RURAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

In 2015, the Rural Health Care (RHC) Program team continued working towards expanding health care provider access to broadband services through the implementation of the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program. In rural areas, the formation of state and regional broadband networks allow critical resources from non-rural health care providers, such as hospitals, to be shared with their rural partners. These networks continued to grow as more consortium participants joined the HCF Program in 2015. To support that growth, we have made robust system enhancements intended to improve both the information collected and the customer experience.

Over the past year, our focus has been on ensuring that changes to our tools are in line with the needs of the different types of participants in both the HCF and Telecommunications (Telecom) programs. Feedback from our stakeholders has directly impacted system enhancements that allow for both more efficient review cycles and easier processes for the end user.

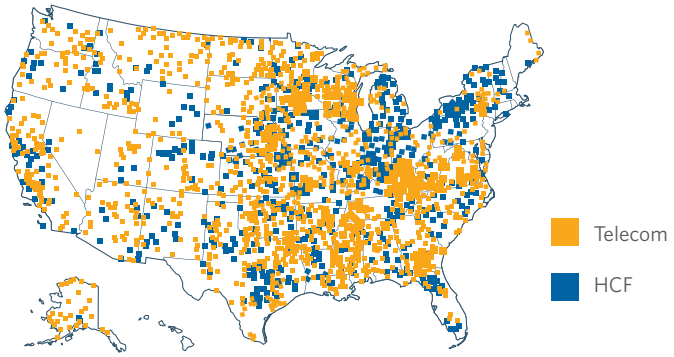
To gather this feedback, we launched targeted outreach campaigns, leveraging relationships with current applicants. We also reached out to new and existing partner organizations, such as state offices of rural health, in an effort to reach potential applicants. Our strengthened relationships with current applicants have given us valuable insight into the overall successes of the program and highlighted where gaps exist, better positioning us to support the FCC with evolving program guidance.

Through relationship building with stakeholders, we get an opportunity to learn about instances of program success. One such example of an applicant demonstrating success in the RHC Program is a rural health system, originally selected as a Pilot Program project several years ago. This consortium now participates in the HCF Program with several dozen sites. The consortium's network has made it possible for quality care to reach even the smallest towns in its state. This has significantly enhanced the range of treatments patients can receive close to home.

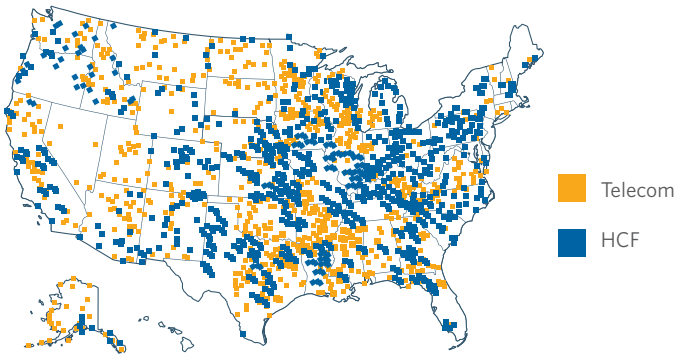
These rural health system sites are receiving funding that is critical for the increased bandwidth necessary to support telemedicine. They are also using their learning and the dollars they have saved to help bring cutting edge solutions to rural areas. Through HCF Program network connections, treatments being developed through major urban research institutions are now being implemented more quickly in rural areas.

This success is one example of how we hope RHC Program funds will be used to impact the health of people in rural regions across the United States. In 2016, we will continue to ensure that universal service program funds better support the communications needs of health care providers in rural areas.

RHC PROGRAM COMMITMENTS IN 2015



RHC PROGRAM AUTHORIZED SUPPORT IN 2015



2015 UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM STATISTICS

The following pages contain data from the four universal service programs administered by USAC. To better understand the data, please note the difference between authorized support and funding commitments as well as funding year versus calendar year.

FUNDING YEAR

For the Rural Health Care and Schools and Libraries programs, a funding year runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

CALENDAR YEAR

The High Cost and Lifeline programs disburse funds on a calendar year basis. Data in these tables are for calendar year 2015.

AUTHORIZED SUPPORT

Authorized support represents funding that has been approved for disbursement for January through December 2015. It does not include recoveries from audits, appeals, or other enforcement actions during that timeframe.

