



Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

Telehealth Network Grant Program (TNGP)

Monthly e-Blast - June 2021

Be on the lookout next week for the Telehealth Network Grant Program (TNGP) quarterly newsletter, *The Telehealth Quarterly Digest*. It is brought to you by your TNGP technical assistance (TA) team and includes grantee spotlights, program updates, articles, resources, and upcoming events.

Program-Specific Updates

[Quarterly Technical Assistance Webinar: Pre-Emergency Department Telehealth Support in Rural Communities](#)

Thursday, June 17, from 3:00–4:00 p.m. ET

Join us on our next webinar for TNGP grantees focused on telestroke and the expansion of care into the pre-hospital setting. Our speaker, Dr. Sherita Chapman, will share her insights as a pioneer in the field of tele-emergency medicine support. Dr. Chapman has extensive experience establishing telestroke programs and working with ambulance services in rural communities. She will discuss overcoming challenges with local emergency medical services, the practical adaptation of technology in the field, and the application of implementation science to telehealth. Dr. Chapman is a neurologist and an assistant professor in the stroke division at the University of Virginia.

Note: Advance registration is required. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with details for accessing the webinar. You can register via the original email announcement or [here](#).

Resources, News, and Other Updates

[Funding Opportunity: Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#)

Created in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, the Federal Communications Commission's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program assists families and households with affording internet service. The program provides a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service and associated equipment rentals for eligible households and

\$75 per month for households on tribal lands. Additionally, there is a one-time discount of up to \$100 for laptops, tablets, or desk computers. To qualify for the program, a member of the household must meet at least one of the eligibility criteria:

- Income at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or participates in specific assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid, or Lifeline
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school breakfast or lunch programs
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020, and a total household income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers
- Meets the eligibility criteria for participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program

This is a great funding opportunity to disseminate to members of the communities you are serving!

[Click here](#) for more information. [Click here](#) to apply for the program.

National Emergency Tele-Critical Care Network Program

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Defense collaborated on a program that provides hospitals who are treating patients with COVID-19 and do not have enough critical care physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, and other specialized clinical experts with teams of critical care clinicians. The critical care care teams are available to deliver virtual care through lightweight telemedicine platforms.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Policy News: The CONNECT Act is Back, Giving Telehealth Policy a Fourth Shot at Passage

The Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies for Health Act of 2021, also known as the CONNECT for Health Act, has been re-introduced to Congress for the fourth time. The bill includes measures to expand access to and coverage of telehealth, including permanently removing all geographic restrictions on telehealth and allowing federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics to provide telehealth services beyond the pandemic. A few provisions in past iterations of the act have already been made into law, including actions to improve telemental health and telestroke care.

[Click here](#) to access the article.

Podcast: Developing Strategies, Technologies for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

On this episode of the Healthcare Strategies Podcast, Dr. Daniel Durand, chief innovation officer at LifeBridge Health in Maryland, shares how his health system developed and adapted its coronavirus vaccine distribution tool and strategy. Dr. Durand shared that LifeBridge's population engagement and education strategy included using YouTube and other platforms to disseminate content on different reading levels and in different languages to address vaccine hesitancy within the various communities they serve. The team also used ongoing education and adherence monitoring through a mobile phone app that patients could choose to engage with post-vaccination.

[Click here](#) to access the podcast.



[Virtual: ATA 2021 Annual Conference & Expo](#)

June 1-29, 2021

Please join the American Telemedicine Association as they host their annual conference and expo. The conference will showcase a mix of practical applications of telehealth, including primary care and specialty care, provide hands-on workshops, and highlight important next steps for the future of telehealth. The conference will also spotlight best practices to improve patient and provider experiences and outcomes. Virtual sessions will be held every Tuesday and Thursday. Contact events@americantelemed.com for more information.

Register



[Virtual: Region 10 COVID-19 Rural Success Stories – Promising Practices of Delivering Telehealth in Alaska](#)

June 10, 2021, from 3:00-4:30 p.m. ET

Please join the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's) Office of Regional Operations, Region 10, as they host the first of four webinars highlighting rural success stories. The webinar will share promising practices and challenges faced in Alaska to improve telehealth services in rural settings and HRSA resources available to rural communities to expand health care services through telehealth.

Register



[Virtual: Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center Telehealth Series](#)

Please join the Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center as they host a series of webinars on various telehealth-related topics.

June 23, 2021 –
Marketing your telehealth program |
[Click here](#) to register.

June 28, 2021 –
Using remote patient monitoring to improve outcomes |
[Click here](#) to register.

June 29, 2021 –
Telehealth consent and documentation |
[Click here](#) to register.

June 30, 2021 –
Telehealth technology workshop or demo videos |
[Click here](#) to register.



[Virtual: Remote Patient Monitoring Virtual Summit](#)

July 13-14, 2021

Please join Xtelligent Healthcare Media as they host a virtual summit on remote patient monitoring (RPM). The keynote speaker, Deaconess Health, will share the successes of their RPM program. Additionally, there will be sessions on reimbursement and sustainability, choosing the right technology, and facilitating patient and staff buy-in and support.

[Register](#)

This digest is brought to you by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) and the TNGP Technical Assistance Team.