

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

FY 2024/2025 Telemedicine Equipment Grants

5-TF-2024

ORDER

This is the Order approving the award of \$741,570.66 in grants for the Universal Service Fund (USF) Medical Telecommunications Equipment Grant (Telemedicine Grant) Program for Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 and 2025 as conditioned by this Order, and pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 196.218(4u)¹ and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 160.115.²

Background

The purpose of the Telemedicine Grant Program is to support the purchase of telecommunications equipment and services to promote, (a) technologically advanced medical services, (b) to directly or indirectly enhance access to medical care in rural or underserved areas of the state or both, (c) to directly or indirectly enhance access to medical care by underserved populations or by persons with disabilities in the state , or both, as described under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 160.115(2).³

Under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 160.115(3), the Commission may grant up to \$500,000 per state fiscal year, or \$1,000,000 per state biennium for Telemedicine Grants. The Commission has combined the funds available to the Telemedicine Grant Program for two fiscal years, FY 2024 and 2025, into a single proceeding. For the FY2024/2025 grant round, the Commission made a maximum of \$1,000,000 available to be disbursed to qualified applicants. Commission staff opened the FY2024-2025 round of the Telemedicine Grant Program on

¹ [Wis. Stat. § 196.218\(4u\)](#)

² [Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 160.115](#)

³ [Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 160.115\(2\)](#)

February 21, 2024. ([PSC REF#: 491751.](#)) The deadline to submit an application was April 2, 2024, at 1:30 PM CT. All applicants were required to submit an application online using the PSC Grants System. The Commission received eight applications with a total grant request of \$741,570.66.

The Commission discussed this matter at its open meeting of May 23, 2024. ([PSC REF#: 504222.](#))

Conclusion of Law

1. The Commission has jurisdiction under Wis. Stat. §§ 196.02(1), 196.218(4u), 196.395, and other provisions of Wis. Stat. ch. 196, to make the determinations in this Order, and to act or refrain from acting with regard to the administration of the Telemedicine Grant Program.

Opinion

The Commission selects all eight applications for funding for a total of \$741,570.66. For two of eight applications, the Commission requires conditions as indicated below in Table 1.

Table 1 – Awards Summary

Applicant Name (Alphabetic Order)	Awards
Ascension Calumet Hospital, Inc. *	\$53,721.25
Black River Memorial Hospital Inc.	\$122,100.61
Edgerton Hospital Capital Foundation * DBA Edgerton Hospital Foundation	\$69,270.00
Meriter Foundation Inc. DBA UnityPoint Health-Meriter Foundation	\$47,417.80
Muslim Community and Health Center of Wisconsin Inc.	\$79,137.35

Applicant Name (Alphabetic Order)	Awards
Scenic Bluffs Health Center, Inc. DBA Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers	\$128,758.65
Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers	\$141,750.00
The Lakes Community Health Center DBA North Lakes Community Clinic	\$99,415.00

*Conditional Award

The Commission finds that six of the eight applicants clearly comply with all four eligibility criteria and perform well against the merit criteria established in the application instructions. Each of those six applicants was a non-profit medical clinic, served one of the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)⁴ areas or populations, and either served all patients regardless of health-insurance status, or via an income-based sliding fee scale. All six applications proposed purchases that would fulfill an unmet need specific to accessing medical care services or enhancing medical care to underserved areas and population groups. Each also demonstrated that the organization had the capacity to implement the project, and submitted the application with a budget and price evidence that clearly demonstrated the ability to meet the grant program purpose by proposing to purchase, at the best price, medical telecommunications equipment that will use be used as a telecommunications service to improve the quality and availability of health care.

The Commission finds that it is reasonable to require that two of the eight applications, Ascension Calumet Hospital, Inc. and Edgerton Hospital Capital Foundation, Inc., submit additional material prior to entering into a Grant Agreement to demonstrate their eligibility and merit.

⁴ [42 USC 254e \(a\) \(1\)](#)

The application instructions established that eligible projects must serve a federally designated 'Health Professional Shortage Area' (HPSA) as defined in 42 USC 254e(a)(1), Medically underserved areas, or Medically underserved populations. Ascension Calumet Hospital, Inc.'s medical facility is not located, nor does the application indicate that it serves, an HPSA or medically underserved area or population. However, based on the nature of the telecommunications services proposed in its application, the clinic may in fact provide services to underserved areas. While the facility location in Calumet County is not in an HPSA or underserved area, the facility may serve patients in nearby communities such as Neenah and Menasha that are designated as areas with medically underserved populations. The Commission makes a conditional award to Ascension Calumet Hospital, Inc. and requires the applicant to provide additional information demonstrating that it serves patients in medically underserved areas before signing a Grant Agreement.