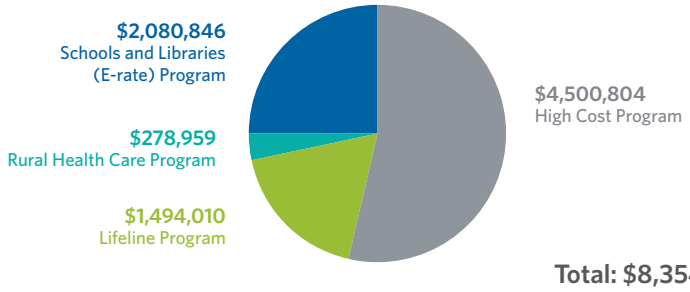
FUNDING COMMITMENTS

Funding commitments are not disbursements. Funding commitments are issued by the Rural Health Care and Schools and Libraries programs via commitment letters that approve what will be funded through support for a particular funding year.

Commitments made in calendar year 2015 may be for applications filed during previous funding years and/or the current funding year.

2015 AUTHORIZED SUPPORT BY PROGRAM

Unaudited (in thousands)



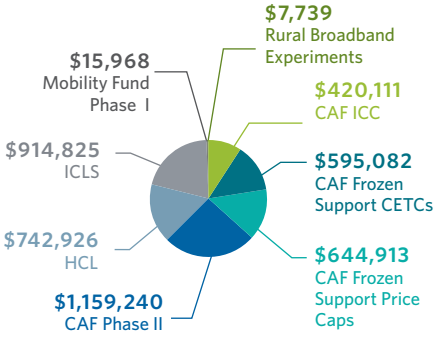
Total: $8,354,619

HIGH COST PROGRAM

Authorized Support By Year

2015 High Cost Authorized Support

(in thousands)

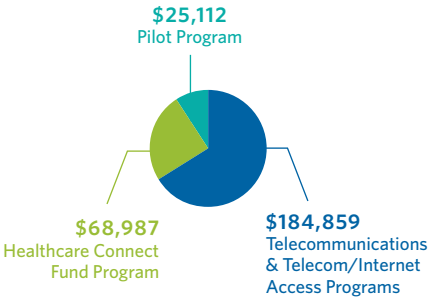


RURAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

Authorized Support By Year

2015 Rural Health Care Authorized Support

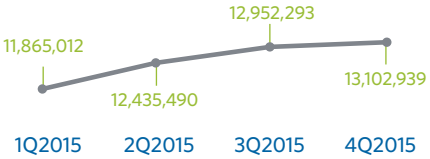
(in thousands)



LIFELINE PROGRAM

Authorized Support By Year

Subscribers Supported

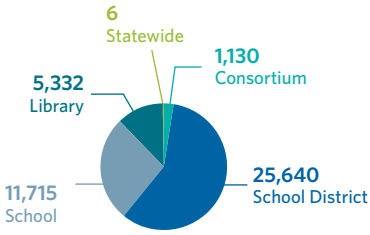


Note: Quarterly numbers are averages.

SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES PROGRAM

Authorized Support By Year

Applications Funded, Funding Year 2015



RURAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM Commitments, 2015 (Unaudited | in thousands)

State	CALENDAR YEAR 2015 Telecommunications & Telecom/Internet Access Programs	Healthcare Connect Fund Program	Total Commitments 2015	Total Commitments 1998-2015
Alabama	$ 2,889	$ 817	$ 3,721	$ 12,135
Alaska	126,847	338	128,686	566,311
American Samoa	0	0	0	1,512
Arizona	1,770	896	2,706	27,136
Arkansas	4,581	11,005	15,623	30,590
California	9,423	7,888	17,852	87,292
Colorado	563	2,165	2,749	23,585
Connecticut	3	23	24	54
Delaware	0	0	0	1
District of Columbia	0	0	0	18
Florida	606	3,901	4,411	8,921
Georgia	8,175	1,926	10,256	37,454
Guam	0	47	47	814
Hawaii	0	7	7	7,230
Idaho	1,120	962	2,094	6,041
Illinois	2,376	3,213	5,647	43,976
Indiana	2,804	3,591	6,471	28,589
Iowa	403	4,989	5,541	30,599
Kansas	2,118	1,236	3,522	10,311
Kentucky	2,968	3,435	6,471	19,758
Louisiana	1,520	865	2,409	21,052
Maine	15	47	63	25,933
Maryland	19	251	278	1,374
Massachusetts	16	1,185	1,201	2,199
Michigan	768	2,998	3,904	42,779
Minnesota	2,189	1,329	3,524	38,035
Mississippi	8,996	2,897	11,932	20,161
Missouri	2,844	3,151	6,049	17,401
Montana	608	284	882	27,293
Nebraska	2,134	603	2,708	38,459
Nevada	707	236	945	2,198
New Hampshire	12	261	279	564
New Jersey	0	0	0	0
New Mexico	971	3,918	4,895	28,444
New York	247	3,710	3,970	25,782
North Carolina	1,269	11,349	12,707	39,442
North Dakota	1,586	886	2,498	14,751
Northern Mariana Islands	0	6	6	48
Ohio	662	2,004	2,742	36,020
Oklahoma	6,080	7,931	14,140	33,384
Oregon	512	2,139	2,662	41,801
Pennsylvania	33	1,788	1,848	12,466
Puerto Rico	0	45	45	45
Rhode Island	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	19	1,808	1,833	17,723
South Dakota	319	100	419	19,135
Tennessee	4,554	801	5,393	11,995
Texas	18,598	3,734	22,702	65,442
Utah	404	28	489	18,425
Vermont	0	207	208	1,037
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	852
Virginia	5,196	3,733	8,966	24,324
Washington	341	1,394	1,750	3,847
West Virginia	564	650	1,236	15,289
Wisconsin	6,422	3,681	10,141	72,818
Wyoming	149	331	493	4,333
Total	**$ 234,398**	**$ 110,786**	**$ 349,140**	**$ 1,667,176**

