Telehealth Overview
Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

Washington State Telehealth Collaborative Meeting

November 13, 2023

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Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People

What is Telehealth?

Telehealth is the use of electronic information and telecommunication technologies to support and promote: long distance health care; patient and professional health-related education; public health; and health administration.

Telehealth Technologies:
- Video conferencing
- The internet
- Store-and-forward imaging
- Streaming media
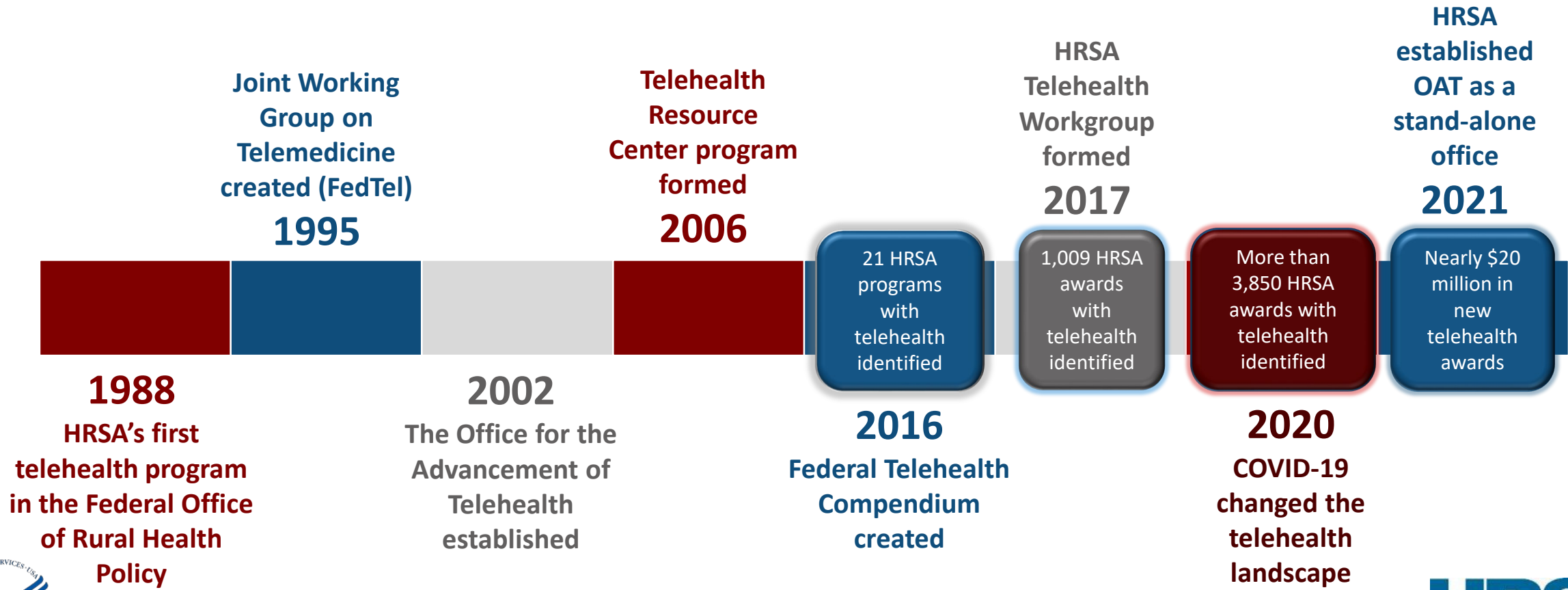- Terrestrial and wireless communications
- Mobile phone use

Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT)

- **Serves across HHS** and coordinates with key federal partners to leverage telehealth to improve access, enhance outcomes, and support clinicians and patients

- **Promotes the use of telehealth technologies** for health care delivery, education, and health information services

- **Provides telehealth funding** for direct services, research, and technical assistance

HRSA
Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

Leadership and History in Telehealth

For over **30 years HRSA has been a leader** in the field of telehealth.

