

SOI: Telehealth Capital Program

OVERVIEW

On November 22nd, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) released a Solicitation of Interest (SOI) for projects that support investments in community infrastructure to expand telehealth access to services from licensed Article 16, 28, 29-I, 31, and 32 providers. DOH will award up to \$25,000 each, for a total of \$1.5 million, to projects that expand access to telehealth among Medicaid beneficiaries and low-income minority, rural, older, and other underserved communities that lack access to telehealth infrastructure (e.g., connectivity, devices, private spaces). Projects must be located in the community at a site that is not the applicant's primary service site.

Please note that DOH intends to make awards on a pass/fail and first-come, first-served basis.

The Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA) has pledged an additional \$1.5 million to provide further support to awarded projects under this SOI. Applicants may choose to share contact information and award amounts with RPA, who will award and administer funds at its discretion.

The full SOI is available [here](#). Applications will open on January 4, 2022 and close on January 18, 2022.

FUNDING

Applicants may request up to \$25,000 in total funding. In order to ensure statewide geographic distribution of funding, DOH will ensure that \$150,000 in funding is allocated in each of the ten Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) regions.

Eligible capital expenses include, but are not limited to:

- The planning or design of the acquisition, construction, demolition, replacement, repair, or renovation of a fixed asset(s), including the preparation and review of plans/specifications;
- Construction costs;
- Renovation costs;
- Asset acquisitions; and
- Equipment costs, such as computers, smartphones, tablets, and remote patient monitoring devices.

Eligible non-capital expenses include:

- Startup operating expenses directly related to capital purchases (e.g., data plans, Wi-Fi hotspots);
- Software for telehealth platforms and services; and
- Telehealth vendor subscription costs.

Ongoing operating costs, such as routine supplies, utilities, and employee salaries/benefits, are not eligible for funding. Contracts will last for one year starting on March 1, 2022.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Projects should be based on the needs and connectivity gaps experienced by the target population. Examples of potential projects include:

- The creation of “community telehealth hubs” for underserved communities that contain a private, connected, and device-equipped space to facilitate a telehealth encounter;
- The purchase or renovation of a telehealth-equipped van or similar vehicle;
- The purchase of telehealth equipment for individual use; and/or
- Other innovative activities to increase access to telehealth among communities with connectivity gaps.

Eligible projects must have an identified Project Location that is not the same as the applicant’s main clinic, professional office, or service site. If the site is controlled by another partner organization, a Letter of Support from the partner is required.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

To be eligible for funding through this program, applicants must be:

- Article 28-licensed facilities;
- Article 31-licensed mental health clinics;
- Article 32-licensed substance abuse treatment clinics;
- Article 16-licensed clinics serving individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities; or
- Article 29-I-licensed Voluntary Foster Care Agencies.

APPLICATION

Applications will be reviewed by DOH on pass/fail criteria. Evaluation criteria are not specifically listed, but will include completion of all the required submission materials, including:

- Application Cover Sheet (Attachment 4)
- Project Proposal (Attachment 3)
- Budget (Attachment 5)
- MWBE Utilization Forms (Attachment 6)
- Vendor Responsibility Attestation (Attachment 7)
- Letter of Support

Applications that pass will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis until \$150,000 is awarded in each REDC region. Requests for more than one type of project, even if the total amount requested across the multiple projects is under \$25,000, will not be funded.