

Federal Communications Commission

§ 54.603

Area,” and “Place” are as identified by the Census Bureau.

(f) *Rural health care provider.* A “rural health care provider” is an eligible health care provider site located in a rural area.

(g) *Urbanized area.* An “urbanized area” is an area with 50,000 or more people as designated by the Census Bureau based on the most recent decennial Census.

§ 54.601 Health care provider eligibility.

(a) *Eligible health care providers.* (1) Only an entity that is either a public or non-profit health care provider, as defined in this subpart, shall be eligible to receive support under this subpart.

(2) Each separate site or location of a health care provider shall be considered an individual health care provider for purposes of calculating and limiting support under this subpart.

(b) *Determination of health care provider eligibility for the Healthcare Connect Fund Program.* Health care providers in the Healthcare Connect Fund Program may certify to the eligibility of particular sites at any time prior to, or concurrently with, filing a request for services to initiate competitive bidding for the site. Applicants who utilize a competitive bidding exemption must provide eligibility information for the site to the Administrator prior to, or concurrently with, filing a request for funding for the site. Health care providers must also notify the Administrator within 30 days of a change in the health care provider’s name, site location, contact information, or eligible entity type.

§ 54.602 Health care support mechanism.

(a) *Telecommunications Program.* Eligible rural health care providers may request support for the difference, if any, between the urban and rural rates for telecommunications services, subject to the provisions and limitations set forth in §§ 54.600 through 54.602 and 54.603 through 54.606. This support is referred to as the “Telecommunications Program.”

(b) *Healthcare Connect Fund Program.* Eligible health care providers may request support for eligible services,

equipment, and infrastructure, subject to the provisions and limitations set forth in §§ 54.600 through 54.602 and 54.607 through 54.618. This support is referred to as the “Healthcare Connect Fund Program.”

(c) *Allocation of discounts.* An eligible health care provider that engages in both eligible and ineligible activities or that collocates with an ineligible entity shall allocate eligible and ineligible activities in order to receive prorated support for the eligible activities only. Health care providers shall choose a method of cost allocation that is based on objective criteria and reasonably reflects the eligible usage of the facilities.

(d) *Health care purposes.* Services for which eligible health care providers receive support from the Telecommunications Program or the Healthcare Connect Fund Program must be reasonably related to the provision of health care services or instruction that the health care provider is legally authorized to provide under the law in the state in which such health care services or instruction are provided.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

§ 54.603 Consortia, telecommunications services, and existing contracts.

(a) *Consortia.* (1) Under the Telecommunications Program, an eligible health care provider may join a consortium with other eligible health care providers; with schools, libraries, and library consortia eligible under subpart F of this part; and with public sector (governmental) entities to order telecommunications services. With one exception, eligible health care providers participating in consortia with ineligible private sector members shall not be eligible for supported services under this subpart. A consortium may include ineligible private sector entities if such consortium is only receiving services at tariffed rates or at market rates from those providers who do not file tariffs.

(2) For consortia, universal service support under the Telecommunications Program shall apply only to the portion of eligible services used by an eligible health care provider.