

We support the Universal Service Fund for Rural Health Care program to its fullest extent. The program has been instrumental in ensuring that our health care facility is able maintain a high level of access to broadband services.

In order to maintain and improve these services going forward, we request the following:

- Full Support for increasing Internet support from 25% to 50% funding
- Expanding “Eligible Health Care Provider” locations to include data centers, administrative offices, and skilled nursing centers.
- Modifying “Rural Area Definition for the Universal Service Fund” and base Rural Areas on the US Department of Agriculture B&I, which would include all areas outside ‘places of 50,000 or more people and their adjacent and continuous urbanized areas.’ [this definition would include 36% of the US population]
- Full Support of Infrastructure build-out to allow Health Care Facilities network access of 10-20Megibits/second minimum connection speed with 85% of the cost paid by the program with the life span of the investment based on 15 years.
- Reject in Total the requirement to make telecommunication funding contingent on meaningful use of electronic medical records. [The HHS “Meaningful Use” Criteria requirement should be addressed in Medicare/Medicaid EMR 2015 goals not the funding program]