

APRIL 03, 2020

## FCC ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF \$200 MILLION COVID-19 TELEHEALTH PROGRAM

On April 2, 2020, the FCC released its **Report and Order**, establishing the rules for participation in its recently announced COVID-19 Telehealth Program (the “Program”). Through the Program, the FCC will provide eligible health care providers with 100 percent of the costs of the telecommunications, information services and connected devices (i.e. remote monitoring devices, such as pulse-ox, BP monitoring device, but only if they are connected) necessary to provide remote telehealth services, up to \$1 million per applicant. Consistent with other FCC programs, in order to be eligible for participation in the Program, health care providers must be nonprofit or public, and fall within one of the following categories:

- (1) Not-for-profit hospitals;
- (2) Post-secondary educational institutions;
- (3) Community health centers or mental health centers;
- (4) Local health departments or agencies;
- (5) Community mental health centers;
- (6) Rural health clinics;
- (7) Skilled nursing facilities; or
- (8) Consortia of health care providers consisting of one or more entities falling into the first seven categories.

In addition, although applicants need not have active COVID-19 cases to be eligible for participation in the Program, requested funds must be used to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus epidemic.” However, the FCC has indicated that it has a “strong interest in targeting funding toward areas that have been hardest hit by COVID-19.”

Upon publication of the Report and Order and notice of Office of Management Budget's approval of the information collection requirements in the Federal Register, the FCC will begin accepting applications on a rolling basis until either the \$200 Million dollar budget has been exhausted or the current COVID-19 pandemic has ended, whichever occurs first. Although the exact application form has yet to be released, we recommend that interested parties begin collecting the necessary information for completion of the application.

If you would like assistance in collecting the necessary information, have interest in submitting an application to the Program or have questions with respect to eligibility for the Program, please contact:

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