



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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## Public Service Commission Awards 23 Telemedicine Grants

MADISON - Today at its open meeting, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin approved grants for 23 applicants as part of the agency's Medical Telecommunications Equipment Program. The grants approved today are paid for through the state's Universal Service Fund.

The purpose of this grant program is to promote technologically advanced medical services, to enhance access to medical care in rural or underserved areas of the state, and to enhance access to medical care by underserved populations or persons with disabilities. The grants target projects that demonstrate the use of advanced telecommunications services to extend the availability of medical care in rural areas and among underserved populations.

The 23 grants approved today together total nearly \$1.0 million. The grant recipients include 1 tribal health agency, 2 county health agencies and 20 non-profit medical organizations.

- Several of the grants provide for video conferencing equipment to permit better communication between patients and medical specialists in situations where face-to-face meetings are not possible.
- Home Health United of Dane County and St. Vincent & St. Mary's Hospital in Green Bay received grants to purchase improved in-home health monitoring equipment to permit better day-to-day care for patients convalescing at home.
- Other grants provide funds to purchase digital x-ray equipment and teleconferencing equipment to permit medical imagery to be evaluated by radiologists and other specialists located in other cities, provide equipment to promote consumer awareness of the dangers of strokes, and purchase an improved telecommunications system for a non-profit organization operating 3 clinics in Sawyer County.

### Following is a list of all grants awarded:

- Aspirus, Inc. of Wausau will receive \$53,569.43 to purchase a telemedicine cart and two types of wireless devices for consultations with specialists in other areas of the state.
- Boscobel Area Health Care will receive \$31,336 to purchase medical software and computer resources to provide access for rural clinics.
- Florence County Health Dept. of Florence will receive \$20,450.00 to purchase video conferencing equipment for patient care in rural areas.
- Grant Regional Health Center of Lancaster will receive \$28,780.00 to purchase one year of upgraded technology, two computers, and a router to support a stroke awareness campaign.
- Gundersen Lutheran Medical foundation of La Crosse will receive \$47,842.00 to purchase a telemedicine cart for Tomah Memorial Hospital to consult with neonatal specialists in La Crosse.

- Home Health United of Madison will receive \$32,195.00 to purchase 16 home medical monitoring devices to provide care through video teleconferencing.
- The Human Service Center of Rhinelander will receive \$38,486.19 to purchase video conference equipment to expand care in distance-based counties.
- Indianhead Community Action Agency of Ladysmith will receive \$23,072 to purchase tablet computers for agency staff to help with consultation and patient evaluation.
- Iron County Human Services of Hurley will receive \$18,373.83 to upgrade telehealth equipment used to provide psychiatric care in Iron County.
- The Lakes Community Health Center of Iron River will receive \$116,269.44 to purchase 4 telemedicine carts to expand services in Iron County.
- Lake Superior Community Health Center of Superior will receive \$77,640 to purchase digital x-ray equipment.
- Langlade Hospital of Antigo will receive \$55,839.00 to purchase radiology equipment at Aspirus Birnamwood Clinic.
- L E Phillips Libertas Treatment of Chippewa will receive \$41,992.00 to purchase video conference equipment to provide psychiatric care to its patients.
- Marshfield Clinic of Marshfield will receive \$39,675.00 to purchase video conference equipment to provide consultation and patient evaluation by teleconference at 3 rural hospitals.
- Mayo Clinic Health System-Northland of Barron will receive \$24,000.00 to purchase video conference equipment to provide consultation and patient evaluation.
- Ministry Door County Medical Center of Sturgeon Bay will receive \$25,044.00 to purchase video conference equipment to provide patient evaluation and consultation at North Shore Medical Clinic.
- North Central Health care of Wausau will receive \$75,000 to purchase video conference equipment to provide psychiatric care.
- NorthWoods Community Health Center of Hayward will receive \$52,870.00 to purchase a VoIP telephone system to improve inter-clinic communications and services to clients.
- Progressive Community Health Centers of Milwaukee will receive \$3,000.00 to purchase telecommunications equipment to support data, voice, and internet applications.
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa of Bayfield will receive \$50,000.00 to purchase a telemedicine workstation for patients with heart problems.
- St Vincent & St Mary's Hospital Home Health of Green Bay will receive \$35,250.00 to purchase 10 in-home monitors for at-risk patients with chronic medical conditions.
- Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers of Cashton will receive \$58,262.00 to purchase a telemedicine workstation for health education and consultations with specialists.
- Southwest Health Center of Platteville will receive \$49,224.00 to purchase video conference equipment to provide psychiatric care.

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