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PSC Announces Application Period for Medical Telecommunications Grants

[Madison, Wis.] - The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for Medical Telecommunications Equipment Grants for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017. The Medical Telecommunications Equipment Grant Program provides funding to nonprofit medical clinics, hospitals or public health agencies for the purchase of specialized telecommunications equipment designed to augment or enhance the delivery of medical services.

“The investments funded through Telemedicine Grants improve access and health outcomes in cost effective ways,” said Commission Chair Ellen Nowak. “Remote visits, immediate access to healthcare professionals, real-time access to data and health monitoring capabilities are critical to our healthcare system.”

Former recipients have used funding to purchase video conferencing equipment to allow patients in rural locations to meet with medical specialists without having to travel to a distant clinic, or purchase home health monitoring devices to permit patients to record and report their health status from the convenience their home.

Former grant recipient Community Memorial Hospital in Suring, WI reports that exam turn-around times have gone down and signed reports from the radiologist are available much sooner as a result of electric availability of images minutes after they are acquired. Image quality has also improved with the new technology. Similarly, St. Clare Hospital in Baraboo, WI, reported that a pathologist utilizing the VisionTek M6 system has indicated that the digital microscope has outperformed optical microscopy with ease of software and the ability to view multiple slides at the same time.

The Commission may award one or more grants that, in aggregate, do not exceed an annual total of \$500,000 during Fiscal Year 2016, and an additional \$500,000 in Fiscal Year 2017. Applications are due **March 31, 2016**. Application instructions and additional information may be found at the PSC website: <http://psc.wi.gov>.

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