Joint Working Group on Telemedicine created (FedTel) 1995

Telehealth Resource Center program formed 2006

HRSA Telehealth Workgroup formed 2017

HRSA established OAT as a stand-alone office 2021

21 HRSA programs with telehealth identified

1,009 HRSA awards with telehealth identified

More than 3,850 HRSA awards with telehealth identified

Nearly $20 million in new telehealth awards

1988 HRSA's first telehealth program in the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

2002 The Office for the Advancement of Telehealth established

2016 Federal Telehealth Compendium created

2020 COVID-19 changed the telehealth landscape

OAT Budget
Fiscal Years 2021 - 2023

Telehealth	FY 2021 $34M	FY 2022 $35M	FY 2023 $38M
Telehealth Network Grant Program	$8.9M	$8.9M	$8.9M
Evidence-Based Telehealth Network Program	$3.8M	$3.8M	$3.8M
Telehealth Resource Center Program	$4.6M	$4.6M	$4.6M
Licensure Portability Grant Program	$0.3M	$0.3M	$1.5M
Telehealth Research Center Program	$2.0M	$2.0M	$2.0M
Telehealth Centers of Excellence Program	$6.5M	$7.5M	$8.5M
Telehealth Technology Enabled Learning Program	$4.2M	$4.2M	$4.2M

$38 million

7 programs

Up to 70 awardees

OAT – Telehealth Investments

In Fiscal Year 2022, the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth funded grants focused on direct services, research, technical assistance, and workforce.
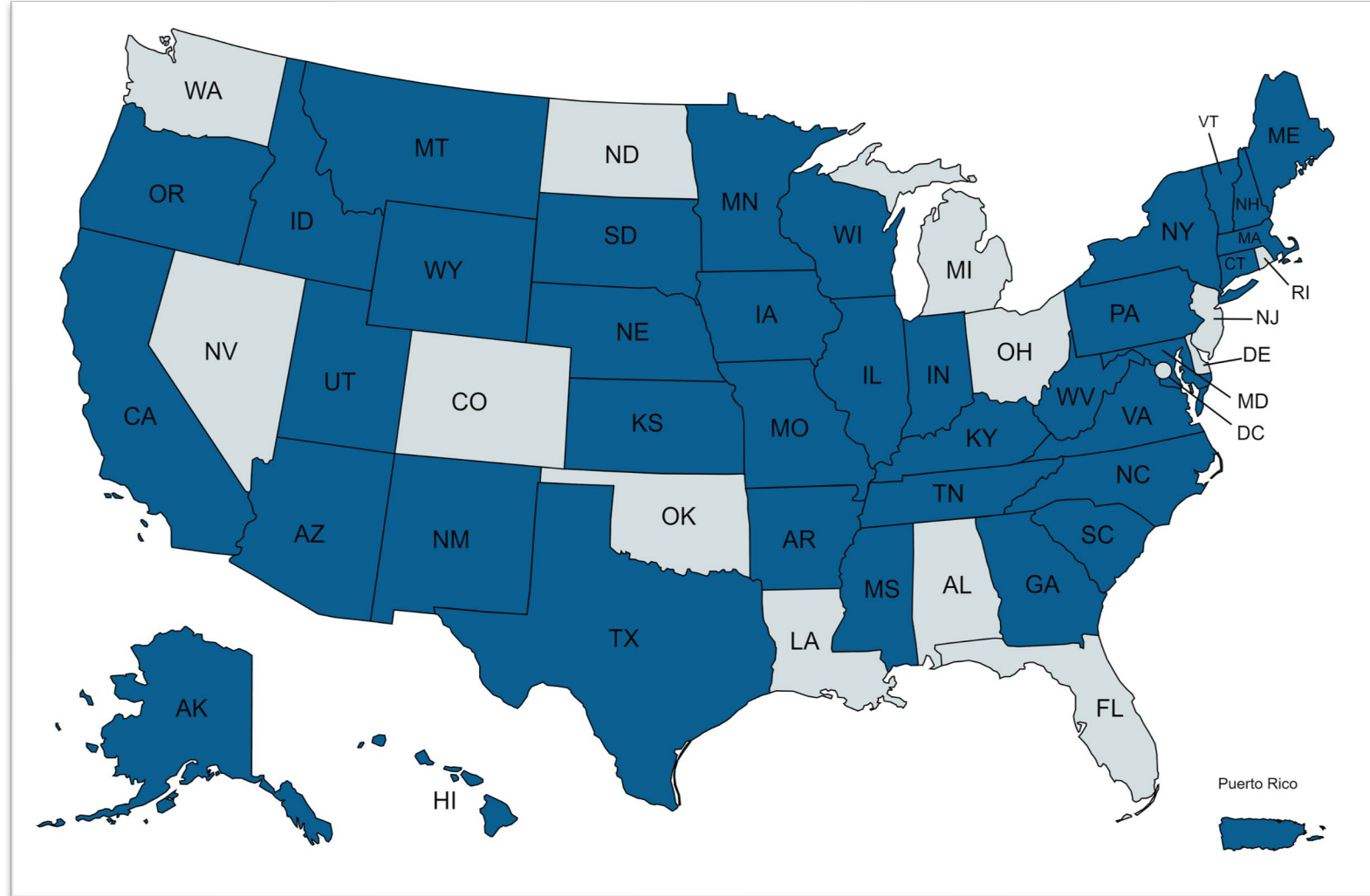

