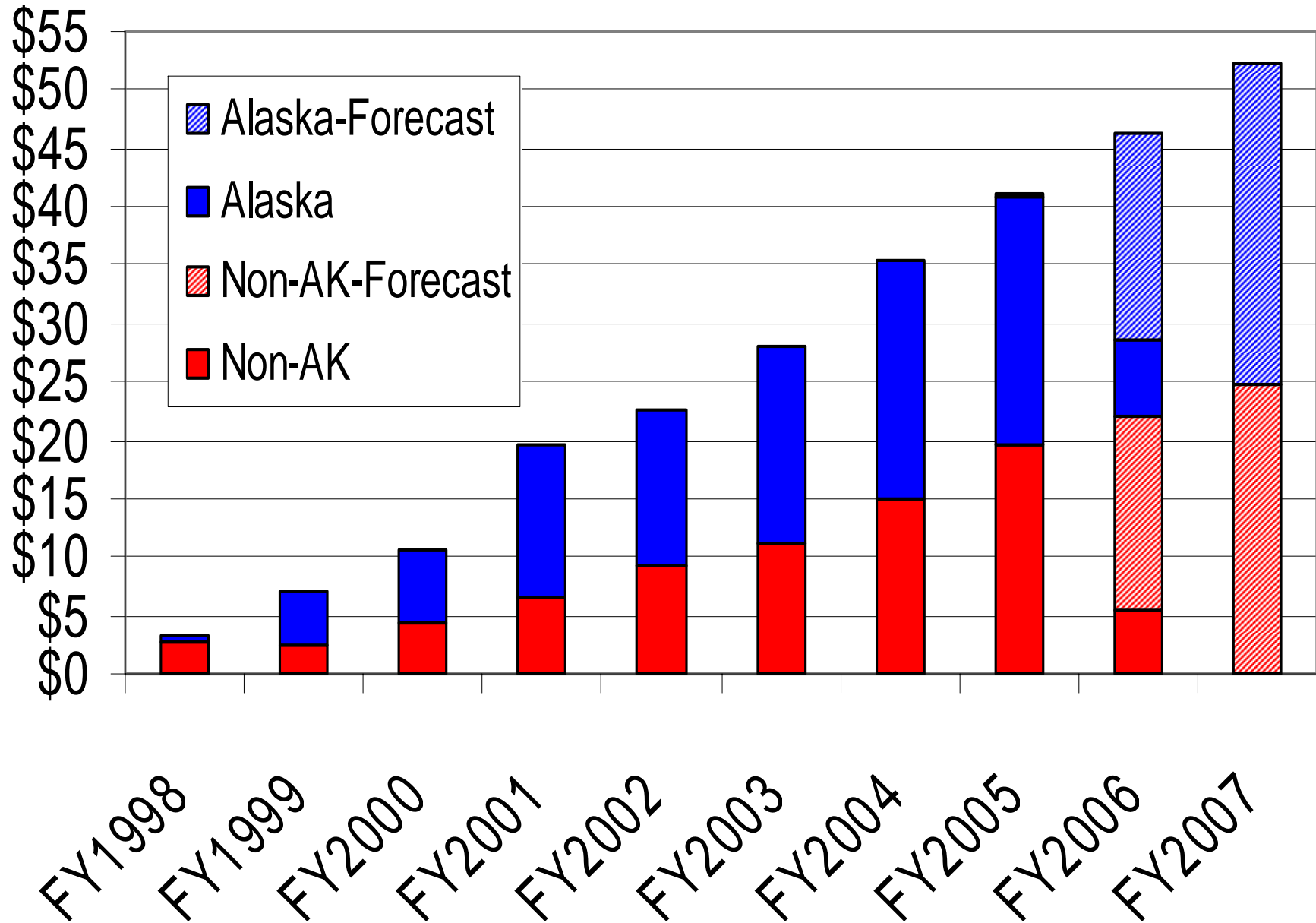
Service Provider Eligibility

- Eligible telecommunications providers (ETPs) may provide discounted telecommunications or Internet service.
- Internet Service Providers (ISPs), cable companies, or others, may only provide discounted Internet access.
- All providers must have a USAC [Service Provider Identification Number](#) (SPIN).