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding. No Pilot Program commitments were made during calendar year 2015.

RURAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM Authorized Support,[1] 2015 (Unaudited | in thousands)

State	CALENDAR YEAR 2015 Telecommunications & Telecom/Internet Access Programs	Healthcare Connect Fund Program	Pilot Program	Total Authorized Support 2015	Total Support[2] 1998-2015
Alabama	$ 1,758	$876	$0	$2,634	$9,448
Alaska	97,727	194	0	97,921	500,564
American Samoa	0	0	0	0	1,419
Arizona	1,357	293	853	2,502	21,692
Arkansas	3,759	5,554	657	9,971	23,074
California	7,888	10,138	4,440	22,466	56,584
Colorado	569	3,276	0	3,845	18,889
Connecticut	0	16	0	16	46
Delaware	0	0	0	0	1
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0	9
Florida	621	275	0	896	4,657
Georgia	5,891	3,431	0	9,321	31,408
Guam	98	10	0	108	772
Hawaii	0	2	74	76	4,605
Idaho	935	468	0	1,403	4,774
Illinois	2,149	1,975	1,913	6,037	38,406
Indiana	723	1,624	1,276	3,623	20,011
Iowa	557	1,113	0	1,670	24,988
Kansas	1,509	1,070	0	2,578	8,449
Kentucky	2,057	2,192	178	4,428	14,171
Louisiana	1,009	805	0	1,814	4,792
Maine	11	41	2,762	2,814	23,437
Maryland	12	198	0	210	330
Massachusetts	2	542	0	544	1,527
Michigan	1,015	1,944	650	3,609	39,473
Minnesota	2,447	553	666	3,666	34,406
Mississippi	6,121	799	0	6,921	13,838
Missouri	1,919	2,281	114	4,314	12,870
Montana	726	162	255	1,143	24,269
Nebraska	1,566	362	0	1,928	36,429
Nevada	580	228	0	808	1,958
New Hampshire	24	242	0	266	481
New Jersey	0	0	0	0	0
New Mexico	1,037	1,449	2,475	4,962	20,252
New York	269	1,485	2,063	3,817	16,371
North Carolina	848	2,959	2,861	6,668	19,863
North Dakota	1,955	33	0	1,988	12,983
Northern Mariana Islands	0	0	0	0	21
Ohio	912	1,785	0	2,696	34,252
Oklahoma	7,228	2,334	0	9,562	23,136
Oregon	432	3,220	97	3,749	24,830
Pennsylvania	87	1,873	764	2,723	9,317
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	0
Rhode Island	0	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	38	1,865	0	1,903	11,719
South Dakota	618	1,193	0	1,811	17,936
Tennessee	2,582	706	899	4,186	8,712
Texas	14,993	2,819	0	17,812	41,219
Utah	524	8	739	1,271	15,517
Vermont	20	128	0	148	929
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	846
Virginia	2,847	1,543	168	4,558	15,601
Washington	263	524	0	786	2,431
West Virginia	334	555	1,210	2,098	8,926
Wisconsin	6,646	3,559	0	10,205	65,250
Wyoming	200	285	0	485	4,066
Total	**$ 184,859**	**$68,987**	**$25,112**	**$278,959**	**$1,331,953**

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

[1] Authorized Support includes all funding approved for disbursement for calendar year 2015, including funding approved but not yet disbursed (due to the Red Light Rule). It does not include recoveries from audits, appeals, or other enforcement actions.

[2] Total Support includes all funding approved for disbursement and is reflective of recoveries from audits, appeals, or other enforcement actions, as of December 31, 2015.