Workforce $4.63 M

Technical Assistance $4.63 M

Direct Services $12.34 M

Research $9.50 M
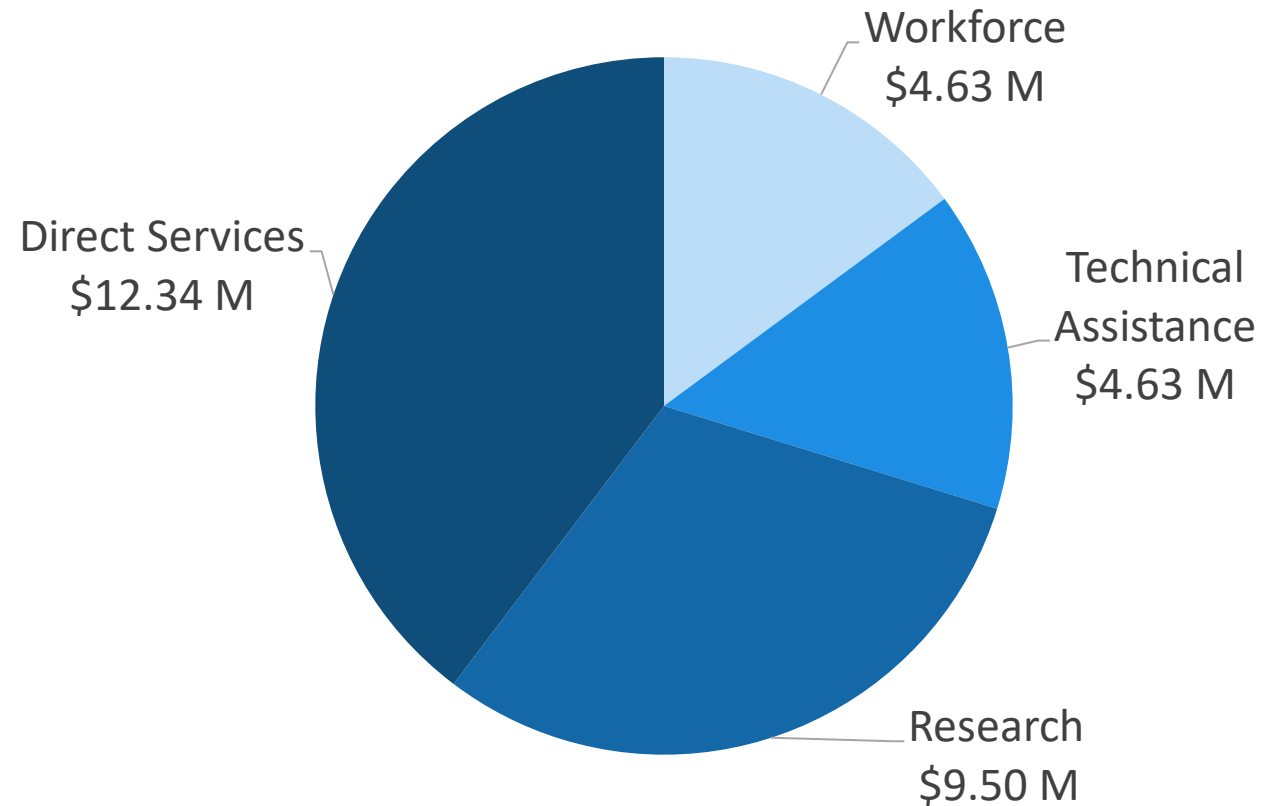
OAT Grantees Distribution
Fiscal Year 2022

Grant Funding Opportunities

- Licensure Portability Grant Program

- Telehealth Network Grant Program

FY 2024

- Telehealth Resource Centers

- Telehealth Research Centers

FY 2025

- Evidence Based Telehealth Network Program

- Telehealth Centers of excellence

- Telehealth Technology Enabled Learning Program

FY 2026

Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

Building Telehealth Evidence Base

Telehealth Centers of Excellence

Telehealth Research Centers

Telehealth Networks

Telehealth Technology Enabled Learning Program

Telehealth Centers of Excellence Program

The Telehealth Centers of Excellence examine the **efficacy of telehealth services in rural and urban areas** and serve as a national clearinghouse for **telehealth research and resources.**

OAT funds two COEs:

- University of Mississippi Medical Center
- Medical University of South Carolina

HRSA's telehealth centers of excellence published over **20 articles** to date on topics such as telehealth costs and utilization and remote patient monitoring.

New Website launched in 2022: https://telehealthcoe.org/

Telehealth Centers of Excellence

Resources Projects Events About News Contact

A HRSA–funded collaboration with the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Medical University of South Carolina

The Telehealth Centers of Excellence (COEs) develop resources for telehealth organizations, researchers, providers, and staff based on their experience, research and innovation.

Telehealth Research Center Program

The **Telehealth Research Centers** conduct and maintain a thorough and comprehensive evaluation of nationwide telehealth investments in rural and underserved areas and populations and conduct clinically-informed and policy-relevant research to expand the evidence-base for rural telehealth services.

OAT funds two Telehealth Research Centers :

- University of Iowa

  https://ruraltelehealth.org/

- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

  https://idhi.uams.edu/rtec/

From 2021-2023 the Telehealth Focused Rural Health Research Centers had over 15 publications

Evidence-Based Telehealth Network Program

The **Evidence-Based Telehealth Network Program** demonstrates how health care systems can increase access to health care services utilizing **direct-to-consumer telehealth technologies** and conducts evaluations of those efforts to assess effectiveness.

In Fiscal Year 2023, OAT awarded approximately **$3.8 million to 11 organizations across 11 states** to support the program.

Telehealth Network Grant Program

The **Telehealth Network Grant Program** demonstrates the use of telehealth networks to improve health care services for underserved and rural communities.

In Fiscal Year 2023, OAT awarded more than **$8 million** to support **tele-emergency services** by enhancing emergency care consults from health care providers via telehealth through increased access and training.

Telehealth Technology Enabled Learning Program

The **Telehealth Technology Enabled Learning Program** connects specialists at academic medical centers with primary care providers in rural and underserved communities to provide training and support in treating patients with complex conditions.

Primary Focus Areas:

- Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder
- Long COVID
- Chronic Diseases (e.g., diabetes)

Promoting Use of Telehealth Technologies

Telehealth.HHS.gov Website

Telehealth Resource Centers

Licensure Portability

Broadband Pilot Program

Telehealth.HHS.gov

Telehealth.HHS.gov is a trusted, timely, and one-stop resource for patients, providers, and researchers for everything they need to know about telehealth including:

- Best practice guides
- Licensure
- Policies
- Research
- Funding opportunities
- Events
- Tip sheets
- Videos

Telehealth.HHS.gov – Trends & Research

Telehealth Trends

Discover the latest telehealth trends, data, and research studies.

Looking for recent publications and studies?

Browse our research library

Trend Spotlight

15% of Medicare fee-for-service users had a telehealth service in the third quarter of 2022.

There was no change in this percentage from quarter 2 to quarter 3 in 2022.

Download the most recent report

Data Spotlight

63-fold

increase in Medicare fee-for-service beneficiary telehealth visits in 2020

Source: Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2021

>20%

of adult patients had a telehealth visit in July 2022

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2022

98%

of HRSA-funded health centers used telehealth to provide primary care in 2021

Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, Uniform Data System, 2021

Research Articles & Papers

Browse our library of telehealth research studies.

Search by Keyword

Filters:

Topic
- Behavioral health
- Emergency health
- Health equity
- HIV/AIDS
- Maternal health
- Medicare and Medicaid
- Pediatric care
- Remote patient monitoring
- Rural health
- School-based health
- Telehealth experience
- Workforce development

Agency
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Telehealth Lifestyle Redesign Occupational Therapy for Diabetes: Preliminary Effectiveness, Satisfaction, and Engagement

This research evaluates telehealth delivery in an occupational therapy intervention for young adults with diabetes. Preliminary results suggest that telehealth clients experienced significant improvements in occupational performance, satisfaction, and health management, with high levels of satisfaction.