Health Care Providers in Program



Annual Funding Commitments and Forecasts (\$Mil)



USAC Rural Health Care Funding Commitments

State*	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05**	FY06**	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05**	FY06**	Total 98-06
Alabama	4	4	4	5	121		\$9,556	\$25,969	\$28,736	\$18,693	\$340,942		\$437,504
Alaska	145	165	203	229	230	66	\$13,038,014	\$13,240,302	\$16,882,404	\$20,555,405	\$21,121,380	\$6,450,782	\$102,982,317
Arizona	47	57	62	73	71	17	\$672,747	\$1,201,363	\$1,182,242	\$1,207,764	\$1,451,093	\$428,752	\$6,984,348
Arkansas	36	30	36	34	23	12	\$105,966	\$69,264	\$113,247	\$163,213	\$128,976	\$30,990	\$838,635
California	52	70	77	76	74	13	\$235,847	\$354,689	\$378,376	\$564,724	\$538,387	\$35,622	\$2,344,052
Colorado	13	13	15	16	15	1	\$143,968	\$140,658	\$142,852	\$155,686	\$131,810	\$377	\$949,495
Florida	51	51	44	53	15	3	\$180,406	\$249,386	\$259,622	\$351,825	\$181,718	\$60,038	\$1,282,995
Georgia	2	3	5	21	60	26	\$5,770	\$43,465	\$70,580	\$216,861	\$548,429	\$400,729	\$1,285,835
Hawaii	15	16	20	21	20		\$235,701	\$230,975	\$211,966	\$305,536	\$237,388		\$1,632,763
Idaho	17	17	22	28	28		\$57,494	\$110,423	\$212,171	\$136,905	\$123,670		\$752,370
Illinois	19	30	25	68	50	19	\$105,873	\$114,643	\$91,725	\$597,529	\$562,103	\$183,458	\$1,890,179
Indiana		6	8	9	11	10		\$14,672	\$26,375	\$175,949	\$195,019	\$217,941	\$629,955
Iowa	30	40	41	53	54	9	\$105,337	\$160,686	\$186,674	\$218,683	\$310,079	\$61,586	\$1,276,155
Kansas	51	51	62	73	78	14	\$217,135	\$228,222	\$377,833	\$547,697	\$509,183	\$23,191	\$2,327,099
Kentucky	169	162	207	202	87	17	\$359,764	\$540,945	\$480,378	\$919,990	\$244,242	\$28,061	\$2,589,367
Louisiana	1	1	3	6	44	5	\$10,823	\$1,552	\$6,501	\$7,536	\$688,143	\$117,893	\$844,884
Maine	1	4	9	11	19	1	\$19,121	\$43,472	\$83,600	\$42,258	\$47,358	\$1,341	\$238,300
Mariana Isla				7						\$4,938			\$4,938
Maryland					1						\$418		\$418
Massachusetts				1	2	2				\$1,638	\$35,487	\$52,751	\$90,123
Michigan	49	49	50	75	62	7	\$519,210	\$597,812	\$570,029	\$835,089	\$793,422	\$88,205	\$4,126,995
Minnesota	81	91	102	139	162	50	\$707,680	\$894,318	\$1,006,345	\$1,030,301	\$1,504,429	\$484,966	\$6,651,453
Mississippi	9	16	14	25	25	6	\$34,946	\$80,628	\$113,353	\$175,424	\$208,791	\$11,829	\$725,269
