

Relevant Section of Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter PSC 160

PSC 160.115 Medical telecommunications equipment program. (1) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Initial application" means an application for universal service fund support under this section that is the first such application filed by the applicant during a state fiscal year.

(b) "Non-profit medical clinic" includes any clinic that:

1. Is a non-profit organization governed by a board of directors,
2. Serves federally designated health professional shortage areas as defined in 42 USC 254e(a)(1), medically underserved areas, or medically underserved populations, and
3. Does one or both of the following:
 - a. Provides services to all patients regardless of insurance status.
 - b. Uses a sliding fee scale for uninsured patients based on income status.

(c) "Public health agency" includes the department of health and family services, any local health department as defined in s. 250.01 (4), Stats., and any health care facility or program operated by a tribe or tribal organization under the Indian Self-Determination Act (25 USC 450f et seq.)

(2) Funding may be available to non-profit medical clinics and public health agencies for the purchase of telecommunications equipment for any of the following purposes:

- (a) To promote technologically advanced medical services.
- (b) To enhance access to medical care in rural or underserved areas of the state, or both.
- (c) To enhance access to medical care by underserved populations or persons with disabilities in the state, or both.

(3) A maximum of \$500,000 in universal service fund support may be dispersed under this section per state fiscal year.

(4) (a) An application for universal service fund support under this section may not involve dispersement of support during multiple state fiscal years.

(b) All applications shall become public documents upon filing.

(5) Applications shall include all of the following:

(a) A description of the telecommunications equipment for which universal service fund support is requested.

(b) An explanation of how the applicant's purchase of such telecommunications equipment will support the purposes identified in sub. (2).

(c) Identification of the vendor that will supply the telecommunications equipment.

(d) A description of how the portion of the purchase price not covered by universal service fund support, if any, will be paid for.

(e) A description of the steps taken to secure the telecommunications equipment at reasonable prices.

(f) A statement certifying that the universal service fund support will be used for the purpose granted.

(g) Any other information that the commission deems necessary.

(6) (a) The commission shall evaluate all applications submitted under this section. Provided that funds remain for this purpose, the commission may approve an application if it includes the information required under sub. (5) and if the commission determines the following:

1. The applicant is a non-profit medical clinic or public health agency located in Wisconsin.
2. The applicant's purchase of telecommunications equipment will support the purposes identified in sub. (2).
3. The applicant will be able to pay for the portion of the cost of the equipment not funded under this section.
4. The medical clinic or public health agency has taken steps to secure the equipment at reasonable prices.

(b) Public health agencies and non-profit organizations that operate more than one location may receive universal service fund support for telecommunications equipment at more than one location, but before approving an application involving an additional location, the commission shall consider how much total universal service fund support has been received by such agency or organization during the state fiscal year and the total amount remaining available to be dispersed under this section during the fiscal year. Preference may be given to initial applications filed by a public health agency or non-profit medical clinic.

(c) The commission may convene a panel of experts to assist in the evaluation of applications submitted under this section.

History: Cr. Register, April, 2000, No. 532, eff. 5-1-00.