National Institutes of Health

Seth Mitchell, John Sideris, Jeanine Blanchard, Gabrielle Granados, Jesús Díaz, Elizabeth Pyatak

July 2023

Telehealth experience

Assessment Fidelity of Parents Implementing a Standardized Telehealth Infant Autism Screener

The research demonstrates that telehealth is effective for pediatric occupational therapy and that remote parent coaching provides benefits for parents and infants. The study evaluated telehealth-delivered observational autism screening tool for infants, with parents achieving an 82% adherence rate to the fidelity checklist. This study suggests that a parent coaching telehealth approach may be valid for pediatric telehealth assessments.

National Institutes of Health

Allison Q Phillips, Emily Campi, Meagan R Talbott, Grace T Baranek

Telehealth Resource Center Program

The **Telehealth Resource Center Program (TRC)** supports the delivery of telehealth technical assistance.

- National Policy Telehealth Resource Center
- National Technology Telehealth Resource Center
- 12 Regional Telehealth Resource Centers
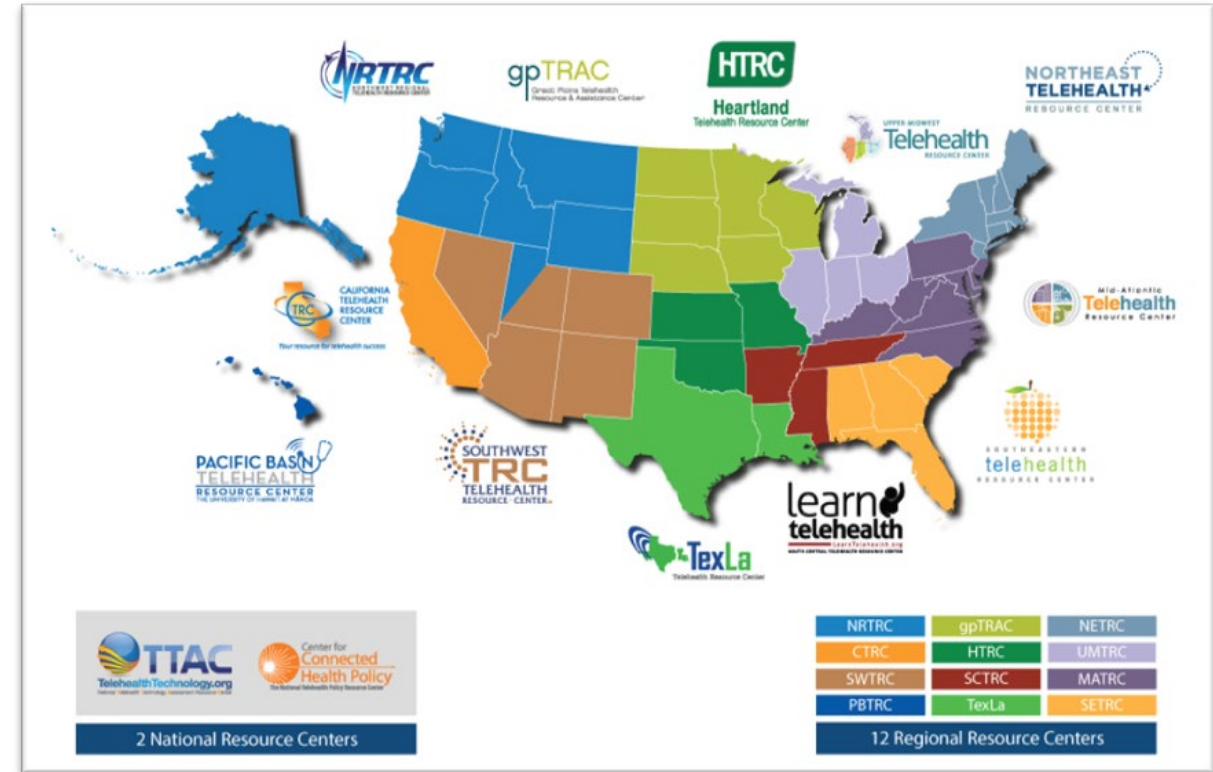
In 2022, TRCs had over **6,000 technical assistance** inquiries.

Telehealth Technology Toolkits

Toolkits are a critical part of the work that the Telehealth Technology Assessment Center does. These interactive elements allow users to learn the fundamentals of how various technologies work, as well as how to assess them for use in telehealth programs.

