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For Immediate Release

**FCC ANNOUNCES FINAL GROUP OF APPROVED PROJECTS FOR
CONNECTED CARE PILOT PROGRAM**

***Program Will Support Connected Care Services Across Country, Focus on Low-
Income and Veteran Patients***

WASHINGTON, March 16, 2022—Today, the Federal Communications Commission announced its fourth and final set of approved Connected Care Pilot Program projects. These 16 projects were approved for a total of \$29,752,601 in funding. With the newly selected projects, the Connected Care Pilot Program is set to fund 107 projects serving patients in 40 states plus Washington, D.C.

Today's action also sets a uniform deadline for all participants to file their initial funding request by September 16, 2022.

Telehealth has assumed an increasingly critical role in health care delivery, enabling patients to access health care services without needing to visit a health care provider's medical office. Among other benefits, connected care services, delivered via a broadband internet access connection directly to the patient's home or mobile location, also can help contain and treat health conditions during public health emergencies, such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Pilot Program will make available funds from the Universal Service Fund over a three-year period for selected pilot projects to help defray the costs of providing certain telehealth services for eligible health care providers, with a particular emphasis on providing connected care services to low-income and veteran patients.

The additional projects selected today will address a number of critical health conditions such as high-risk pregnancy/maternal health, mental health conditions, opioid dependency, COVID-19, and chronic conditions. Funding these projects will help bring connected care services to rural and other underserved areas nationwide and will also help the Commission learn more about how Universal Service Fund support can enable providers to use connected care to help improve health outcomes.

- ***Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA.*** Boston Medical Center seeks \$446,250 in Connected Care support to provide video visits or consults, remote treatment, and remote patient monitoring to low-income patients who are suffering from chronic/long-term conditions and mental health conditions. Boston Medical Center would serve approximately 1,500 patients, 85% of whom would be low-income. Boston Medical Center was selected because of its potential impact on this low-income patient population.
- ***Boston's Community Medical Group, Inc., Boston, MA.*** Boston's Community Medical Group, Inc., seeks \$918,000 in Connected Care support to deploy a HIPAA-compliant telehealth platform to serve its 22,000 low-income patients across Massachusetts with

primary care and wrap-around services. Patients to be served are eligible for both Medicare and state Medicaid-supported services, with many having a physical or behavioral disability, a severe mental illness, or substance-use disorder. Boston's Community Medical Group's proposal was chosen because of its potential impact on rural and medically underserved areas and its focus on high-need, low-income populations.

- ***Children's Hospital of Denver, Aurora, CO.*** Children's Hospital of Denver would use \$824,096 in Connected Care support to provide remote patient monitoring and treatment services to low-income patients under 21 years of age suffering from medically complex conditions. Children's Hospital would serve an estimated 200 patients in Wyoming and Colorado, 100% of whom are low-income. Children's Hospital of Denver was selected because of its potential impact on low-income children with medically complex conditions in Colorado and surrounding rural areas.
- ***Christiana Care Health Services, Newark, DE.*** Christiana Care Health Services' Pilot project would use \$3,253,627 in Connected Care support to provide prenatal remote patient monitoring and telehealth visits to primarily low-income patients. Christiana Care Health Services' Pilot project would serve an estimated 5,000 patients in Delaware, 80% of whom would be low-income. Christiana Care Health Services was selected because of its focus on maternal health for low-income patients.
- ***Community Guidance Center - Indiana Location C19, Indiana, PA.*** Community Guidance Center would use \$154,530 in Connected Care support to provide teletherapy services to low-income and veteran patients in western Pennsylvania. This Pilot project will focus on providing mental health, substance abuse, and intellectual disability treatment services to 150 patients. Community Guidance Center's Pilot project was selected because of its focus on expanding access to mental health services to low-income patients residing in rural areas.
- ***Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI), Middletown, CT.*** Community Health Center, Inc., is a consortium with 30 different sites across Connecticut. CHCI seeks \$1,093,398 in Connected Care support to provide remote patient monitoring and video consults to low-income and veteran patients with complex, chronic conditions such as hypertension, mental health disorders, obesity, opioid dependency, and HIV, often compounded by adverse social determinants of health such as homelessness. CHCI would treat an estimated 15,000 patients, more than 80% of whom would be low-income and approximately 5% of whom would be veterans. Community Health Center, Inc. was selected because of its potential impact on low-income and veteran patients across multiple communities.
- ***Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (Yukon Flats Health Center), Fort Yukon, AK.*** Through its Pilot project, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (Yukon Flats Health Center) seeks \$1,124,486 in Connected Care support to provide patient-based, internet-connected remote monitoring, other monitoring, video visits, imaging diagnostics, remote treatment, and other services for veterans and low-income patients with chronic conditions, high-risk pregnancy/maternal health, infectious diseases like COVID-19, mental health conditions, and opioid dependency. This Pilot project would reach an estimated 5,588 patients, 95% of whom would be low-income and 5% of whom would be veterans. This project was chosen because of its potential impact on low-income and veteran patients in a rural region in Alaska.
- ***Golden Valley Health Centers, Merced, CA.*** Golden Valley Health Centers' Pilot project would use \$725,195 in Connected Care support to provide patient-based internet-connected remote monitoring, other monitoring, video visits or consults, and imaging diagnostics primarily to low-income patients suffering from chronic or long-term conditions, mental

health conditions, and opioid dependency. Golden Valley Health Centers' Pilot project would provide connected care services to 70,000 patients in California, nearly all of them low-income. Golden Valley Health Centers was selected because it would serve a large number of low-income patients.

