

# Nebraska State Telehealth Fund Program (NUSF-57)

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### A. Who is eligible to apply for NUSF-57 funds?

The Nebraska State Telehealth program is supplemental and secondary to support received through the FCC Rural Health care, Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF). Applicants for NUSF-57 funds must be receiving support through the federal HCF program and have been subject to the competitive bidding requirements of the HCF. To be eligible to receive state funding, sites must be a public or nonprofit entity and be one of the following types of facilities: (a) Not-for profit hospital, (b) rural health clinic, (c) community health or community mental health center, (d) a local health department, (e) skilled nursing facility, or (f) a consortium with sites as noted above.

More information about eligibility for the FCC Rural Health care HCF program can be found on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) website [HERE](#).

### B. Can I apply as an individual Healthcare provider or as a Consortium?

Applicants can be either an individual Healthcare provider seeking support or a Consortium of hospitals. However, the filing type should match how support was filed through the HCF.

### C. What resources are available to assist entities with the application process?

1. Nebraska State Telehealth Resources and application form can be found on the Nebraska Public Service Commission website [HERE](#).
2. Federal Rural Health Care Resources:
  - [USAC Healthcare Connect Fund \(HCF\) Website](#)
  - [FCC Healthcare Connect Fund \(HCF\) Order, WC Docket No 02-60](#)
  - [FCC HCF FAQ](#)

### D. Where is the application located?

The application can be found on the Nebraska Public Service Commission's website at <https://psc.nebraska.gov/telecommunications/nusf-forms>. It is recommended that you download the application, then open the file in Acrobat Reader or Professional, rather than accessing the form through an internet browser.

### E. How do I submit the application?

The completed and signed application forms can be sent via e-mail to [psc.nusf@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.nusf@nebraska.gov).

### F. What documentation is required to be attached to the application if an applicant did not receive bids during the mandatory 28 day bidding period?

In addition to the FCC Form 462 and any other relevant supporting documentation, the application should include a copy of the applicant's existing billing along with a cover letter stating that no bids were received and as such, the applicant will continue to use their existing provider.

### G. What documentation is required to be attached to the application if an applicant is claiming a Competitive Bidding Exception?

Applicants that are claiming a competitive bidding exemption should attach a copy of the FCC Form 462 that indicates that the competitive bidding exemption was claimed on the federal application, along with any other supporting documentation if applicable.

#### H. When is the NUSF-57 Nebraska State Telehealth Program application due?

The start of the state application filing window will follow the federal Rural Health Care (RHC) filing window start date. The end the filing window for state applications will always end 15 business days after the close of the federal RHC filing window to allow applicants additional time to complete the state application forms. In the event the federal filing window is extended, the state filing window will be automatically extended to 15 business days after the close of the extended federal filing window.

#### I. How will the support amounts be determined?

Applicants can request funding for up to 25 percent of their total eligible costs. All applications received in the filing window will receive equal consideration for support for FY2021. Support amounts may be less than 25 percent if the applicant requests less, if support is reduced due to a pre-existing 3 year commitment with another external partial match source, or if the applicant is a consortium that collects membership fees that go toward the match contribution and they are unable to reduce that portion of fees or refund them. In the event that state funding requests received exceed the annual Program Support Cap, the Commission may implement a rurality test, prorate funding, or elect to increase the total amount of funding available in the program.

#### J. When will I receive my state support schedule?

After receipt of the funding commitment letter from USAC, the applicant will e-mail a copy of the federal FCL to [psc.nusf@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.nusf@nebraska.gov). A state support schedule will be e-mailed to the HCP and service provider(s) within 60 days of receipt of the Funding Commitment Letter (FCL).

#### K. How will the approved grant funds be disbursed?

Upon applying for funds an applicant must certify that the service provider has been certificated in Nebraska for purposes of receiving telehealth funding, as a Nebraska eligible telecommunications Carrier (NETC). Funding can only be paid to a Nebraska eligible telecommunications carrier (NETC) and placed as a credit on a HCP or consortium's account. Once the HCP or consortium files and has approved their 463, a copy should be e-mailed to [psc.nusf@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.nusf@nebraska.gov). Once credits are placed on the applicant's account, the service provider will issue a copy of the invoice to the NUSF department to request reimbursement.

For information on how a service provider can become certificated in Nebraska for purposes of receiving telehealth funding as a Nebraska eligible telecommunication Carrier (NETC), please contact [susan.horn@nebraska.gov](mailto:susan.horn@nebraska.gov).

#### L. If I am a consortium applicant and collect membership fees that currently are used for the HCP contribution percentage required by USAC, how will those be considered in the determination of support?

The portion of membership fees calculated to be collected for use toward the required federal match contribution, when combined with federal and state funding cannot be greater than 100 percent of eligible costs. For example, if a consortium receives 65 percent of the total network eligible costs from federal funding and is approved for 25 percent of the total network costs in state funding, then only up to the remaining 10 percent can be collected from consortium members through membership fees. In the event where adjustments cannot be made in advance, amounts should be refunded to member hospitals or state support approved may be reduced. Applicants should note on the application whether membership fees are used toward the required match and how much of those fees are used toward that purpose.

#### M. If I received a multi-year funding commitment from USAC, can I apply for supplemental funding through the Nebraska State Telehealth program?

Applicants that have been approved for a multi-year commitment from USAC can apply for support through the Nebraska State Telehealth program. Approved support would be considered secondary to any external planned

match source already in place. However, each funding request should only be for one funding year and the maximum length of invoicing and reimbursement request cannot be greater than one year.

N. If an application to USAC involves both single year and multi-year recurring costs, how should the NUSF-57 application be submitted?

In cases where the USAC filing involves both single year and multi-year recurring costs, separate NUSF-57 applications should be submitted for consideration that separate the single year costs and multi-year expenses.

If you have additional questions, please contact us via e-mail to [psc.nusf@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.nusf@nebraska.gov).