The application instructions also require that submitted grant proposals include a completed budget form and price evidence for the proposed equipment to be purchased. Edgerton Hospital Capital Foundation, Inc. requested a grant of \$69,270.00 on a total project purchase of \$95,000, but it did not submit the required budget form, nor did it provide any evidence supporting the price selection of the proposed purchase of two telemedicine carts and the Epic Telehealth Software platform. The Commission makes a conditional award to Edgerton Hospital Capital Foundation, Inc.'s and requires the applicant to submit a budget form with price evidence before signing a Grant Agreement.

The Commission delegates authority to the Administrator of the Division of Digital Access, Consumer, and Environmental Affairs to decide whether the information received from

Ascension Calumet Hospital Inc. and Edgerton Hospital Capital Founding, Inc. is sufficient to proceed with signing a Grant Agreement.

Order

1. The grant applications listed in Table 1 on this Order and detailed in Attachment 1 are approved in the award amounts stated therein.

2. Each grant recipient shall enter into a Grant Agreement with the Commission. The grant awards referred to herein are not final until the grant recipient completes and signs the Grant Agreement, and the Commission's duly designated representative signs and delivers the executed grant agreement to the grant recipient. Prior to the delivery of the executed Grant Agreement, the Commission may rescind a grant award for any reason.

3. Ascension Calumet Hospital Inc shall work with Commission staff to provide additional information demonstrating that it serves patients in medically underserved areas before signing a grant agreement. Authority is delegated to the Administrator for the Division of Digital Access, Consumer, and Environmental Affairs to determine whether the additional information is sufficient to proceed with signing a grant agreement.

4. Edgerton Hospital Capital Founding, Inc. shall work with Commission staff and submit a budget form with price evidence before signing a grant agreement. Authority is delegated to the Administrator for the Division of Digital Access, Consumer, and Environmental Affairs to determine whether the information received is sufficient to proceed with signing a grant agreement.

5. The grant awards approved herein shall expire, without notice or further process, on March 31, 2026, unless extended pursuant to the Grant Agreement, which will include terms

and conditions developed by Commission staff. Any unused balance in an expired grant award and shall be returned to the Universal Service Fund reserve.

6. Jurisdiction is retained.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, the 24th day of June, 2024.

By the Commission:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cru Stuble". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "S".

For Cru Stuble
Secretary to the Commission

CS:JF:TK:AK:MB:bs DL:02014727

Attachments:

5-TF-2024 Order Attachm.1_Telemedicine Awards Projects Summary.docx



2024-25 Telemedicine Order
Attachment 1
Awards List and Projects Summary

Awards List

	AWARD ID	Applicant name	ERF # (main)	Award Amount
1	823	Ascension Calumet Hospital, Inc. *	495773	\$53,721.25
2	732	Black River Memorial Hospital Inc.	495719	\$122,100.61
3	787	Edgerton Hospital Capital Foundation * DBA Edgerton Hospital Foundation	495739	\$69,270.00
4	820	Meriter Foundation Inc. DBA UnityPoint Health-Meriter Foundation	495826	\$47,417.80
5	797	Muslim Community and Health Center of Wisconsin Inc.	495807	\$79,137.35
6	752	Scenic Bluffs Health Center, Inc. DBA Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers	495805	\$128,758.65
7	822	Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers	495735	\$141,750.00
8	750	The Lakes Community Health Center DBA North Lakes Community Clinic	493545	\$99,415.00

*Conditional Award

Awards Project Summary

App ID 823 Project Name: **Cardiovascular Telemedicine Equipment at Ascension Calumet Hospital**

Applicant: Ascension Calumet Hospital, Inc.

Request: \$53,721.25 **Match:** \$0.00 **Total:** \$53,721.25

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Wisconsin, with patients in rural areas facing higher risk as access to care can be limited. Adding telemedicine equipment specifically for use in diagnosing and monitoring cardiovascular conditions will ensure patients at Ascension Calumet Hospital have access to services, including specialty care, as needed and close to home.

Application Materials:

Additional Materials:

- [#495773 Application Details](#)
- [#495770 Ascension Calumet Hospital Budget](#)
- [#495771 Equipment Quotation - ABI](#)
- [#495772 Equipment Quotation - Holter](#)



2024-25 Telemedicine Order
Attachment 1
Awards List and Projects Summary

App ID 732 Project Name: BRMH eICU 2 bed implementation

Applicant: Black River Memorial Hospital Inc

Request: \$122,100.61 **Match:** \$0.00 **Total:** \$122,100.61

Black River Memorial Hospital will implement an Electronic Intensive Care Unit to support its Intensive Care Unit. BRMH will partner with UW Health to launch a two-bed ICU program with eICU support capabilities.

