

# RURAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM: HEALTHCARE CONNECT FUND (HCF)



## RURAL BROADBAND SUBSIDY OPPORTUNITY

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?** To be eligible for the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program, your healthcare site must be a public or nonprofit entity and fall under one of the specified facility types, such as a community health center, not-for-profit hospital, or rural health clinic. Additionally, the site must be in a rural location as defined by the FCC, or be part of a consortium that includes a rural facility. [See eligibility requirements here.](#)

### COVERED SERVICES & EQUIPMENT

- **Broadband Services:** Covers Ethernet, dark fiber, and DSL.
- **Network Equipment:** Covers routers, switches, and firewalls.
- **Provides Connectivity:** To state/regional networks, national research and education networks, and the public internet.

### KEY FEATURES

- **Financial Assistance:** Reimburses up to 65% of eligible service and network equipment costs, including recurring costs (monthly internet fees) and one-time costs (installation fees, infrastructure upgrades).
- **Encourages Collaboration:** Promotes collective efforts among healthcare providers to achieve economies of scale, share resources, and enhance bargaining power with service providers.

### SIGNIFICANCE

- **Facilitates digital health practices** such as specialist consultations, remote diagnostics, and patient monitoring services, **reducing the need for patient travel** and supporting the effective use of electronic health records (EHRs).
- **Bridges the digital divide** in healthcare by providing broadband connectivity to eligible healthcare providers and aiming to **reduce costs for high-speed internet** and **telecommunications services**.



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