



Equipment in the HCF Program

General Information

There are two basic sections of the rules guiding eligibility of equipment¹:

Part A: Individual and consortium applicants may receive support for network equipment necessary to make functional an eligible service that is supported under the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program.

Part B: Consortium applicants may also receive support for network equipment necessary to manage, control, or maintain an eligible service or a dedicated health care broadband network. Support for network equipment is not available for networks that are not dedicated to health care.

Eligible Equipment	Individual	Consortia
Router/switch directly connected to service provider or terminating equipment	Yes	Yes
Computers including servers that are used <i>exclusively</i> for network management	No	Yes
Software used for network management, maintenance or other network operations	No	Yes
Cost of installing network equipment	Yes	Yes
Equipment that is a necessary part of HCP-owned network facilities	No	Yes

Key Points

- Equipment that “makes functional an eligible service” must be submitted with an explanation of the circuit that is supported under HCF Program (**NOT** the Telecom Program). Please reference the FCC Form(s) 462 that includes the supported circuit when submitting the FCC Form 462 for the equipment.
- Submit each piece of equipment requested using the HCP number for the location of **where the equipment will reside**.
 - Example: There is an eligible HCP at each end of a physical circuit that is supported in the HCF Program:
 - If both HCPs are requesting funding for routers that terminate a service filed as members of a consortium, each HCP would be represented on a line item for each of the routers on the same FCC Form 462. You should NOT file both routers under one HCP.
 - For individual applicants, the router that resides on the filing HCPs side of the connection is the only piece of equipment eligible for funding.
- If there are multiple components separated on an invoice or price quote, please submit a “per unit” bundle e.g. how many modules, transceivers, secondary power cords, etc. constitute a router or a switch. A single power cord is not eligible for funding unless it is part of a router/switch bundle.
 - Note: You must include all of the components of each part of a bundle to determine eligibility. You must provide an explanation of what constitutes a unit with your supporting documentation.
- Use a separate line item for contracts or warranties associated with the piece of equipment.

¹ 47 C. F. R. § 54.613 Eligible equipment



- All consortia requesting equipment that “manages, maintains or controls” a network must provide an explanation of what that piece of equipment does for the network and precisely where it resides. Do this using a summary cover letter in your supporting documentation.
- The HCF Program does not fund “Inside wiring/internal connections.” All equipment that falls into the category of Part B must manage, maintain or control an “external” network and not function to deliver service inside of a building or to workstations, computers or phones. This includes wireless networks inside of buildings or campuses.
- Network expenses and equipment are only eligible for funding for consortia applicants. This includes all expenses defined by Part B above.
 - Reminder: Upfront cost² rules applies to all one-time costs that exceed \$5,000 and are only eligible for funding for consortia applicants.
- Equipment must be purchased and installed in the same year in which funding is requested and approved.
- For consortia applicants: Be sure to include all HCP member sites on the Form 461 and RFP used to bid for equipment. If a site is not listed on the Form 461, you will not be able to select it on the Form 462 as it wasn’t part of the competitive bidding process.

[Ineligible Expenses/Equipment](#)

- Expenses that are not eligible for support under the HCF Program include costs associated with general computing, software, applications/internet content development, costs associated with medical equipment both hardware and software, inside wiring/connections and administrative fees³.
- Ineligible expenses include:
 - Equipment or services not directly associated with eligible services.
 - Computers including servers unless used exclusively for network management, maintenance or other network operations (these expenses cannot be cost-allocated)
 - End-user wireless devices – (smartphones and tablets)
 - Software unless used for network management, maintenance or other network operations
 - Software development
 - Helpdesk equipment or software
 - Web server hosting and web site development
 - Audio-visual web conferencing equipment or services
 - Continuous power supply (UPS)
 - Clinical/medical equipment and telemedicine equipment, applications and software
 - Training for use of telemedicine equipment
 - Electronic medical records systems, management and other expenses.
 - Administrative fees/expenses

² 47 C.F.C. § 54.616 Upfront payments

³ 47 C.F.R. § 54.617 Ineligible expenses