Missouri	12	11	27	29	21	6	\$36,646	\$49,883	\$111,082	\$124,185	\$92,273	\$76,426	\$650,877
Montana	52	56	61	62	59	11	\$466,812	\$510,429	\$551,206	\$582,426	\$526,640	\$136,706	\$3,518,676
Nebraska	24	29	33	76	92	40	\$454,358	\$549,256	\$615,389	\$857,484	\$1,558,992	\$503,726	\$5,347,447
Nevada	19	18	18	10	7		\$81,330	\$65,337	\$66,767	\$64,099	\$37,478		\$378,479
New Hamps	1			2	2		\$251			\$5,388	\$4,873		\$65,917
New Mexico	38	25	50	55	45	11	\$193,661	\$238,893	\$317,874	\$276,523	\$404,849	\$47,972	\$1,887,808
New York	2	3	3	8	15	8	\$12,662	\$20,620	\$14,252	\$41,782	\$41,876	\$44,927	\$301,914
North Caroli	16	21	16	22	16		\$147,732	\$196,481	\$149,423	\$199,975	\$152,304		\$1,115,722
North Dakot	44	49	58	89	87	53	\$394,718	\$478,202	\$460,135	\$577,294	\$731,268	\$554,074	\$3,925,534
Ohio	4	9	8	10	9	4	\$11,405	\$124,651	\$142,734	\$196,045	\$167,869	\$65,604	\$783,163
Oklahoma	12	25	35	35	26	4	\$63,918	\$75,955	\$106,114	\$168,105	\$232,458	\$144,227	\$876,107
Oregon	15	15	9	11	9		\$65,934	\$55,583	\$21,586	\$40,054	\$11,868		\$268,592
Pennsylvania	6	7	13	17	11	1	\$3,193	\$12,211	\$47,646	\$80,716	\$85,746	\$948	\$282,046
South Carolin	2	2	3	11	16	7	\$7,751	\$20,974	\$7,323	\$45,433	\$57,699	\$20,469	\$205,143
South Dakot	37	45	49	76	80	33	\$262,199	\$374,660	\$421,819	\$574,325	\$995,541	\$581,343	\$3,499,710
Tennessee	7	26	14	29	40	10	\$21,396	\$81,733	\$31,717	\$97,352	\$178,764	\$76,283	\$513,076
Texas	16	9	28	37	64	1	\$48,218	\$33,054	\$139,929	\$451,913	\$1,503,377	\$25,024	\$2,420,981
Utah	8	21	28	36	36	1	\$123,816	\$400,322	\$687,450	\$661,538	\$752,228	\$1,449	\$2,656,339
Vermont			3	9	12	11			\$1,265	\$35,336	\$82,653	\$83,523	\$207,418
Virgin Island	10	8	9	12	11		\$96,872	\$66,209	\$115,575	\$113,841	\$101,021		\$590,317
Virginia	9	20	28	50	57	94	\$135,861	\$195,418	\$166,495	\$364,973	\$338,473	\$485,280	\$1,801,753
Washington	26	29	28	31	27	4	\$64,359	\$78,333	\$68,591	\$88,533	\$82,778	\$7,662	\$523,867
West Virgini	8	8	29	20	19	5	\$61,401	\$49,022	\$123,204	\$131,324	\$135,037	\$31,509	\$559,056
Wisconsin	23	82	92	170	222	29	\$72,234	\$425,357	\$987,303	\$1,459,699	\$2,402,978	\$224,559	\$5,614,290
Wyoming	11	12	12	9	13	1	\$96,742	\$155,387	\$155,530	\$109,001	\$125,409	\$17,201	\$714,688
Totals	1194	1406	1663	2141	2248	612	\$19,688,828	\$22,601,413	\$27,935,420	\$35,580,991	\$40,706,916	\$11,807,424	\$179,594,370

