



2020



FCC COVID-19 TELEHEALTH PROGRAM

MTELEHEALTH

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1 (A) investigate waste, fraud, and abuse
2 with respect to the Pilot Program; or

3 (B) recover funds that are misused under
4 the Pilot Program.

5 **SEC. 903. FCC COVID-19 TELEHEALTH PROGRAM.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

7 (1) the term “appropriate congressional com-
8 mittees” means—

9 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
10 and Transportation of the Senate; and

11 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
12 merce of the House of Representatives;

13 (2) the term “Commission” means the Federal
14 Communications Commission; and

15 (3) the term “COVID-19 Telehealth Program”
16 or “Program” means the COVID-19 Telehealth
17 Program established by the Commission under the
18 authority provided under the heading “SALARIES
19 AND EXPENSES” under the heading “FEDERAL
20 COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION” under the heading
21 “INDEPENDENT AGENCIES” in title V of divi-
22 sion B of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136;
23 134 Stat. 531).

24 (b) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION.—Out of amounts
25 in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is ap-

1 appropriated \$249,950,000 in additional funds for the
2 COVID–19 Telehealth Program, of which \$50,000 shall
3 be transferred by the Commission to the Inspector General
4 of the Commission for oversight of the COVID–19 Tele-
5 health Program.

6 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

7 (1) EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.—

8 (A) PUBLIC NOTICE.—Not later than 10
9 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
10 the Commission shall issue a Public Notice es-
11 tablishing a 10-day period during which the
12 Commission will seek comments on—

13 (i) the metrics the Commission should
14 use to evaluate applications for funding
15 under this section; and

16 (ii) how the Commission should treat
17 applications filed during the funding
18 rounds for awards from the COVID-19
19 Telehealth Program using amounts appro-
20 priated under the CARES Act (Public Law
21 116–36; 134 Stat. 281).

22 (B) CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE.—After the
23 end of the comment period under subparagraph
24 (A), and not later than 15 days before the
25 Commission first commits funds under this sec-

1 tion, the Commission shall provide notice to the
2 appropriate congressional committees of the
3 metrics the Commission plans to use to evaluate
4 applications for those funds.

5 (2) **EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.**—To the extent
6 feasible, the Commission shall ensure, in providing
7 assistance under the COVID–19 Telehealth Program
8 from amounts made available under subsection (b),
9 that not less than 1 applicant in each of the 50
10 States and the District of Columbia has received
11 funding from the Program since the inception of the
12 Program, unless there is no such applicant eligible
13 for such assistance in a State or in the District of
14 Columbia, as the case may be.

15 (3) **PREVIOUS APPLICANTS.**—The Commission
16 shall allow an applicant who filed an application dur-
17 ing the funding rounds for awards from the
18 COVID–19 Telehealth Program using amounts ap-
19 propriated under the CARES Act (Public Law 116-
20 36; 134 Stat. 281) the opportunity to update or
21 amend that application as necessary.

22 (4) **INFORMATION.**—To the extent feasible, the
23 Commission shall provide each applicant for funding
24 from the COVID–19 Telehealth Program, if re-
25 quested, with—

1 (A) information on the status of the appli-
2 cation; and

3 (B) a rationale for the final funding deci-
4 sion for the application, after making that deci-
5 sion.

6 (5) DENIAL.—If the Commission chooses to
7 deny an application for funding from the COVID-
8 19 Telehealth Program, the Commission shall—

9 (A) issue notice to the applicant of the in-
10 tent of the Commission to deny the application
11 and the grounds for that decision;

12 (B) provide the applicant with 10 days to
13 submit any supplementary information that the
14 applicant determines relevant; and

15 (C) consider any supplementary informa-
16 tion submitted under subparagraph (B) in mak-
17 ing any final decision with respect to the appli-
18 cation.

19 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days
20 after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 30 days
21 thereafter until all funds made available under this section
22 have been expended, the Commission shall submit to the
23 appropriate congressional committees a report on the dis-
24 tribution of funds appropriated for the COVID-19 Tele-
25 health Program under the CARES Act (Public Law 116-

1 36; 134 Stat. 281) or under this section, which shall in-
2 clude—

3 (1) non-identifiable and aggregated data on de-
4 ficient and rejected applications;

5 (2) non-identifiable and aggregated data on ap-
6 plications for which no award determination was
7 made;

8 (3) information on the total number of appli-
9 cants;

10 (4) information on the total dollar amount of
11 requests for awards made under this section; and

12 (5) information on applicant outreach and tech-
13 nical assistance.

14 (e) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT REQUIREMENTS.—

15 A collection of information conducted or sponsored under
16 any regulations required to implement this section shall
17 not constitute a collection of information for the purposes
18 of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States
19 Code (commonly referred to as the “Paperwork Reduction
20 Act”).

21 **SEC. 904. BENEFIT FOR BROADBAND SERVICE DURING**
22 **EMERGENCY PERIOD RELATING TO COVID-**
23 **19.**

24 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: