



**ASPR**

# **Telehealth for Community-Based Organizations: Services, Payments, and Partners**

**July 29, 2020**

**Cheryl A. Levine, PhD, At-Risk Individuals Program Director, ASPR, HHS**  
**Benjamin DeMarzo, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Field Policy and Management, HUD**  
**Liz Palena Hall, Long-Term and Post-Acute Care Coordinator, ONC, HHS**

# Welcome to the Webinar Series

- Cheryl A. Levine, PhD, At-Risk Individuals Program Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, US Department of Health and Human Services
- Benjamin DeMarzo, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Field Policy and Management, US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Liz Palena Hall, Long-Term and Post-Acute Care Coordinator, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, US Department of Health and Human Services
- Webpage: [Telehealth for Community-Based Organizations](#)

# COVID-19 Housing and Community-Based Services Coordination Group

- Coordination led by US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, At-Risk Individuals Program (HHS/ASPR/ARI Program)
- Convene federal partners beginning March 11, 2020
  - US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
  - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
  - HHS Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- Information on the COVID-19 response (“curated resources”)
- Tailored for federal programs that provide housing and community-based services and supports, particularly for older adults and people with disabilities
- Focus on emerging issues seen by partners’ stakeholders, such as implementation and accessibility of telehealth

# Agenda

- Overview of Telehealth Basics and Opportunities Related to COVID-19 – HHS/Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- Telehealth Payment Flexibilities and Resources – HHS/Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Resources for Community-Based Organizations Serving Older Adults and People with Disabilities – HHS/Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- Lessons from the Field: Public Health Management Corporation's Use of Telehealth during COVID-19 Public Health Emergency – Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC)

# Speakers

- William England, Senior Advisor – Telehealth, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, HRSA
- Kirsten Jensen, Director, Division of Benefits and Coverage, Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group, CMS
- Lori Gerhard, Director, Office of Interagency Innovation, ACL
- Christine McGowan, Quality Manager of Specialized Health Services, Congreso Health Center, PHMC
- Judith Emmons, Director of Primary Care, Congreso Health Center, PHMC



# Telehealth for Community-Based Organizations

*July 29, 2020*

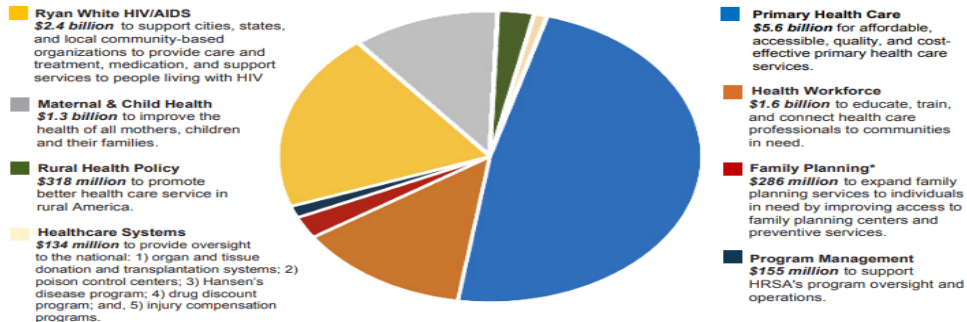
**William England, PhD, JD**  
**Senior Advisor - Telehealth**  
**Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)**

**Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People**

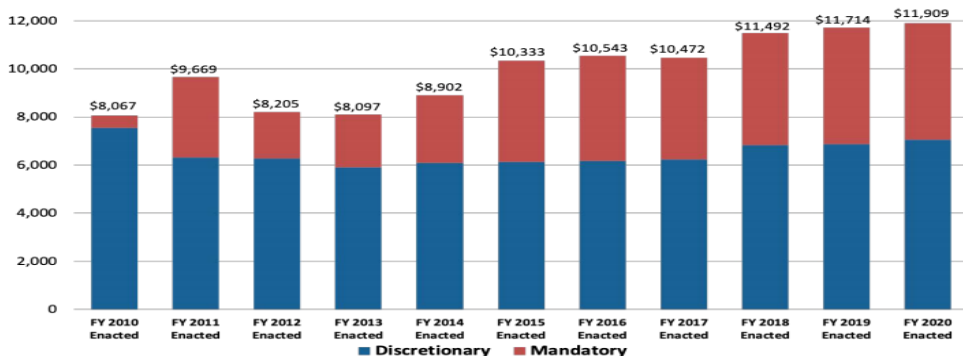


# HRSA Appropriation and Funding

## HRSA FY 2020 Appropriation



## HRSA FUNDING: FY 2010 - FY 2020



# HRSA-Funded Health Centers

## Increasing Access to Care Through Telehealth

More than **28 million** people rely on a HRSA-funded health center for care, including:



**1 in 12** PEOPLE



**1 in 9** CHILDREN



**1 in 5**  
RURAL RESIDENTS



**1 in 3**  
LIVING IN POVERTY



more than **385K**  
VETERANS



more than **800K**  
SERVED AT SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS



nearly **1M**  
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

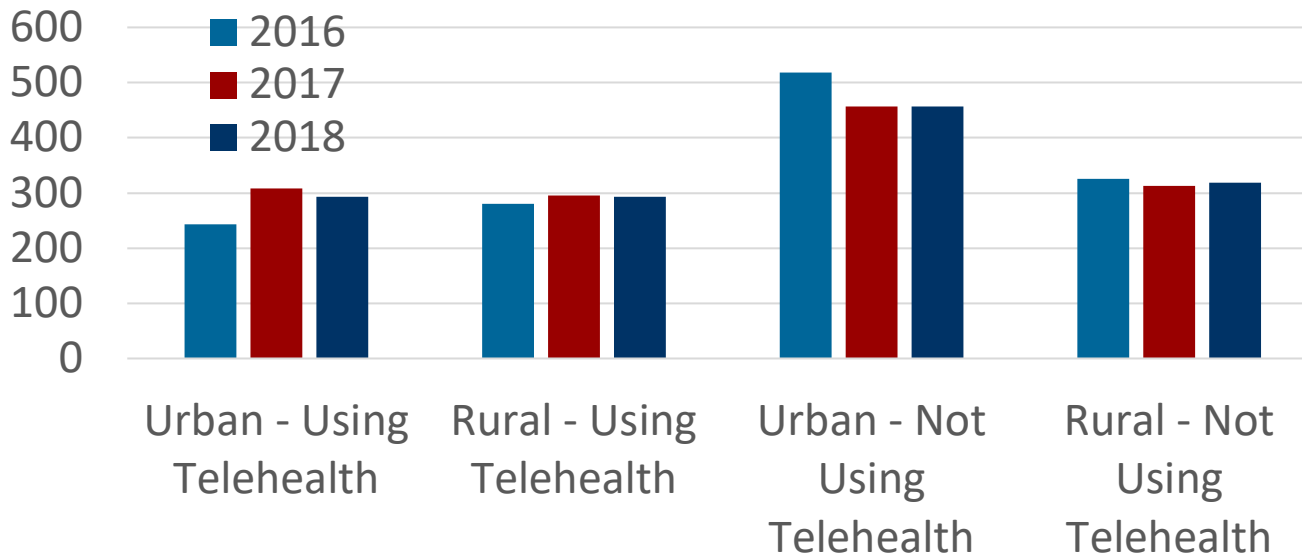


about **4.5M**  
LIVING IN OR NEAR PUBLIC HOUSING

Source: Uniform Data System, 2018



# Health Centers that Report Using Telehealth 2016-2018

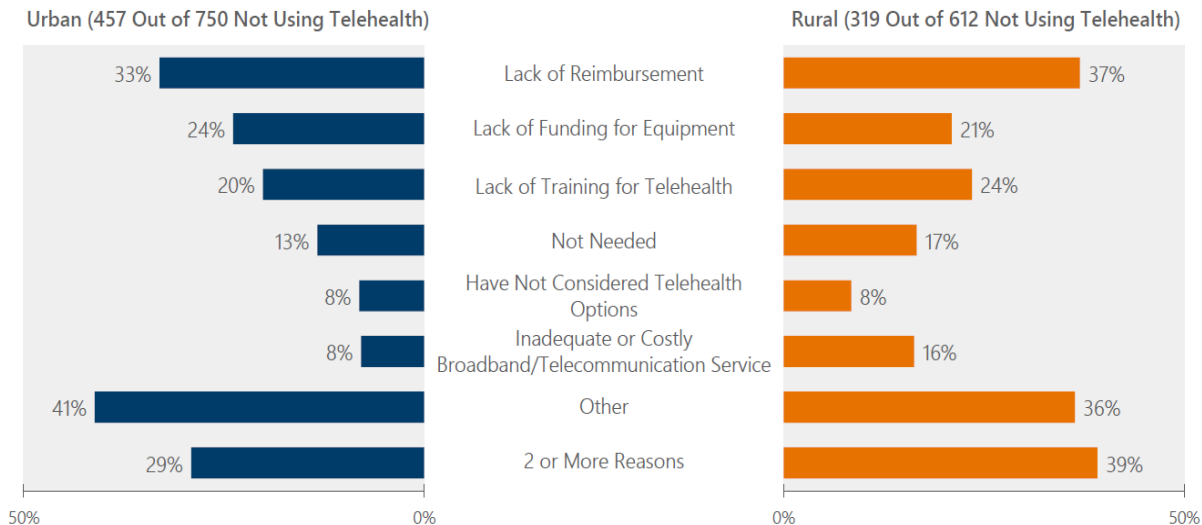


Forty-eight percent of rural and 39% of urban health centers report using telehealth (43% of total)

# Barriers to Offering Telehealth Services

## Health Centers Face Barriers to Offering Telehealth Services

Percent of Health Centers that Do Not Use Telehealth Reporting Specific Barriers, 2018

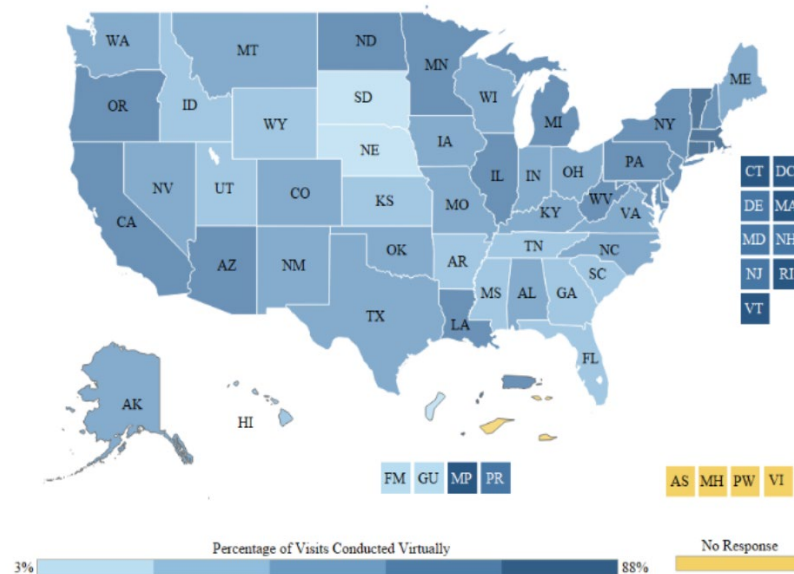


National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Community Health Center Chartbook January 2019. Source: 2018 Uniform Data System, Bureau of Primary Health Care, HRSA, DHHS.