* There are no rural areas in DC. There were no applications from CT, DE, PR, or RI.

** Applications as of 2/2/07. FY05 estimated 96% complete, FY06 25% complete.

Completed years may be adjusted for pending appeals.

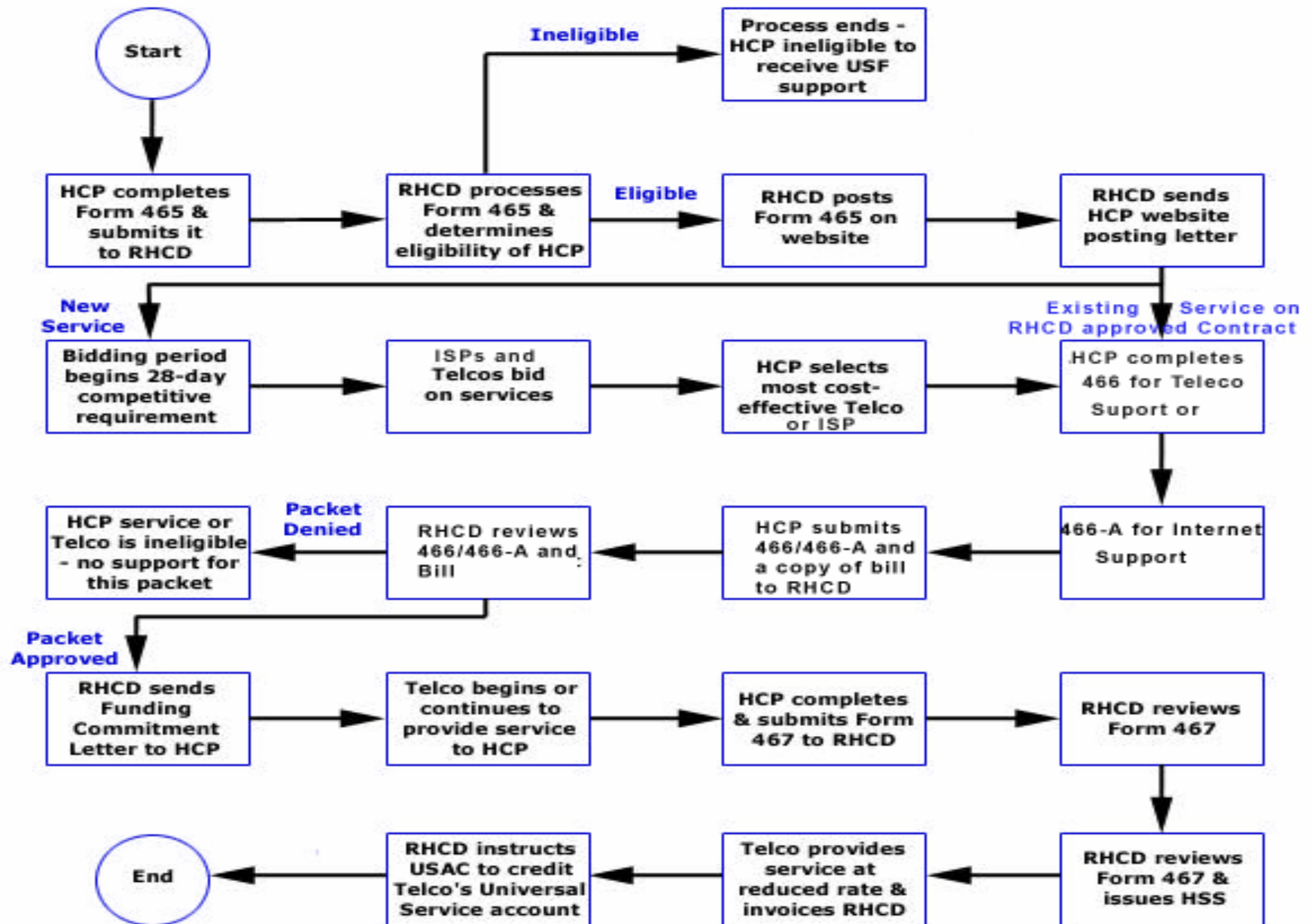
www.rhc.universalservice.org

ph 800-229-5476 Mon-Fri 8 AM-8 PM EST

Rural Health Care Division

Universal Service Admin. Company

Process Map



Need Help?

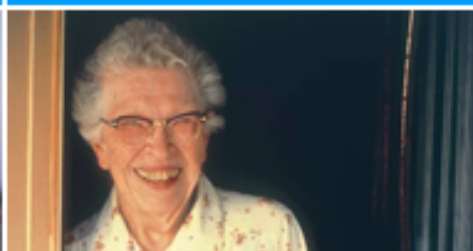
Search



USAC administers the Universal Service Fund providing communities across America with affordable telecommunications services.

Helping Keep Americans Connected

▶ **About USAC**



Fund Administration ▶

The fund is maintained through contributions made by telecommunications providers across the country and is disbursed based on four primary support programs.

High Cost

High Cost support ensures that consumers in all regions of the Nation have access to and pay rates for telecom services that are reasonably comparable to those in urban areas.

Rural Health Care

Rural Health Care support provides reduced rates to rural health care providers for telecom and Internet services so they pay no more than their urban counterparts for the same or similar services.

Low Income

Low Income support, commonly known as Lifeline and Link Up, provides discounts that make basic, local telephone service affordable for more than 7 million Americans.

Schools and Libraries

Schools & Libraries support goes to service providers that provide discounts on eligible services to eligible schools, school districts, libraries, and consortia of these entities.



Helping Keep Americans Connected



Rural Health Care

▶ Health Care Providers

▶ Service Providers

About Rural Health Care:

- ▶ [Overview of the Program](#)
- ▶ [Overview of the Process](#)
- ▶ [Monthly Conference Calls](#)
- ▶ [Understanding Audits](#)
- ▶ [Filing Appeals](#)
- ▶ [Rural Health Care Pilot Program](#)

Rural Health Care Tools:

- ▶ [Applicant Login](#)
- ▶ [Calendar/Reminders](#)
- ▶ [Required Forms](#)
- ▶ [Tips and Best Practices](#)
- ▶ [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- ▶ [Glossary of Terms](#)
- ▶ [Rural Health Care Search Tools](#)
- ▶ [Latest News](#)
- ▶ [Program Compliance - Whistleblower Hotline](#)



Health Care Providers

The Rural Health Care Program of the Universal Service Fund makes discounts available to eligible rural health care providers for telecommunication services and monthly Internet service charges. The program is intended to ensure that rural health care providers pay no more for telecommunications in the provision of health care services than their urban counterparts.