We will be releasing new toolkits or assessments in our new Innovation Watch section of our website every few months, as well as working to keep existing content relevent and accurate. Some toolkits will guide users through performing their own assessments. Other toolkits will help users identify their needs, bringing technology into alignment with clinical requirements.

Clinician's Guide to Video Platforms

Digital Cameras – DSLR

Digital Cameras – Point and Shoot

Electronic Stethoscopes

Home Telehealth

mHealth

mHealth App Selection

Mobile Blood Pressure

Patient Exam Cameras
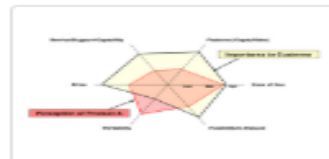
Technology Assessment 101

Tympanometers

Video Otoscopes

Licensure Portability Grant Program

The **Licensure Portability Grant Program** provides support for state professional licensing boards to development and implement state policies that reduce barriers to the provision of health care services through telehealth technology.

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
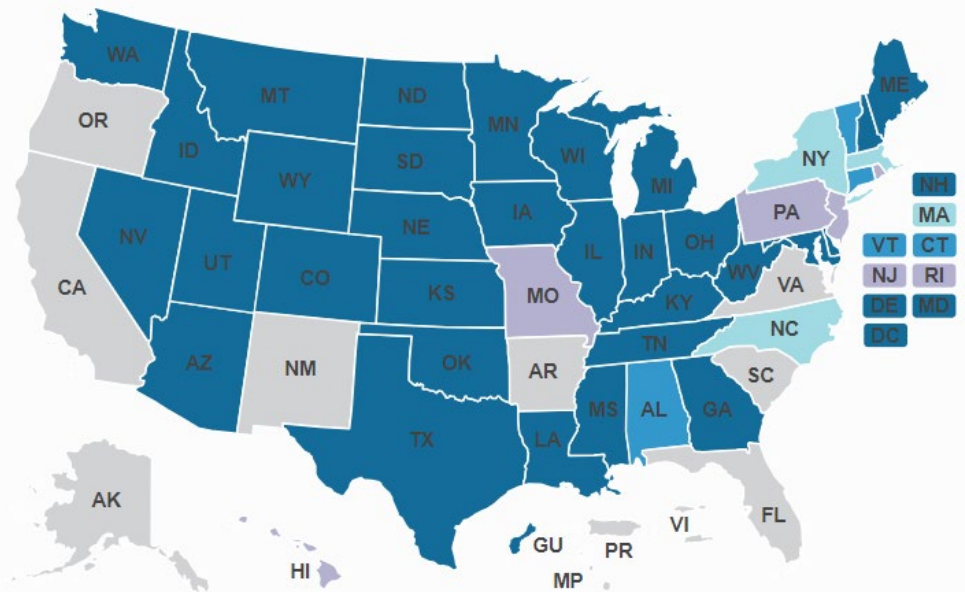
PSYPACT
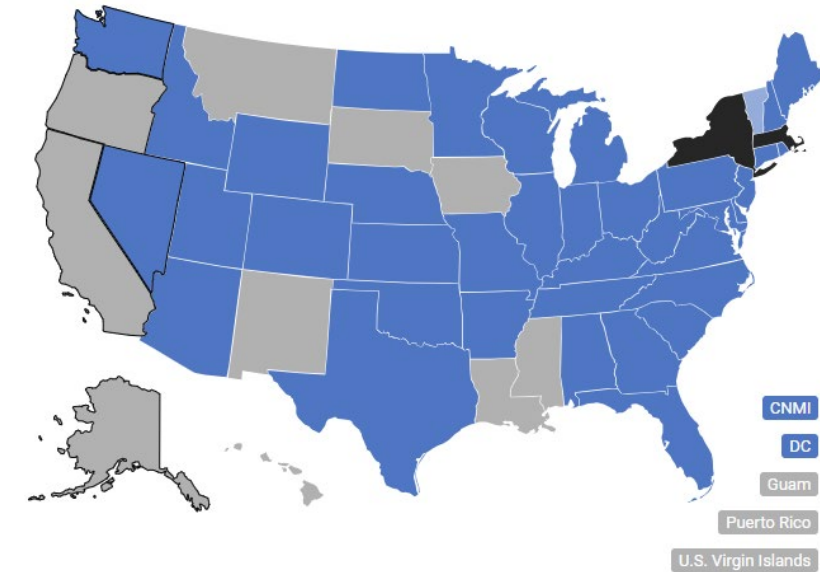
Telehealth Broadband Pilot Program

The **Telehealth Broadband Pilot Program** assess the broadband capacity available to rural health care providers and patient communities to improve their access to telehealth services.