## Health Center Virtual Visits

- All 1,011 health centers that responded to a 5/8/20 survey (73% of the total) reported using telehealth
- Virtual visits were 51% of all visits, ranging by state from 18% to 88%



# OAT Programs (FY2020) - \$29 Million

Program	Awardees	Amount
Telehealth <u>Network Grant Program</u>	29	\$8.7 M
Evidence-Based Telebehavioral Health <u>Network Program</u>	14	\$4.7 M
Telehealth Resource Centers*	14	\$4.5 M
Licensure Portability Grant Program+	2	\$.50 M
Telehealth-Focused Rural Health Research Centers	2	\$1.9 M
Telehealth Centers of Excellence	2	\$6.0 M
Other		\$2.7 M

\* Plus \$15M Covid-19 Supplement

+ Plus \$.5M Covid-19 Supplement

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security  
(CARES) Act PL 116-136 3/27/20 reauthorized Office  
for the Advancement of Telehealth programs.



# HRSA-Funded Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs)

TelehealthResourceCenters.org



NRTRC	gpTRAC	NETRC
CTRC	HTRC	UMTRC
SWTRC	SCTRC	MATRC
PBTRC	TexLa	SETRC
12 Regional Resource Centers		

TRCs are a focal point for advancing the effective use of telehealth and provide information to support access to telehealth services in rural and underserved communities.

# TRC Guides and Fact Sheets on Telehealth

## Guides



**HRSA Telehealth Compendium**  
This Compendium created by HRSA contains a compilation of telehealth resources for HRSA-grantees & stakeholders.



**CTCR Telehealth Program Developer Kit**  
A Roadmap for Successful Telehealth Program Development



**Taking Telehealth Mainstream**  
A Community Hospital's Journey into DTC Virtual Care  
A Community Hospital's Journey into DTC Virtual Care



**Remote Patient Monitoring Toolkit**  
This Toolkit provides a series of videos, designed to help many different audiences quickly understand Remote Patient Monitoring and define the responsibilities of each role.

## Fact Sheets



**A Decade of Service**  
A report on ten years of service.



**Framing Telehealth**  
There are various ways to interpret telehealth. This fact sheet will help shape your perspective.



**15 Step Business Model**  
15 key steps for creating a business proposal to implement telemedicine.



**Telehealth Policy Issues**  
Existing policy barriers on both federal and state levels contribute to the limited use of telehealth.

# TRC Webinars and Conferences

Home [Telehealth Resources](#) Find a TRC Request Assistance

## Past Events > Webinars and Virtual Events

« Previous Events Next Events »

**July 2020**

### Using Telehealth to Support Mental Health During COVID-19

The California Telehealth Policy Coalition hosted a webinar focused on how mental health providers have turned to telehealth during COVID-19. Speakers will discuss how to successfully use telehealth for mental health visits, key operational and workflow considerations for other providers, and opportunities for policymakers to support mental health providers and their patients beyond COVID-19.

### Training: Telemedicine Applications

**Hosting TRC:** Southwest Telehealth Resource Center  
**Date and Time:** July 20, 9 AM - 4 PM MST  
**Location:** Phoenix and Tucson, AZ

**Description:**  
 This conference offers a more detailed approach for any telemedicine program, providing a more in-depth look at the clinical applications of a telehealth program. This conference is excellent for individuals or groups who have some telehealth experience and are interested in expanding their services. It's also a great course for those new to telehealth who are interested in understanding this growing industry.

[Register](#)

### NCTRC Webinar – Digital Marketing Best Practices for Direct to Consumer Telehealth

**Hosting TRC:** South Central Telehealth Resource Center  
**Date and Time:** July 16, 11 AM - 12 PM PT

About 5 webinars per month

## Launching into Telehealth

2020 Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Virtual Telehealth Conference




July brings us to the halfway point of our co-hosted [#LaunchTelehealth2020](#) Virtual Conference Series with our colleagues at the Mid-Atlantic TRC ([MATRC](#) )!

**Day 1** (06/19) kicked off with a lively plenary session presented by Judd Hollander, Senior vice president for Healthcare Delivery Innovation at [Jefferson Health](#) (Left image above), followed by 2 rounds of breakout sessions, filled with success stories and poster presentations

**Day 2** (06/27) kicked off with another fantastic plenary, as former Federal C.T.O. and current [CareJourney](#) President Aneesh Chopra shared an equally tech-savvy and futuristic presentation (Right Image above), followed by another double header of breakout sessions to choose from!

Our **remaining two "Events" of the Conference Series (07/10, 07/17)** will follow a similar format, and are shaping up to be just as exciting, with Plenary Sessions from [The MAVEN Project](#)'s CEO Lisa Bard Levine this Friday 07/10, and [Ontario Telemedicine Network](#)'s Vice President of Clinical Innovation, Laurie Poole on 07/17. We're also excited to announce our last two events will have **BONUS SESSIONS** in the afternoon of each!

**07/10 will feature an afternoon with the national TRC's**, where attendees can choose between policy conversations in the age of COVID-19 and beyond with our colleague Mei Kwong of CCHP, or joining our colleagues Jordan Berg and Doris Barta of ITAC for a Technology Showcase filled with demonstrations and the technology conversations you need to know!

**07/17 will feature a Virtual Exhibit Hall**, where the Industry Partners who were graciously able to support us in this process have set aside time for attendees to drop in on their "exhibit rooms" for a conversation, whether that be building off something you saw in our Industry Partner Interview Series in the conference, the Exhibitor Tab in the platform, or just an introduction for the first time!