Application Materials:

- #495718 0-BudgetDetailForm - BRMH 04.01.2024
- #495717 1A Budget - CACI - Black River Memorial Hospital Quote 2-16-2024
- #495720 1B Budget - PHILIPS - UW -Black River 2 per Patient per Day bed
- #495721 1C Budget - MINDRAY - BRMH - 2 ICU rooms with interfacing
- #495727 1D Budget - Oracle - Black River ADT Interface
- #495722 3A Budget - BRMH_InHouseWork for eICU Rooms
- #495719 Application Details

Additional Materials:

- #495726 Communities Serve by County Map - BRMH
- #495725 HRSA MAP - Medically Underserved Areas and Populations - BRMH
- #495724 HRSA MAP - Mental Health Area HPSAs (HPSA Score) - BRMH
- #495723 HRSA MAP - Primary Care Area HPSAs (HPSA Score) - BRMH

App ID 787 Project Name: Healthcare close to home: Expanding access in rural communities through telemedicine.

Applicant: Edgerton Hospital Capital Foundation DBA Edgerton Hospital Foundation

Request: \$69,270.00 **Match:** \$25,730.00 **Total:** \$95,000.00

Edgerton Hospital and Health Services will expand access to new services by purchasing two telemedicine carts. Patients would come to our clinic to meet with, via telemedicine, a variety of specialists located across the nation. We will also add the Epic telehealth software platform at our Quick Care Clinic. This software allows patients to remain home and use their phones or laptops to see a provider at the clinic.

Application Materials:

- #495739 Application Details

Additional Materials:



App ID 820 Project Name: Expanding Access to Therapies at UnityPoint Health-Meriter

Applicant: Meriter Foundation Inc. DBA UnityPoint Health-Meriter Foundation

Request: \$47,417.80 **Match:** \$2,250.00 **Total:** \$49,667.80

This request is to purchase five telemedicine carts for outpatient therapy at UnityPoint Health -Meriter to expand rural access to physical, occupational, and speech therapy services. Carts will be used to view and assess patient's impairment and functional status.

Application Materials:

[#495826 Application Details](#)

[#495825 UPH-Meriter Budget Detail](#)

App ID 797 Project Name: MCHC Telemedicine

Applicant: Muslim Community and Health Center of Wisconsin Inc

Request: \$79,137.35 **Match:** \$0.00 **Total:** \$79,137.35

We are a Federally Qualified Health Center look-alike, located in Milwaukee. As MCHC expands its services to meet the needs of the population it serves, we aim to provide the highest quality of care to unserved and underserved populations of Milwaukee, who often cannot afford higher quality private healthcare. Our vision is to provide affordable and equitable care, and as healthcare becomes more acquainted with technology, smaller clinics like ours must also adapt.

Application Materials:

[#495807 Application Details](#)

[#495806 Budget](#)

Additional Materials:

App ID 752 Project Name: Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers Service Expansion

Applicant: Scenic Bluffs Health Center, Inc DBA Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers

Request: \$128,758.65 **Match:** \$5,919.52 **Total:** \$134,678.17

This project will support Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers service expansions in the next two years. Strategic expansions to meet community needs will include a new clinic in Crawford County and further expansion in Monroe, Vernon, Crawford, La Crosse, Trempealeau, and Sauk counties through a mobile dental unit.



Awards List and Projects Summary

Needs include dental imaging units, videoconferencing systems for consultation, interpretation iPads and carts, laptops for school-based therapy, and x-ray components.

Application Materials:

- #495805 [Application Details](#)
- #495799 [Budget and attached quotes](#)
- #495803 [Households Below 200% FPL](#)
- #495798 [Rural areas map](#)

Additional Materials:

- #495800 [HPSA Dental](#)
- #495801 [HPSA Mental Health](#)
- #495804 [HPSA Primary Care](#)
- #495802 [Medically Underserved Area](#)

App ID 822 Project Name: Telemedicine For Healthcare Initiative

Applicant: Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers

Request: \$141,750.00 **Match:** \$3,000.00 **Total:** \$144,750.00

Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers projected to purchase medical telecommunications equipment. The following equipment will promote technologically advanced primary healthcare services, enhance access to primary healthcare and behavioral healthcare services to underserved populations located in the City of Milwaukee’s Southside of individuals whose income are known to be extremely low-income (below 100% of the poverty level).

Telecommunication foundation video equipment

Application Materials:

- #495735 [Application Details](#)
- #495734 [price quote from an internet page \(with Budget form\)](#)

Additional Materials:

App ID 750 Project Name: Lakewood Digital X-ray Machine

Applicant: The Lakes Community Health Center DBA Northlakes Community Clinic

Request: \$99,415.00 **Match:** \$0.00 **Total:** \$99,415.00

Purchase a digital x-ray machine for our Lakewood Clinic to ensure shared electronic imaging for our patients.

Application Materials:

- #493545 [Application Details](#)
- #493544 [Lakewood Digital Xray Quote \(Budget_final\)](#)