OAT awarded approximately **$8 million to 2 organizations to support 4 states** (AK, MI, TX, & WV).

The program is being implemented in at least **25 rural counties**.

Telehealth Focus Areas Across HRSA

Telehealth focus areas include primary care, behavioral/mental health, and behavioral substance use disorders/opioid use disorders, pediatric care

HRSA FY22 Awards with Telehealth by Telehealth Focus

Telehealth Focus	Number of Awards
Mental Health	1742
Primary Care	1478
Substance Use Disorder	767
Chronic Disease	471
Pediatric	151
Maternal Health	95
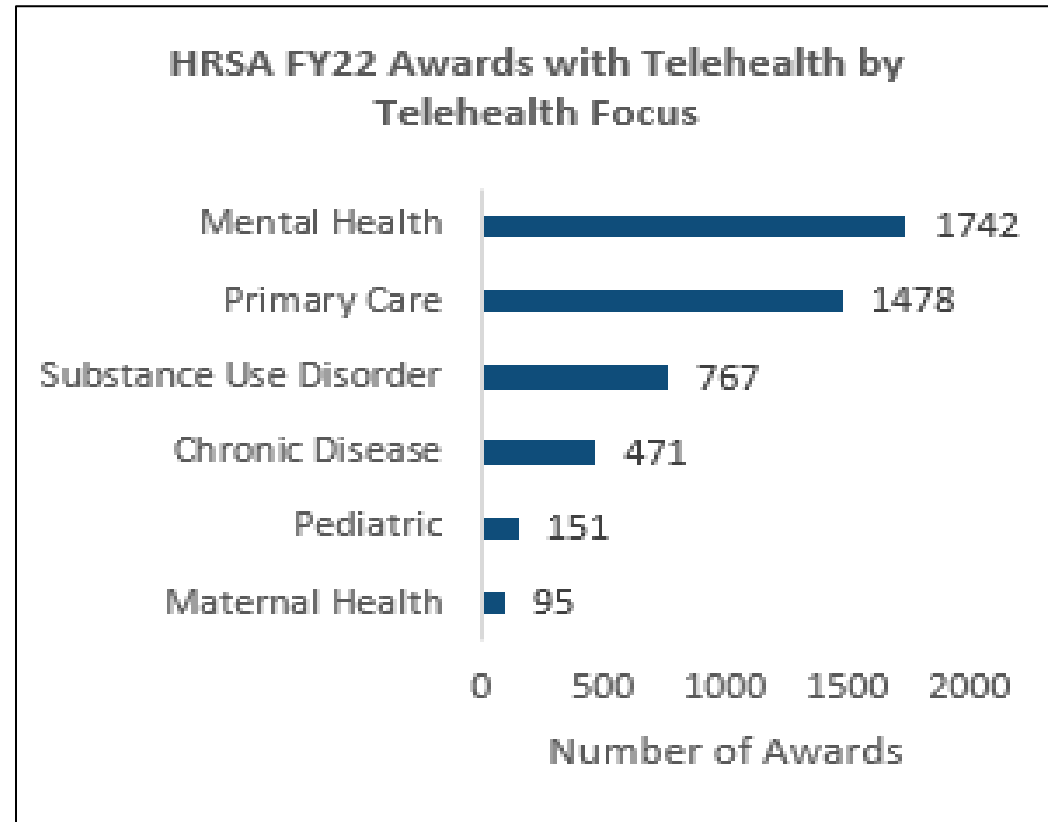
HHS Telehealth Resources

Telehealth.HHS.gov
https://telehealth.hhs.gov/

Office for the Advancement of Telehealth
https://www.hrsa.gov/telehealth

Telehealth Centers of Excellence
https://telehealthcoe.org/

Telehealth Resource Centers
 https://www.telehealthresourcecenter.org/

ProviderBridge
https://www.providerbridge.org/

Multi-Discipline Licensure Resource Project
https://licensureproject.org/

OAT Announcements

Telehealth-Focused
- ✓ Updates
- ✓ Funding opportunities
- ✓ Research findings
- ✓ Upcoming events
- ✓ And more

Sign up at: **https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHSHRSA/signup/37188**

Contact Information

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www.HRSA.gov

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