[Registration's still available: check out the agenda & sign up today!](#)

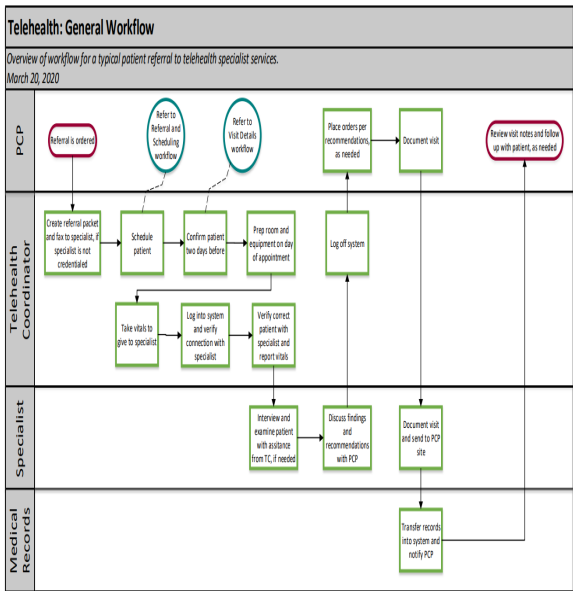
[#PhysicallyDistanced](#) [#SociallyConnected](#) [#KnowYourTRC](#)

If you have any questions, contact Reid Plimpton at [rplimpton@mcdph.org](mailto:rplimpton@mcdph.org)

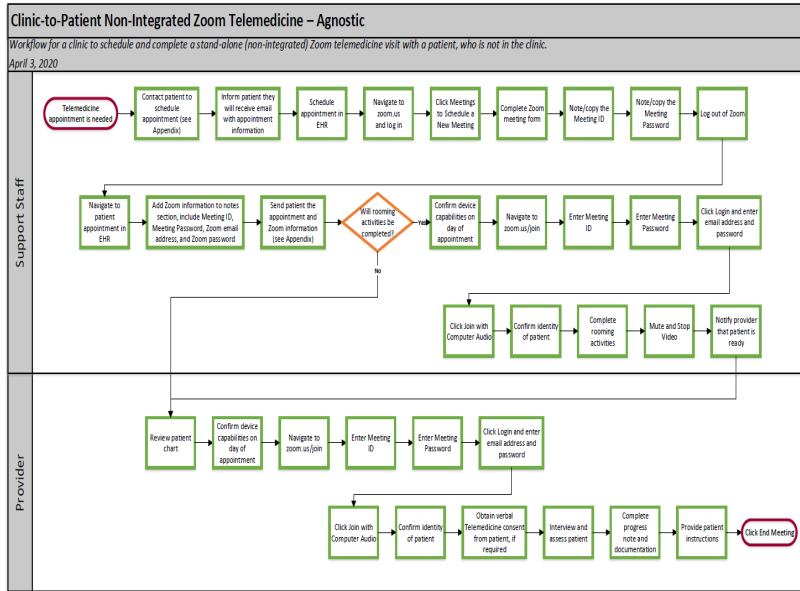
Virtual Conferences



# Telehealth Workflow



This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the grant number H20C330280 "Health Center Controlled Networks", through the use of funds from the total annual award of \$2,730,000.00. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.



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Telehealth Resource Centers can help with planning telehealth workflows.



# Telehealth Policy Resources

## COVID-19

Telehealth policy changes occurring within the COVID-19 environment have been rapidly developing on almost a daily basis. CCHP is committed to keeping you updated on these important changes both federally and on the state level. Watch our latest [COVID-19 policy update videos](#).

[COVERAGE POLICIES](#)  
[STATE ACTIONS](#)



[ABOUT](#)[TELEHEALTH POLICY](#)[RESOURCES](#)[CONTACT](#)

## COVID-19 Related State Actions

Timestamp: May 31, 2020 – 5pm PT

As a result of COVID-19 many states have taken action to remove policy barriers to telehealth utilization to address this pandemic on a temporary basis. Below is a list of state actions taken by each state's Office of the Governor, Medicaid Program, Medical Board and/or Department of Insurance, and their current status. If you have additional information on state actions that are not included here, please submit your information to [info@cchpca.org](mailto:info@cchpca.org) and we will be sure to include it in future updates.

- States Waiving Licensure Requirements/Renewals See: [Federation of State Medical Boards \(FSMB\)](#)
- States Waiving In-State Licensure Requirements for Telehealth See: [Federation of State Medical Boards \(FSMB\)](#)

● **Medicaid** - Home/Originating Site Expansion/Clarification  
● **Medicaid** - Provider Type Expansion or Clarification  
● **Medicaid** - Service Expansion Provider Type Expansion or Clarification

● **Medicaid** - Telephonic/Audio-Only Delivery  
● Waiving/Easing/Clarifying Prescribing Requirements  
● Waiving/Easing/Clarifying Consent Requirements

● Cross-State Licensing  
● **Private Payer** - Telehealth Requirement or Guidance

