



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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## **PSC Announces Telemedicine Grants to Non-profit Hospitals, Clinics and Public Health Agencies Across the State**

MADISON- The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) has announced that several non-profit hospitals, clinics, and public health agencies around the state will receive grants from Wisconsin's Universal Service Fund (USF) program.

“Choosing from among the many qualified projects was a difficult decision,” said Chairperson Dan Ebert. “All of the applicants are delivering vital services to their communities – meeting real needs and making real impacts. This only highlights the importance of the USF program and why it is imperative to continue providing it in Wisconsin.”

The Universal Service Fund, created under Wisconsin law, allows the PSC to collect fees from telecommunication providers and award \$500,000 annually to non-profit medical clinics and public health agencies. The grants help clinics purchase telecommunications equipment, promote advanced medical services, and enhance access to medical care in underserved areas. This year, 25 organizations requested over \$1.5 million and nineteen clinics and local public health agencies were awarded grants that total \$500,000.

The following non-profit hospitals, clinics, and public health agencies received grants:

- **Calumet County Health Department & HHC/Hospice Agency** provides public health and home care or hospice programs and services for the residents of Calumet County. The agency received \$40,132 to purchase home health care monitoring equipment to monitor homebound patients with cardiovascular and respiratory health issues
- **Door County Community Programs** provide mental health and substance abuse services. The program received \$10,500 to purchase videoconferencing equipment to link the county health program with psychiatric services so those services can be provided to eligible children and families.
- **Door County Memorial Hospital/Ministry Health** is a fully accredited acute-care hospital and outpatient medical center. The hospital received \$25,000 to purchase an updated telecommunications system.
- **Family Health/La Clinica** received \$12,345 to purchase videoconferencing equipment to

provide psychiatric services to patients of the community health center by linking with bilingual services offered at other health centers.

- **Franciscan Skemp Behavioral Health** provides substance abuse treatment services. The organization received \$32,780 to purchase videoconferencing equipment to provide psychiatric services to patients at four rural clinics including Arcadia, Prairie du Chien, Sparta, and Tomah.
- **Gunderson Clinic Ltd** operates several rural medical clinic sites. The clinic received \$33,380 to purchase equipment to expand telehealth to the Tomah Clinic for cancer and cardiac and specialty healthcare needs for children.
- **Hess Memorial Hospital, Inc.** is a community health resource center. The hospital received \$22,699 to purchase four telehealth monitors and peripherals to provide home health care to congestive heart failure patients.
- **La Crosse County HSD** is a health and human services organization for family and children. The organization received \$30,000 to purchase four videoconferencing units to provide expanded psychiatric care to the health center, two community-based residential treatment facilities, and an outpatient clinic.
- **Marinette County Health and Human Services** offers an array of services to promote and enhance the health and welfare of county residents. The organization received \$16,498 to purchase two video conferencing systems to link outpatient clinics in Niagra and Marinette with public and private psychiatric services in Madison.
- **Marshfield Clinic** is one of the largest private, multispecialty group practices in the United States. The clinic received \$40,000 to update stethoscopy equipment and add existing sites to continue to provide high quality telemedicine at rural clinics.
- **Menominee County Health and Human Services Department** received \$7,995 to purchase videoconferencing equipment to link the Neshena clinic to Madison or Marshfield clinics to provide psychiatric services to county or reservation clients.
- **Milwaukee Health Services, Inc.** provides accessible, quality primary and related health care services to Milwaukee residents. The organization received \$6,953 to purchase videoconferencing equipment to link to the Wisconsin Telehealth Services Network and provide expertise of HIV and mental health professionals for patient care.
- **Moundview Memorial Hospital and Clinics** meets the healthcare needs of Adams County and the surrounding area. The clinic received \$64, 810 to purchase a computed radiography system to enable timely interpretation of medical XX by providing access to an offsite radiologist 24 hours a day.

- **Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Inc.** empowers individuals to manage their sexual and reproductive health through patient services, education and advocacy. The organization received \$21,1331 to purchase telephony equipment to connect the patient and medical professional to provide patient consults.
- **Portage County Health and Human Services** promotes the health, safety, and well-being of Portage County residents. The organization received \$12,345 to purchase videoconferencing equipment to provide services to county residents that are institutionalized outside the county.
- **St. Joseph's Community Health** is a catholic hospital dedicated to achieving excellence in healthcare. The hospital received \$79,591 to purchase teled equipment including peripherals to connect Hillsboro Hospital to family clinics in Wonewoc, Elroy, and Hillsboro and to purchase a wireless communications system for communication with the physicians.
- **St. Mary's Hospital of Superior** is a community hospital guided by Benedictine values. The hospital received \$25,000 to purchase an updated phone system for the hospital and clinic.
- **Sheboygan County Health and Human Services** received \$8,645 to purchase videoconferencing equipment to provide psychiatric child and geriatric services by connecting to Mendota Mental Health and other providers.
- **Southwest Health Center** is a full service emergent and inpatient care facility located in Platteville, Wisconsin. The center received \$9,996 to purchase video conferencing equipment to provide the hospital, nursing home, and psychiatric unit with telepharmacy and teletranslation services.

The grants will help medical centers and local public health agencies purchase telecommunications equipment that improves communication between patients and healthcare staff and will improve communication between medical experts throughout the state.

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