Telehealth: Rules, Reimbursement, Licensing and Successful Models

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ORHP

Quick Background

- Part of HRSA & DHHS
- Policy and Program Role
- Review Regulations
- Administer Grant Programs
FY 2010 Budget: $185.5 Million

- Grant Awards and Cooperative Agreements ($152.5M)
- Rural Health Research ($5.5M)
- Contracts/IAA ($20.8M)
- HRSA Costs ($6.1M)
- Other ($615K)
“Within the total amount requested for Rural Health activities, the Budget includes $79 million to continue the President’s initiative to improve rural health. The goal of this initiative is to improve the access to and quality of health care in rural areas.”
The Improving Rural Health Initiative: Key Elements

- Health Workforce Recruitment and Retention
- Building a Programmatic “Evidence-Base”
- Telehealth/HIT Coordination
- Cross Governmental Collaboration
Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT)

New Addition to ORHP...

- Telehealth Network Grants
- Telehealth Resource Centers
- Licensure Portability Grant Program
- Congressionally Mandated Partners
- Joint Working Group on Telehealth
## OAT Funding History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Funding Level</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$6.8 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$6.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$6.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$7.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 Recovery Act</td>
<td>$1.0 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$11.6 million</td>
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Telehealth

Telehealth is the use of electronic information and telecommunication technologies to support long-distance clinical care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration. Technologies include videoconferencing, the internet, store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, and incidental and wireless communications. HRSA works to increase and improve the use of telehealth to meet the needs of underserved people by:

- Fostering partnerships within HRSA and with other Federal agencies, states, and private sector groups to create telehealth projects.
- Administering telehealth grant programs.
- Providing technical assistance.
- Facilitating the use of telehealth technologies and programs.
- Developing telehealth policy initiatives to improve access to quality health services.
- Promoting knowledge exchange about "best telehealth practices."

The Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

The Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT) promotes the use of telehealth technologies for health care delivery, education, and health information services. The office is part of the Office of Rural Health Policy, located within Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. HRSA's mission is to ensure quality health care for underserved, vulnerable, and special needs populations. The 2010 OAT budget is $11.6 million (not including the Congressionally Mandated Programs).

Telehealth Grant Programs

The License Portability Grant Program (LPGP) is a competitive grant program that provides support for State professional licensing boards to carry out programs under which licensing boards of various States cooperate to develop and implement State policies that will reduce statutory and regulatory barriers to telemedicine.
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