Service Providers

The Rural Health Care Program reimburses telecommunications and Internet service providers for services provided to rural health care providers. While health care providers apply for these discounts, USAC works in conjunction with service providers to make sure these discounts are passed on to program participants.

Latest News, Important Notices, and Reminders

	Latest News:	FCC Expands Eligibility To Include National LambdaRail's Backbone In Rural Health Care Pilot (2/23/07)
	Latest News:	Federal Communications Commission Adopts Pilot Program Under Rural Health Care Mechanism (9/28/06)

Hurricane Katrina Universal Service Fund Relief Information ▶

Last modified on 2/23/2007

Helping Keep Americans Connected



Rural Health Care

Health Care Providers

Service Providers

About Rural Health Care:

- Overview of the Program
- Overview of the Process
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Rural Health Care Tools:

- Applicant Login
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- Glossary of Terms
- Rural Health Care Search Tools
- Latest News
- Program Compliance - Whistleblower Hotline

- Step 1: Determine Eligibility
- Step 2: Submit a Service Request
- Step 3: Evaluating and Accepting a Bid for Service
- Step 4: Sign a Contract for Service
- Step 5: Submit Service Agreement Form
- Step 6: Receive Funding Commitment Letter
- Step 7: Submit Confirmation of Service
- Step 8: Receive Support Schedule
- Step 9: Receive Credit for Service

Service Providers

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Last modified on 2/23/2007



Rural Health Care

Health Care Providers

Service Providers

About Rural Health Care:

- Overview of the Program
- Overview of the Process
- Monthly Conference Calls
- Understanding Audits
- Filing Appeals
- Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Rural Health Care Tools:

- Applicant Login
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Step 1: Determine Eligibility

Step 2: Search Service Requests

Step 3: Provide Bids for Service

Step 4: Sign a Contract for Service

Step 5: Receive Funding Commitment Letter

Step 6: Receive Support Schedule

Step 7: Credit Health Care Provider for Service

Step 8: Send Invoice

Step 9: Receive Invoice Status Report

Latest News, Important Notices, and Reminders



Latest News:

[FCC Expands Eligibility To Include National LambdaRail's Backbone In Rural Health Care Pilot \(2/23/07\)](#)



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About Rural Health Care:

- Overview of the Program
- Overview of the Process
- Monthly Conference Calls
- Understanding Audits
- Filing Appeals
- Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Rural Health Care Tools:

- Applicant Login
- Calendar/Reminders
- Required Forms
- Tips and Best Practices
- Frequently Asked Questions
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Monthly Conference Calls

The Rural Health Care Program hosts a monthly outreach conference call for applicants and service providers on the second Thursday of each month at 2 P.M., EST.

Monthly conference calls are a forum in which applicants and service providers can raise issues and concerns or seek clarification of program rules or requirements. USAC provides an agenda for the calls followed by a general question and answer period. USAC staff moderate the calls. *Please read the [Conference Call Guidelines](#) below before participating.*

Participants may begin calling in 10 minutes before the call begins.

Phone Number: 1-800-240-9939

Pass Code: 6772932# (be sure to press the pound key after entering the numbers)

You can access the Conference Call Agenda and Minutes by clicking on the date of the conference call.

2007

- [January 11, 2007](#)

2006

- [December 13, 2006](#)
- [November 9, 2006](#)
- [October 12, 2006](#)
- [September 14, 2006](#)
- August 10, 2006 (cancelled)
- [July 13, 2006](#)
- [June 8, 2006](#)
- [May 11, 2006](#)

Rural Health Care

About Rural Health Care

- [Overview of the Program](#)
- [Overview of the Process](#)
- [Monthly Conference Calls](#)
- [Understanding Audits](#)
- [Filing Appeals](#)

Rural Health Care Tools

- [Calendar/Reminders](#)
- [Required Forms](#)
- [Tips and Best Practices](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Glossary of Terms](#)
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List of Eligible Rural Areas

Select a State

The following instructions and the directory of rural areas will help you determine whether your organization is located in a rural area.