ALABAMA	+
ALASKA	+
ARIZONA	+



# Universal Service Lifeline Program



Apply Now

## Lifeline Support

Become a Customer

Do I Qualify? ▾

How to Apply ▾

Companies Near Me ↗

National Verifier

How to Use it ▾

Current Customers

Lifeline Rules & Rights

Change My Company

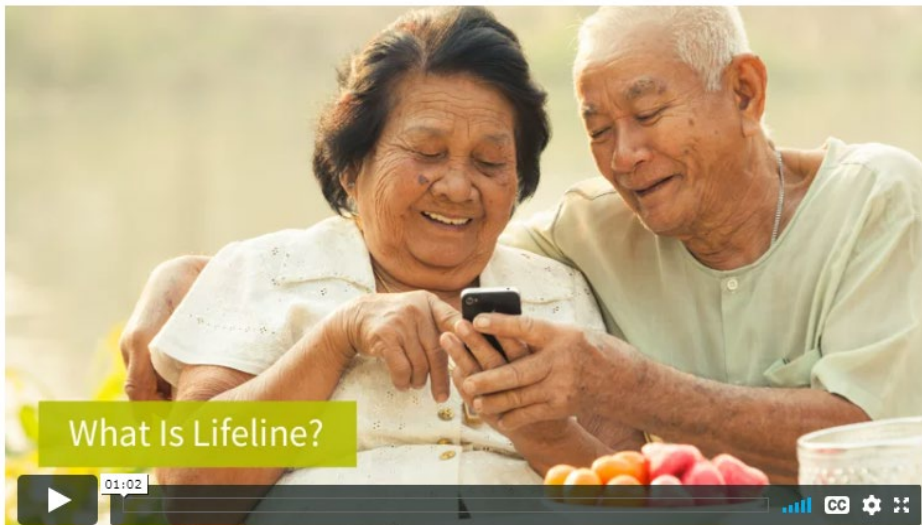
Help ▾

Community

Tribal Lands

Community Outreach

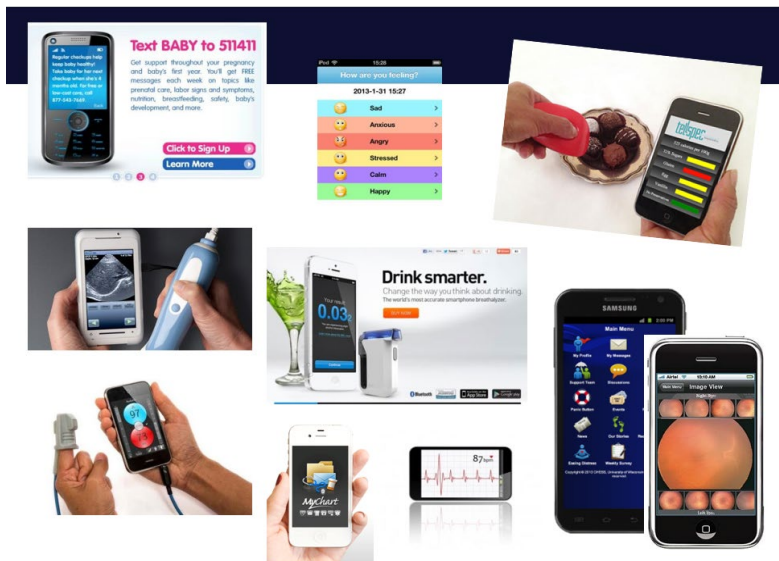
## Get Connected



Are all Lifeline eligible consumers participating?



# mHealth and Telehealth



In 2019, over 350,000 mHealth apps were in app stores. Are they relevant to remote patient monitoring? Can they be integrated into telehealth service?

## Smartphone Versus Holter Monitoring for Poststroke Atrial Fibrillation Detection

**Although guidelines recommend Holter monitoring for all patients with ischemic stroke or TIA, comparatively few receive it.**

*Neurology Reviews.* 2018 November;26(11):6



### Free Special Phones

If you have difficulty hearing, talking, seeing, thinking or moving, we have a phone that could help you! Currently, we have over 20 landline phones that we provide to persons who qualify for our program. Starting July 1 we will add over 10 smart devices to that list!

# New HHS Telehealth Website

**ⓘ** If you're having a **medical emergency**, call 911. If you aren't sure, [read when to seek emergency care](#).

TELEHEALTH.HHS.GOV

For patients ▾ For providers ▾

## Telehealth: Health care from the safety of our homes.

During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, we don't have to choose between medical care and social distancing. When patients can get health care through telehealth — and doctors can provide it — we protect ourselves and our communities.

## Learn more about telehealth

### For patients



Find out what telehealth is, what you'll need (not much!), and what to expect from a visit. You can also check out our tips on finding telehealth options.

[Understanding telehealth](#) >

[Telehealth during COVID-19](#) >

[Finding telehealth options](#) >

[See more on the patients page](#) >

### For providers



Get information to help you integrate telehealth, get up to speed on recent COVID-19 related policies, and learn what patients will need to use telehealth.

[Getting started with telehealth](#) >

[Policy changes during COVID-19](#) >

[Planning your telehealth workflow](#) >


[See more on the providers page](#) >

# The Patient Website is also in Spanish

TELEHEALTH.HHS.GOV      Sobre nosotros    Para pacientes   

## Telesalud: atención médica desde la seguridad de nuestros hogares.




Durante la emergencia de salud pública debida a la COVID-19, no tenemos que elegir entre la atención médica y el distanciamiento social. Cuando los pacientes reciben atención médica a través de telesalud, y los médicos usan esta tecnología, protegemos nuestra salud y la salud de nuestras comunidades.



## Más información sobre telesalud

### Para pacientes

Entérese de lo que es telesalud, lo que necesitará (¡no mucho!), y lo que debe esperar de una visita. También puede ver nuestras sugerencias para encontrar opciones de telesalud.

-  [Qué es telesalud](#) >
-  [Telesalud durante la pandemia de la COVID-19](#) >
-  [Encuentre opciones de telesalud](#) >

# New HHS Telehealth Website - continued

## For patients

Understanding telehealth

Telehealth during the COVID-19 emergency

Finding telehealth options

Preparing for a video visit

For providers

## For patients

Wondering how to get started with telehealth? Check out the information below to better understand your options.



### COVID-19 self-assessment tools

For the sake of everyone's safety and to reduce the load on the health care system, automated screening tools should be among the first telehealth options to consider. Here are two COVID-19 self-assessment tools based on information from CDC: [CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker](#) and [COVID-19 Screening Tool](#).

You can search online for additional telehealth screening tools. Many of these tools are free, especially if they are COVID-19 related, and some of them may guide you to a virtual visit online after your assessment. You can also check with your doctor, your employer, your health insurance company, or your state to see if they recommend any related solutions.



### Finding telehealth options >

If screening tools and self-checkers do not lead you to the care or information you are seeking, you can reach out directly to your doctor or health insurance company for options that can help connect you to a provider online.



### Understanding telehealth >

Find out what it is, what to expect during a visit, and what kinds of care may be available.

## Resources on telehealth vendors and providers

[Telemedicine Service Provider Directory](#) - This directory is a resource for hospital decision makers and healthcare administrators who want to expand or improve services to their patients, employees or clients. The directory lists companies providing medical specialty services (such as radiology, rheumatology, neurology, psychiatry) and ancillary services (such as patient education and language interpretation) through telemedicine to healthcare providers such as hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, private practices and urgent care centers. This is a national level directory created by Arizona Telemedicine Program and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center funded by HRSA.