- ***Greater Baden Medical Services, Inc., Brandywine, MD.*** Greater Baden Medical Services, Inc., seeks \$406,249 in Connected Care support to provide patient-based, internet-connected, remote monitoring, video visits, and remote treatment for veterans and low-income patients whose needs include chronic or long-term conditions, high-risk pregnancy/maternal health, infectious diseases like COVID-19, mental health conditions, and opioid dependency. Greater Baden Medical Services' Pilot project would reach an estimated 5,400 patients across Maryland, 35% of whom would be low-income and 20% of whom may be veterans. Greater Baden Medical Services was selected because of its potential impact on the low-income and veteran populations that it serves.
- ***MUSC Medical Center, Charleston, SC.*** MUSC Medical Center's Pilot project seeks \$246,347 in Connected Care support to provide remote patient monitoring and video visits to treat patients for maternal health, chronic conditions, mental health issues, opioid dependency, and infectious diseases. MUSC Medical Center's pilot project would reach an estimated 3,500 patients, 25% of whom would be low-income patients. MUSC Medical Center was selected because of its focus on expanding connected care services, with a specific focus on maternal health and chronic conditions.
- ***New England Telehealth Consortium, Inc., a consortium with a site in North Conway, NH, and 10 sites in Maine.*** New England Telehealth Consortium seeks \$2,560,098 in Connected Care funding to connect patients directly into its existing consortium network for purposes of receiving connected care services. The Pilot project would serve 1,872 patients, 20% of whom would be low-income patients and 11% of whom would be veterans. New England Telehealth Consortium was selected because of its potential impact on these patient groups and its commitment to address maternal health, chronic and long-term conditions, infectious diseases, mental health conditions, and opioid dependency.
- ***Northern Nevada HOPES, Reno, NV.*** Northern Nevada HOPES' Pilot project seeks \$331,884 in Connected Care support to provide remote patient monitoring services and virtual visits to low-income patients suffering from HIV/AIDS, diabetes, opioid dependency, heart disease, and hypertension. Northern Nevada HOPES' Pilot project would serve an estimated 180 patients, nearly all of whom would be low-income. Northern Nevada HOPES was selected because of its focus on providing broadband to patients residing in transitional housing intended to relieve homelessness.
- ***Palmetto State Providers Network, a consortium with 34 sites in South Carolina.*** Palmetto State Providers Network's Pilot project would use \$7,192,893 in Connected Care support to provide remote monitoring and video consults to primarily low-income patients suffering from chronic conditions and infectious diseases. Palmetto State Providers Network's Pilot project would serve an estimated 18,000 patients at six locations, of whom 80% are low-income. Palmetto State Providers Network was selected because of its provision of broadband to a large number of low-income patients.
- ***Tower Health - Reading Hospital, West Reading, PA.*** Tower Health - Reading Hospital's Pilot project seeks \$396,457 in Connected Care support to provide patient broadband and connected care services for low-income residents of transitional housing. Tower Health - Reading Hospital's Pilot project would serve an estimated 169 patients, nearly all whom would be low-income and 15% of whom would be veterans. Tower Health's project was

selected because of its provision of broadband to low-income and veteran patients and potential impact on these populations.

- **University Hospital, Newark, NJ.** University Hospital seeks \$627,300 for telehealth platforms, including an integrated telehealth platform, to facilitate virtual visits and remote patient monitoring to treat patients with chronic and long-term conditions, as well as COVID-19. University Hospital would serve 80,000 patients in Newark, approximately 29.7% of whom are low-income or veteran patients. University Hospital was selected because it has significant telehealth experience and is the only state-owned acute healthcare facility in Newark New Jersey's Central Ward, with a service area that includes medically underserved areas.
- **Willis-Knighton Health System, Shreveport, LA.** Willis-Knighton Health System seeks \$9,451,791 in Pilot Program funding for patient broadband and to expand remote patient monitoring and video visits and consults to treat patients for chronic conditions (including diabetes, hypertension and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), high-risk pregnancy/maternal health, mental health conditions, opioid dependency and infectious diseases. Willis Knighton Health System's Pilot project would serve an estimated 12,554 patients, approximately 57% of whom would be low-income or veterans, in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas, including rural and medically underserved areas. Willis Knighton Health System's Pilot project was selected because of its focus on expanding access to connected care services and addressing broadband connectivity barriers for low-income and veteran patients, including in rural and underserved areas.

To learn more about the FCC's Connected Care Pilot Program, visit <https://www.fcc.gov/wireline-competition/telecommunications-access-policy-division/connected-care-pilot-program>.

Action by the Commission March 16, 2022 by Public Notice (FCC 22-23). Chairwoman Rosenworcel, Commissioners Carr, Starks, and Simington approving. Chairwoman Rosenworcel, Commissioners Carr and Starks issuing separate statements.

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