To find your state and county:

1. Select your state in the drop-down menu below.
2. Click on the Search Button.
3. A list of counties will display at the bottom of this page.
4. Scroll through the counties listed for your state; the counties are listed in alphabetical order.
5. If your county is listed, and there is an N/A in the exception field, your organization is located in a rural area.
6. If your county is listed, and there are notes in the exception field, see instructions on determining your Census Tract Number or BNA.

To determine your county's Census Tract Number or BNA:

To determine your county's Census Tract Number or BNA, you can call your [regional census bureau office](#) or visit the [FFIEC Web Site](#).

1. You must select "Year 2004" on the FFIEC web site and use the 2000 Census
2. Type in your organization's street address and click the Search button
3. Write down the Tract/BNA number displayed
4. Return to the RHCD Web Site
5. Please read the exceptions column closely to determine whether your organization is considered rural or not. If you have any questions, please contact the [Customer Service Support Center](#) at 1-800-229-5476.

Rural Health Care

About Rural Health Care

- [Overview of the Program](#)
- [Overview of the Process](#)
- [Monthly Conference Calls](#)
- [Understanding Audits](#)
- [Filing Appeals](#)

Rural Health Care Tools

- [Calendar/Reminders](#)
- [Required Forms](#)
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- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
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Search Posted Services

Enter Search Criteria then press the '**Search Postings**' button. Additional information regarding this search feature and posted information can be found by viewing the [Search Posting Instructions](#) page.



Tips:

- ▶ If you are searching for a specific HCP, enter the HCP number in the appropriate field and click on Search.
- ▶ If you are not searching for a specific HCP, enter information into a combination of fields and click on Search. The results will list all HCPs that match the criteria specified.

Fund Year	<input type="radio"/> Funding Year 2006 (7/1/06 - 6/30/07) <input type="radio"/> Funding Year 2005 (7/1/05 - 6/30/06) <input type="radio"/> Funding Year 2004 (7/1/04 - 6/30/05)
HCP Number	<input type="text"/>
HCP Name	<input type="text"/>
City	<input type="text"/>
County	<input type="text"/>
State	<input type="text"/>
Date Posted (mm/dd/yyyy)	
From	<input type="text"/>
To	<input type="text"/>
Search	



Rural Health Care

▶ [Health Care Providers](#)

▶ [Service Providers](#)

About Rural Health Care:

- [Overview of the Program](#)
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- [Monthly Conference Calls](#)
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Rural Health Care Tools:

- [Applicant Login](#)
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- [Required Forms](#)
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Required Forms

The forms may be revised each funding year. Applicants must use the correct funding year form to participate.

Applicants are encouraged, if possible, to e-cert and submit their forms electronically.

Additional Forms

- ▶ [Additional USAC Forms](#)
- ▶ [Fund Year 2005](#)
- ▶ [Fund Year 2004](#)
- ▶ [Fund Year 2003](#)
- ▶ [Fund Year 2002](#)

Fund Year 2006

FY 2006 Form 465

Description of Services Requested & Certification Form

[Apply Online](#) or

Download only:  52kb |  26kb


[View instructions](#)

Download:  93kb |  23kb



FY 2006 Form 466

Description of Services Requested & Certification Form

[Apply Online](#) or

Download only:  52kb |  1,125kb

[View instructions](#)

Download:  118kb |  80kb

FY 2006 Form 466-A

Description of Services Requested & Certification Form

[Apply Online](#) or

Commitments by Applicant Type

<u>HCP Type</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005*</u>
Educational Inst	10	9	4	0	7	12	19	7
Comm Health Ctr	34	75	78	88	137	132	204	236
Local Health Dept.	3	10	21	185	207	247	323	294
Com Mental Hlth Ct	50	43	30	82	87	128	177	175
Hospital	212	279	302	370	495	534	692	730
Rural Health Clinic	187	221	308	469	473	604	720	761
Total	496	637	743	1194	1406	1657	2138	2224

*Year 2005 estimated 96% complete (2/2/07).