[Digital health directory](#) - This directory lets you see a curated list of Telemedicine services available to patients and providers — set your filter to ‘Clinician’ when you explore this directory. This directory is a voluntary effort by Consumer Technology Association (CTA) and American Telemedicine Association (ATA).

**Disclaimer:** This list does not constitute an endorsement, certification, or recommendation of specific technology, software, applications, or products.

# Contact Information

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**William England, PhD, JD**  
**Senior Advisor - Telehealth**  
**Federal Office of Rural Health Policy**  
**Health Resources and Services Administration**  
**Email: [wengland@hrsa.gov](mailto:wengland@hrsa.gov)**  
**Phone: 301-945-3987**





## Connect with HRSA

Learn more about our agency at:

[www.HRSA.gov](http://www.HRSA.gov)



[Sign up for the HRSA eNews](#)

FOLLOW US:



# Medicaid Telehealth

**Kirsten Jensen**

Director

Division of Benefits and Coverage

Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group

Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

# Purpose of Presentation

- Provide an overview of coverage of services in Medicaid and how telehealth is incorporated into the program

# Medicaid in Brief

- States determine their own unique programs within broad federal guidelines
- Each state develops and operates a State plan outlining the nature and scope of services; the State Plan and any amendments must be approved by CMS
- Medicaid mandates some services, states elect to provide additional optional services
- States choose eligibility groups, optional services, payment levels, providers

# Medicaid Benefits in the Regular State Plan

- **MANDATORY**

- Inpatient hospital services
- Outpatient hospital services
- EPSDT: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment services
- Nursing Facility services
- Home Health services
- Physician services
- Rural Health Clinic services
- Federally Qualified Health Center services
- Laboratory and X-ray services
- Family Planning services
- Nurse Midwife services
- Certified Pediatric and Family Nurse Practitioner services
- Freestanding Birth Center services (when licensed or otherwise recognized by the state)
- Transportation to medical care
- Tobacco Cessation counseling for pregnant women

- **OPTIONAL**

- Prescription Drugs
- Clinic services
- Therapies – PT/OT/Speech/Audiology
- Respiratory care services
- Rehabilitative Services
- Podiatry services
- Optometry services
- Dental Services & Dentures
- Prosthetics
- Eyeglasses
- Other Licensed Practitioner services
- Private Duty Nursing services
- Personal Care Services
- Hospice
- Case Management & Targeted Case Management
- TB related services
- State Plan HCBS - 1915(i)
- Community First Choice Option - 1915(k)
- Inpatient Psychiatric Services for Individuals under age 21 (required per EPSDT)

# Telehealth

- Telehealth, in short, is described as using technology to deliver services.
- Services are covered in Medicaid and can be delivered using telehealth.
- Examples of technologies are asynchronous store and forward, two-way real time audio/visual communication, telephone, etc.

# Telehealth

- Medicaid coverage of services delivered via telehealth not dependent on Medicare rules, but subject to Office of Civil Rights rules.
- States flexibility when covering telehealth:
  - What services to cover,
  - What practitioners to cover,
  - What types of technology to use,
  - Where in the state it will be covered, and
  - How will the services be reimbursed.
- Services must be provided within practitioners' scope of practice.
- If service not covered statewide or for all providers of the service, state must still cover service delivered face-to-face.

# Telehealth

- States are not required to submit a (separate) SPA for coverage or reimbursement of telehealth services, if they decide to reimburse for services the same way/amount that they pay for face-to-face services/visits/consultations.
- States must submit a (separate) reimbursement (attachment 4.19-B) SPA if they want to provide reimbursement for telehealth services differently than is currently being reimbursed for face-to-face services



# Telehealth Toolkit

- Provides states with statutory and regulatory infrastructure issues to consider as they evaluate the need to expand their telehealth capabilities and coverage policies. As such, this guide will describe each of these areas and the challenges they present including:
  - Patient populations eligible for telehealth
  - Coverage and reimbursement policies
  - Providers and practitioners eligible to provide telehealth
  - Technology requirements
  - Pediatric considerations

# Telehealth Resources

- Telemedicine in Medicaid

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/telemedicine/index.html>

- Telehealth Toolkit for States

Medicaid & CHIP Telehealth Toolkit Checklist for states

- State Plan fee-for-service telehealth payments

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/downloads/medicaid-telehealth-services.pdf>

# CMS Contact Information

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Kirsten Jensen: [Kirsten.Jensen@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kirsten.Jensen@cms.hhs.gov)

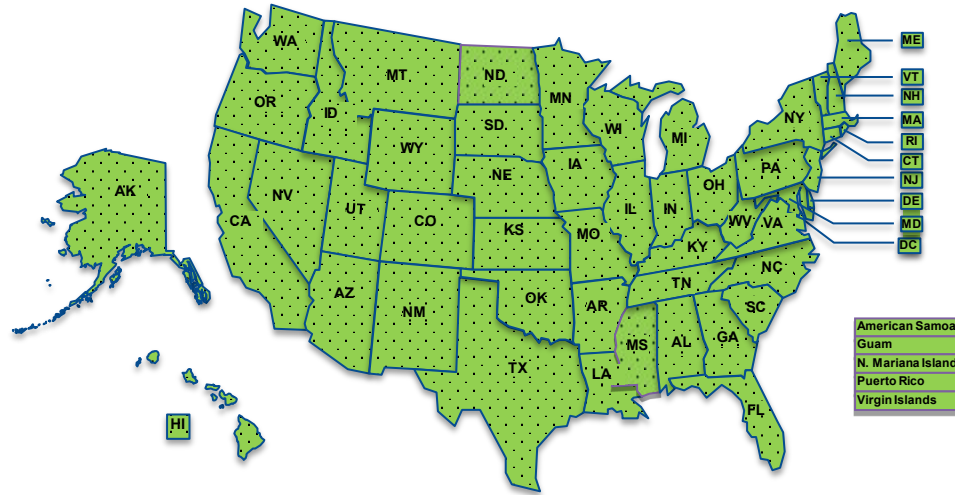
# Telehealth For Community Based Organizations

