

## APPENDIX B

### ELIGIBLE SERVICES LIST FOR COVID-19 TELEHEALTH PROGRAM: ROUND 2

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) provides this list as guidance for applicants on the services and devices that are eligible for funding under the COVID-19 Telehealth Program (Program). Pursuant to the CARES Act, the Program awards funds to eligible health care providers to support the purchase of “telecommunications services, information services, and devices necessary” to provide telehealth and connected care in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Pub. L. No 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (2020) (CARES Act). Congress appropriated \$249.95 million in additional funding for the Program in December 2020. Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No: 116-260, Division N-Additional Coronavirus Response and Relief, Title IX- Broadband Internet Access Service, § 903 “FCC COVID19 Telehealth Program” (2020). The Telecommunications services, information services, and connected devices funded through the Program must be integral to patient care.

We caution applicants to carefully review all Program guidance. Applicants are ultimately responsible for compliance with Program requirements, including all deadlines and eligibility requirements.

#### Eligible Services and Devices

Consistent with Round 1, the Commission interprets the language regarding devices to include only connected devices but not devices that patients use at their homes that do not have a connection to the internet, even if those devices allow the patient to manually report information to their medical professionals remotely. *Promoting Telehealth for Low-Income Consumers; COVID-19 Telehealth Program*, WC Docket Nos. 18-213, 20-89, Report and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 3366, 3376, para. 16 (2020). Connected devices may include Bluetooth or Wi-Fi enabled devices, or that connect to the Internet directly, including devices/peripherals (e.g., web cameras, stethoscopes) that connect to a consumer’s phone or other connected device for purposes of providing telehealth services. Network equipment needed to use telecommunications services, information services, or connected devices are also eligible. The costs for taxes, shipping, and installation or integration of eligible devices and services, are also eligible expenses.

Examples of eligible services and connected devices include:

- **Telecommunications Services and Broadband Connectivity Services:** Voice services and Internet connectivity services for health care providers or their patients. These expenses are eligible for up to 12 months of funding.
- **Information Services:** Remote patient monitoring platforms and services; patient reported outcome platforms; store and forward services, such as asynchronous transfer of patient images and data for interpretation by a physician; platforms and services to provide synchronous video consultation. These expenses are eligible for up to 12 months of funding.
- **Connected Devices:** Tablets, smart phones, or connected devices to provide telehealth services (e.g., broadband, Wi-Fi, or Bluetooth enabled blood pressure monitors; pulse-oximeters) for patient or health care provider use; telemedicine kiosks/carts for health care provider site. General office scanners and printers are not considered connected devices for purposes of this Program.

#### Ineligible Costs

The Program does not support funding for personnel costs, marketing costs, administrative expenses, training costs, or indirect costs. Program funds are to support the purchase of telecommunications services, information services, and connected devices to provide telehealth services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and are not intended to fund the development of new websites, systems, or platforms. Applicants may still apply to receive retroactive funding for eligible services and connected devices purchased on or after March 13, 2020. Such services or devices must have been purchased to

provide telehealth or connected care services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and can include pandemic-related upgrades to existing services. Because the Program is a “Federal subsidy made available through a program administered by the Commission,” program funding may not be used to “purchase, rent, lease, or otherwise obtain any communications equipment or service . . . identified and published on the Covered List.” See *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Second Report and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 14284, 14326, paras. 94-95 (2020); see also 47 CFR § 54.10; *Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Announces Publication of the List of Equipment and Services Covered by Section 2 of the Secure Networks Act*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Public Notice, DA 21-309 (PSHSB Mar. 12, 2021).

Examples of ineligible services and devices include:

- Services or devices purchased or implemented prior to March 13, 2020.
- Administrative costs, e.g., personnel expenses, consultant fees, payroll, training, customer service, project management, records management, reprocessing and logistics, and doctor’s costs, etc.
- Technical support, maintenance costs, separate costs for warranties and protection plans.
- Separate costs for non-connected accessories, e.g., cases, mouse pads, cable clips, laptop bags, tablet stands, wall mounts, and charging stations, etc.
- Smart watches and fitness trackers.
- Back-up Power Equipment, e.g., back-up batteries, redundant power cords, Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), generators, and surge protectors, etc.
- Non-connected medical devices or supplies, e.g., non-connected digital thermometers, testing strips, lancets, disposable covers, and personal protective equipment, etc.
- Construction costs, e.g., fiber/ethernet/cable network constructions, facility alterations, and temporary site location structures, etc.
- Non-telehealth items, e.g., office furniture and supplies, desks, security systems, and indirect costs, etc.

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