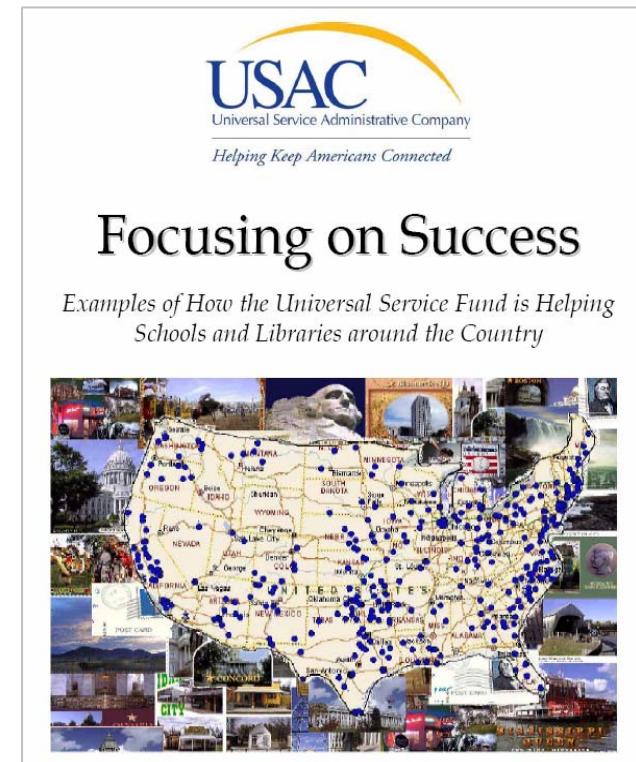
RHC Non-AK Commitments

<u>Year</u>	<u>HCPs</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Avg/HCP</u>
1997-8	450	\$2,768,636	\$6,153
1999	510	\$2,435,809	\$4,776
2000	615	\$4,374,904	\$7,114
2001	1049	\$6,650,814	\$6,340
2002	1241	\$9,361,111	\$7,543
2003	1460	\$11,053,015	\$7,571
2004	1912	\$15,025,586	\$7,859
2005*	2018	\$19,585,536	\$9,705
2006*	546	\$5,356,642	\$9,811

*Yr 05 estimated 96% complete, Yr 06 25% (2/2/07)

Site Visit Outreach Initiative

- Site Visit Program
 - The focus of the program is on outreach and compliance
 - Initially, started with the Schools and Libraries Program
 - USAC conducted 950 site visits to schools, libraries and high cost beneficiaries in 2006
 - Expanded to all four programs in 2007



Rural Health Care Site Visit Outreach Initiative

- Beginning in March 2007, USAC will conduct 50 site visits of RHC program recipients.
- The focus of these visits will be to:
 - view USF support in use
 - assess USAC's outreach and education efforts
 - observe best practices in the field
 - ensure that program funds are being used in compliance with regulatory requirements

Improper Payments Information Act (2002)

- Covers all FCC payment programs
- For 2006-7, auditing 85 RHC program applicants
- Contracted public audit firms doing the work
- Final Report to Congress will be public
- Expected to be an annual requirement
- Audits cover
 - Competitive bidding process
 - Timely payment of non-discounted portion
 - Amounts received and invoiced to USAC
 - Eligibility of products and services
- USAC internal audits also continue

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2006

FCC ADOPTS PILOT PROGRAM UNDER RURAL HEALTH CARE MECHANISM

*Pilot will Enhance Access Health Care Providers' Access to
Advanced Telecommunications and Information Services*

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted an Order that establishes a pilot program to help public and non-profit health care providers build state and region-wide broadband networks dedicated to the provision of health care services, and connect those networks to Internet2, a dedicated nationwide backbone...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2007

**FCC EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY TO INCLUDE NATIONAL
LAMBDA RAIL'S BACKBONE IN RURAL HEALTH CARE
PILOT**

Washington, D.C. – The [FCC] today expanded eligibility in [the] pilot program to include connections to National LambdaRail, Inc. [NLR, a non-profit backbone provider], in addition to Internet2....

The Commission also extended the deadline for applications ...by an additional 30 days. The new deadline...will be 60 days after [approval of the information collection] from ...OMB. The FCC will [give Public Notice of approval] at (the FCC's pilot project website).

Pilot Program - Facts

- Support for up to 85% of cost to construct and operate state or regional broadband network and for “services” provided over the network.
- Pilot is capped at \$100M minus current program (~\$47-53M) or about \$50M/yr for 2 years.
- Non-eligible HCPs can use network, but must pay their direct or “fair share” of cost.
- Urban HCPs are eligible, but rural component must be significant.

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RURAL HEALTH CARE PILOT PROGRAM

Enhancing Health Care Providers' Access to Advanced Telecommunications

Headlines

Daily Digest | Daily Business

2/23/07

FCC Chairman and Commissioners Statements at Public Hearing on Media Ownership in Harrisburg, PA.