## Resources for Community Based Organizations

July 29, 2020



# Nationwide Aging and Disability Network “America’s Long Term Service and Support Access System”



56 States and Territories  
1,322+ Access Points

# Nationwide Assistive Technology Act Program

## **56 State and Territory Assistive Technology Act Programs**

### State-Level Activities:

- Device Demonstration
- Device Loan
- Device Reutilization (Reuse)
- State Financing

### State Leadership Activities:

- Information & Assistance
- Training and Technical Assistance (includes Information Communication Technology Accessibility and Transition)
- Public Awareness



# List of Resources for Telehealth Communication Platforms and Applications

- Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>) provides a useful way to electronically check-in and share information and resources.
- Skype (<https://skype.com>) is a free app that works well for both one-on-one and group (up to 50 people) video and audio calls.
- WebEx [www.webex.com](http://www.webex.com) is another video conferencing option with captioning that has a free personal plan.
- Google Meet (<https://meet.google.com>) is Google's video conferencing service that connects up to 25 people.
- Google Hangouts (<https://hangouts.google.com>) is free and works well for individual or group meetings up to 100 people.
- GoogleChat is another way to communicate and can be set up in Gmail ([www.gmail.com](http://www.gmail.com)).
- Facebook live broadcasts are another way to connect with people who are on Facebook. More information is available at <https://www.facebook.com/facebookmedia/solutions/facebook-live>.
- FaceTime is a video and audio calling service for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, or Mac to call others using one of those devices.
- BlueJeans (<https://www.bluejeans.com>) offers secure webinars, conference calls, and online meetings.
- GroupMe (<https://groupme.com>) is a group messaging application that works on every device and over SMS.
- StreamText ([www.streamtext.net](http://www.streamtext.net)) provides for real-time captions for any platform or device with Internet access.
- WhatsApp ([www.whatsapp.com](http://www.whatsapp.com)) is free and allows users to send text messages and voice messages, make voice and video calls, as well as share images, documents, user locations, and other media.

# Training & TA on the Use of Remote Technologies

- A summary of different web conferencing and video chat features and programs is available at: <http://telecomtoolbox.ri.umt.edu/communication/video-chat-and-web-conferencing/>
- Many platforms have accessibility features, but they may not work for everyone or may not be sufficient. [The Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology \(PEAT\) developed a website to guide organizations in selecting accessible platforms](#)
- The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Technology Rehabilitation Center has developed a [step-by-step guide on embedding interpreters in Zoom](#)
- AT3 prepared a resource document on How to Prepare for a Telehealth Visit: <https://at3centerblog.com/2020/04/23/how-to-prepare-for-a-routine-telehealth-visit/>
- AT3 posted recordings of several webinars and materials at: <https://www.at3center.net/repository/EmergencyManagement#AT3Covid19Webinars>, including The CAST Technology Selection Tools and Resource; Captioning Video Meetings and Trainings; Using Zoom to Conduct Remote Training; Virtual AT Demonstrations; Managing Social Isolation; Operating in a Remote Environment; and Protection & Advocacy During the Pandemic.



# Assistive Technology Act Programs



Contact your State AT Program:

<https://www.at3center.net/stateprogram>



**Program Directory - Find Your State Program**

# Connect with AT Act Programs @ ACL

**Phone:** Robert Groenendaal  
(202) 795-7356  
[robert.groenendaal@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:robert.groenendaal@acl.hhs.gov)

**Web:** AT3 Center: <https://www.at3center.net/stateprogram>  
Center for Assistive Technology Act Data Assistance:  
<https://catada.info/>

**Social:** Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aclgov/>



# Increasing Awareness of Assistive Technology

- Strategic Framework--<https://acl.gov/framework>
- MENTAL Health Prize Challenge  
(<https://www.challenge.gov/challenge/MENTAL-health-social-isolation-challenge/> )

Thank you!

Any Questions:

Lori Gerhard

Phone: 202-795-7348

E-mail: [lori.gerhard@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:lori.gerhard@acl.hhs.gov)

# Telehealth Basics for Community Based Organizations: Services, Payments, and Partners

Presenters:

Christine McGowan, MSN, RN

Judith Emmons, MPH



# About PHMC

- A nonprofit public health institute that builds healthier communities through partnerships with government, foundations, businesses and community-based organizations, serving the Greater Philadelphia area since 1972
- **Mission:** to improve the health of the community by providing outreach, health promotion, education, research, planning, technical assistance and direct services.
- 2,500 employees, 350 programs, a network of subsidiary organizations, 70 locations/sites, 350,000 clients annually
- Specialized Health Services
  - Federally Qualified Health Clinic Network
  - Shelters
  - Behavioral Health



# PHMC health network

- **Congreso Health Center**
  - Large geriatric population
  - Primarily Latino population
- **Care Clinic**
  - Infectious disease management
  - Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- **Health Connection**
  - Large pediatric population
  - Public housing population
- **Rising Sun**
  - Large immigrant/refugee population
  - Large pediatric population
- **Mary Howard**
  - Large homeless population
  - Connection to shelter



# Implementation of Telehealth in Response to COVID-19

## Phase One

Rapid Response Ramp Up of Basic Telehealth

- Advertising of Telehealth Services
- All existing appointments, beginning in mid-March, were converted to Telehealth appointments, Zoom used for video calls
- Majority of telehealth visits were telephone only in first weeks of implementation
- Templates are created in the Electronic Health Record to guide providers through telehealth visits

## Phase Two

Targeted/Complex Integration of Telehealth

- Gradual integration of official telehealth platforms, including Doximity and Doxy.me, which allowed for more complex video calls

## Phase Three

Maintenance of Telehealth Services

- Clinic staffed with skeleton crew
- Half staff on-site, half remote
- Allows for the maintenance of social distancing
- Decreases exposure risk