Martin Statement: Word | Acrobat

Copps Statement: Word | Acrobat

Adelstein Statement: Word | Acrobat

Tate Statement: Word | Acrobat

McDowell Statement: Word | Acrobat

2/23/07

Chairman Kevin J. Martin Announces His Intention to Appoint Derek Poarch Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Chief.

News Release: Word | Acrobat

2/21/07

FCC Announces Further Details for Public Hearing on Media Ownership in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Public Notice: Word | Acrobat

2/21/07

FCC to Accept Law Student Applications This Winter for the 2007 Attorney Honors Program.

News Release: Word | Acrobat

2/20/07

FCC Conditionally Grants Qwest Forbearance Relief From Dominant Carrier Regulation of In-region, Interstate, Interlata Telecommunications Services Provided on an Integrated Basis.

Public Notice: Word | Acrobat

Commissioners Copps and Adelstein Joint Statement: Word | Acrobat

Commissioners

Kevin J. Martin

Chairman

Michael J. Copps

Commissioner

Jonathan S. Adelstein

Commissioner

Deborah Taylor Tate

Commissioner

Robert M. McDowell

Commissioner

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The FCC has initiated a pilot funding program to facilitate the creation of a nationwide broadband network dedicated to health care, connecting public and private non-profit health care providers in rural and urban locations. Set forth below is information about this pilot program, including:

- 1) [FCC Orders and News Releases](#) about the pilot program;
- 2) An overview of the program in [PDF slide presentation](#) format;
- 3) Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQs](#));

Please Note: The overview of the pilot program and the FAQs are provided for general informational purposes only, and should not be considered official summaries of the FCC order adopting the program. Both the overview of the program and the FAQs may be updated periodically. Interested parties may wish to check this web page accordingly.



Notices & Press Releases

02/06/07

FCC Expands Eligibility for Backbone Connections in Rural Health Pilot.

News Release: [Word](#) | [PDF](#)

Order: [Word](#) | [PDF](#)

11/21/06

FCC Launches "Rural Health Care Pilot Program" Website.

News Release: [Word](#) | [PDF](#)

Pilot Program – Facts

- Applications due to the FCC during a 30 day window to open after OMB clearance.
- OMB's Federal Register Notice published October 18, 2006 (71 FR 61,469).
- Established a 60-day Comment Cycle with Comments due December 18, 2006.
- OBM approval usually takes 120 to 150 days from publication of notice (~Feb 16-Mar 18, 2007)

Pilot Program - Facts

- When OBM announces approval, the FCC will issue a public notice informing applicants that the 60 day application period is starting.
- Applicants can start writing applications now. No special form will be used.
- RHCD will notify current applicants of Pilot Program window opening by email.

Pilot Program - Facts

- Applicants must comply with FCC rules for the existing program including competitive bidding, certifications, 28 day posting, conflict of interest, etc, but may seek a waiver in their application of rules as necessary for their proposed project.
- FCC will select networks, who will then follow regular RHC application process (465/466/467).
- First Year applicants can seek 2nd year funding and new applicants can apply in 2nd year.

Pilot Program - Applications

- Identify applicant organization and health care facilities to be in network including address and RUCA code;
- Identify network goals and objectives;
- Estimate network annual cost;
- Describe how for-profits pay their fair share;
- Identify funding source for cost not covered by USF;

Pilot Program - Applications

- Indicate previous experience in developing and managing telemedicine programs;
- Outline project management plan including leadership, work plan, schedule, and budget;
- Indicate how the telemedicine program will be coordinated throughout the state or region;
- Indicate extent that network can be self-sustaining.

Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act

(1) EVALUATION- The Secretary [of HHS], in consultation with the Federal Communications Commission and other relevant Federal agencies, shall--

(A) conduct an inventory of telehealth initiatives in existence on the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, including--

- (i) the specific location of network components;
- (ii) the medical, technological, and communications capabilities of such components;
- (iii) the functionality of such components; and
- (iv) the capacity and ability of such components to handle increased volume during the response to a public health emergency;

(B) identify methods to expand and interconnect the regional health information networks funded by the Secretary, the State and regional broadband networks funded through the rural health care support mechanism pilot program funded by the Federal Communications Commission, and other telehealth networks;

USAC Rural Health Care Program

www.universalservice.org/rhc/
202-776-0200



RHC Service Desk=>
800-229-5476
Monday-Friday
8 AM-8 PM