## Phase Four

The “New Normal”

- All staff returns to work on site
- In-person appointments return for select patients
- Telehealth appointments continue for:
  - High risk patients
  - COVID-19 Testing
  - Mobility barriers
  - Other barriers



# Marketing of Telehealth

- **Informational flyers disseminated in the community**
  - Community based organizations
  - Shelters
- **All visits from March through May converted to Telehealth**
  - Facilities remained open for walk-ins, urgent physicals, and Family Planning visits
- **Comfort messaging**
  - Telehealth informational messaging was automatically delivered when patients called
- **Automated Mobile Texting through TalkSoft**
  - Mobile messages sent to patients asking if they would like a telehealth appointment
    - Y or N reply
    - Medical Assistants follow up with all patients who responded with a “Y” response to schedule a telehealth medical and/or behavioral consultation.
  - Providing information for Mental Health Services available for patients experiencing increased anxiety/depression due to the pandemic

# Outcomes

	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20		Q1	Q2
Total Visits	6054	5434	5363	7886	6381	5688		16851	19955
Telehealth Visits	0	0	1718	6982	5409	3919		1718	16310
In Person Visits	6054	5434	3645	904	972	1769		15133	3645
% telehealth	0%	0%	32%	89%	85%	69%		10%	82%
% in person	100%	100%	68%	11%	15%	31%		90%	18%
total no shows	30%	32%	29%	19%	20%	24%		30%	21%
telehealth no shows	0%	0%	6%	16%	16%	13%		2%	15%
in person no shows	30%	32%	25%	5%	6%	14%		29%	8%

from Q1 to Q2 of 2020:

17% increase in medical visits

29% increase in BH visits

# Staffing Structure

Week	On-site	Off-site
Week 1 – 2	Provider 1, 2 RN 1 MA 1, 2, 3	Provider 3, 4 RN 2 MA 4, 5, 6
Week 2 – 4	Provider 3, 4 RN 2 MA 4, 5, 6	Provider 1, 2 RN 1 MA 1, 2, 3
Week 5 – 6	Provider 1, 2 RN 1 MA 1, 2, 3	Provider 3, 4 RN 2 MA 4, 5, 6
Week 7 – 8	Provider 3, 4 RN 2 MA 4, 5, 6	Provider 1, 2 RN 1 MA 1, 2, 3
Week 9 – 10	Provider 1, 2 RN 1 MA 1, 2, 3	Provider 3, 4 RN 2 MA 4, 5, 6
*Rotate as many cycles as necessary		
*Staff who can work fully remotely are encouraged to do so		

Perceived Barriers	Reality/Solution
Limited access to technology for patients, specifically elderly and homeless populations.	<p>Positive feedback/participation from geriatric population</p> <p>Phones distributed to 30 city shelters for Telehealth visits One phone per shelter</p>
Decreased quality of care using Telehealth	<p>High quality of care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telehealth provided a means to continue critical care for those with chronic conditions, including blended telehealth/laboratory visits</li> <li>• Decreased unnecessary exposure for those at high risk</li> <li>• Video chat allowed for providers to perform physical exams for certain issues</li> </ul>
Challenges with billing	<p>Payors were, and continue to be, extremely flexible and made this process smooth and efficient</p>

## Language Services

Diverse Staffing	The PHMC Health Network has a diverse staffing structure that includes staff who speak multiple languages, including Spanish, Hindi, Portuguese, and French.
Live interpretation	For providers who do not speak the native language of their patient, interpretation was provided by a Medical Assistant, if available on site, or through three-way calling .
Use of interpretation line	When no staff spoke the language of the patient, the Language Services Associates interpretation line was utilized. The Medical Assistant would call the LSA line prior to the telehealth, and connect the provider and patient via a three-way calling system.

## Telehealth Successes

Allowed for innovative solutions to a challenging situation	Distribution of 30 cell phones to city shelters, blended laboratory/telehealth visits, distribution of electronic blood pressure cuffs to hypertensive patients, etc.
Decreased patient risk/exposure of community transmission	Allowed for continuous monitoring of high-risk patients in the safety of their own homes, eliminating need for public transportation and communal waiting rooms
Significant decrease in no-show rate	Patients who may not have come to an in-person visit, due to anxiety, transportation issues, or exposure, were able to have a consultation with their provider
Diverted patients from inappropriate use of Emergency Room	This supported our hospital systems during the peak, as well as decreased patient exposure
Decreased staff exposure/risk,	Allowed staff to continue seeing walk-in patients and other urgent in-person exams on site, while limiting the number of general chronic disease follow up visits

## Lessons Learned

Telehealth decreases barriers present in vulnerable populations, such as mobility and transportation access

Telehealth remains a viable means of communication with patients who are at higher risk of severe outcomes

Telehealth can be integrated into regular in-person care, along with in-person visits, to allow for a blended model of care.

Telehealth decreases the no-show rate and allows for more provider flexibility

## Recommendations

Utilize innovation strategies to think outside the box	Human-Centered Design Lean Methodology
Seek funding specific to COVID-19 support	<a href="https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/nonprofits-and-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/nonprofits-and-coronavirus-covid-19</a>
Communicate with funders and payors	Funders and payors have been willing to share resources – electronic blood pressure cuffs were donated by American Heart Association
Utilize blended models	Telehealth paired with in-person laboratory visits
Be flexible!	Be willing to change the plan and pivot to another method of service delivery, based on need



# Thank you!

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# Questions



# Wrap Up

- Webpage: [Telehealth for Community-Based Organizations](#)
  - Archived webinars
  - Slide decks
- Next Webinars in the Series
  - #2 Promising Practices: Accessibility and Language Access (Wednesday, August 26, 2020, 2-3 EST)
  - #3 Addressing Barriers: Homelessness and Connectivity (Wednesday, September 30, 2020, 2-3 EST)

**Thank you!**