

# Telehealth Trailblazers

Grant Information & Applicant Webinar  
February 16, 2022 11a MST



Good morning everyone and thanks for joining us today to talk about the Telehealth Trailblazers grant opportunity.

Telehealth has emerged in the wake of the COVID pandemic as an important tool in addressing our country's healthcare needs. We believe that libraries are uniquely positioned to facilitate telehealth services in underserved and rural communities by providing safe, private and reliable spaces as well as access to adequate technology and technical support. Facilitating these services in a library setting or through a lending model is a new and emerging practice and Idaho has the opportunity to lead the way in this exciting new field.

The ICfL, in partnership with the Blue Cross Foundation for Health, will be awarding a total of \$40,000 in grants to public and tribal libraries across Idaho to pilot a variety of telehealth projects in their communities.

## Today's webinar

- Additional funding opportunities
- Being a trailblazer
- Defining telehealth & library's role
- Grant timeline & important dates
- Eligible applicants & qualifying projects
- Allowable activities
- Grant application
- Selection criteria
- Q&A



I'm going to try to cover a lot in today's webinar with the intent of giving you the information you need to submit a high-quality application. In order to keep things moving along, I'm going to ask that you hold your questions to the end, when we will have time for an open-ended question and answer session. You are also welcome to reach out to me after this webinar with any questions you might think of later.

Here is an overview of what we'll be covering today [read slide]

## Additional Funding Opportunities

(Pending approval of JFAC)

- **Capital Improvement Grants** – ICfL will be awarding \$3.5M in funds through a competitive grant to support library capital projects. These multi-year grants will support one-time investments to improve library buildings. Improvements must enable work, education, and health monitoring in communities with critical needs.
- **Ready to Use Privacy Pods** – The ICfL will be partnering with the Department of Health and Welfare to purchase and install up to 25 pre-built privacy pods in libraries across the state. Details, administration, and timeline are still under development.



As we are talking today about the Telehealth Trailblazers grant, we want you to be aware that the ICfL may have additional opportunities in the upcoming year. If you have a great project in mind, but it doesn't quite fit with the timing or scope of this particular grant, or if your project isn't selected for funding this time around, we encourage you to continue developing your project, as we anticipate other opportunities in the near future.

Keep in mind that the two additional initiatives we have listed here are pending final approval of the state's FY23 budget, which is currently under review by the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee. While we are fairly confident that these items will receive approval and be ready to launch by late summer, but we cannot make a guarantee at this stage of the process.

[Read slide]

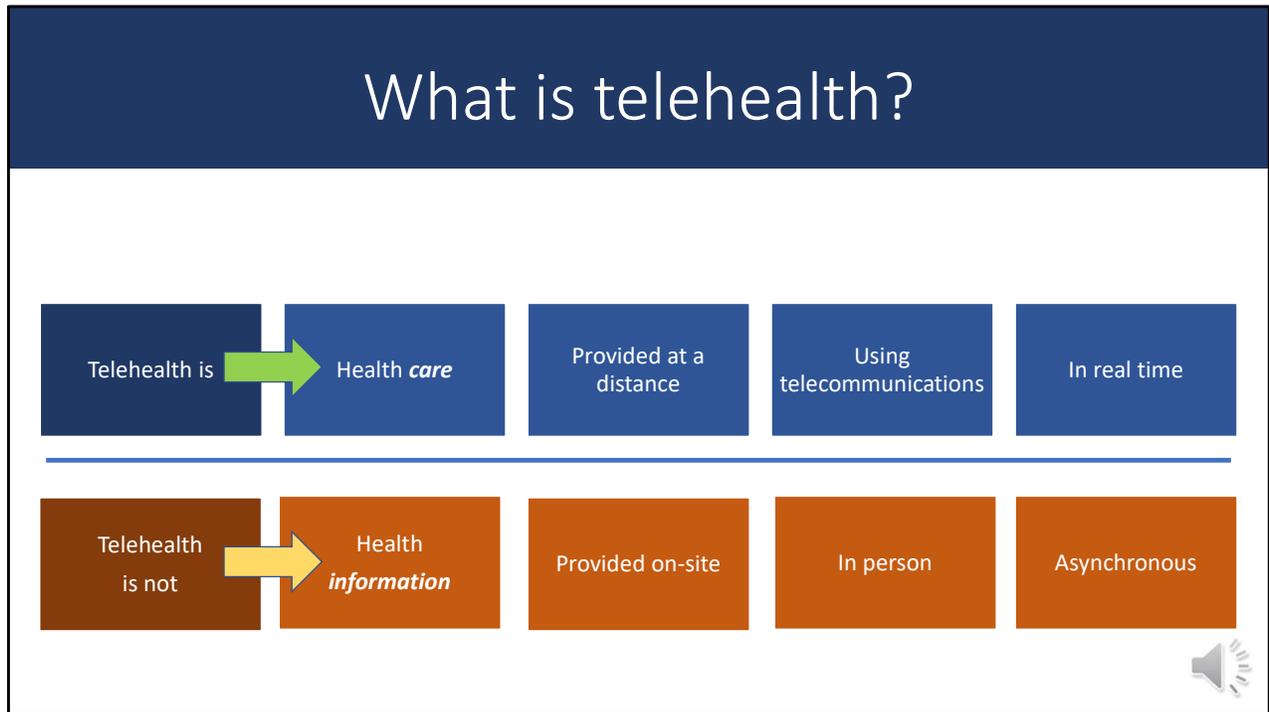
# Being a Trailblazer



Before we dive into the details of the grant, I want to talk a little bit about expectations, telehealth, and the role of libraries. There's a reason this grant is called "Telehealth Trailblazers." Telehealth is a new concept in general, and telehealth in libraries is an emerging practice with relatively few established models to draw from. The goal of this grant is to recruit and fund a few courageous libraries who are willing to trailblaze into this unexplored territory and identify viable paths and models for future libraries to adopt.

This is a rare opportunity to be on the vanguard, of something new, with flexible funding that allows for trial and error, adaptation and adoption. The libraries who are funded through this grant will need to be comfortable with uncertainty and exploration, be willing to learn as they go, support one another, and share what they've learned with the wider field of libraries in Idaho.

# What is telehealth?



I want to take a few minutes to go through the definition of telehealth, as I think it will help applicants when putting together their project proposals.

For the purpose of this project, we are defining telehealth as healthcare, provided at a distance, using telecommunications, in real time.

Since this grant is designed for libraries, the most important distinction I want to point out is that telehealth is health CARE, which means it is provided by a licensed health professional, not a librarian. Furthermore, telehealth is NOT a collection of health information or resources. Simply providing access and guided reference to medical books or medical supplies does not qualify as health care.

Secondly, telehealth is provided at a distance using telecommunications. While it would be lovely to host a doctor at your library for regular office hours, this would not qualify as telehealth and thus would not qualify for this grant. In order to be telehealth, it must involve physical separation between the patient and the provider, who are connected through the use of technology.

Finally, for the purpose of this grant, the connection between provider and patient should occur in real time. In other words, the patient and provider can have a spontaneous interactive conversation that does not involve significant delays. An example of something that would NOT qualify as telehealth would be a patient uploading health data for later review by their doctor or accessing

test results through their My Chart account.

So, with this definition in mind, how exactly CAN libraries provide telehealth services to their communities, and what is the role of libraries in these projects?

- **On-site telehealth:**

- Establish a safe, reliable, and private space inside the library that can be scheduled for telehealth uses
- Equip the space with sufficient hardware, software, and technology, and furniture
- Provide on-site technical support and assistance for using the technology

- **Lending model telehealth:**

- Patrons check out computers, cameras, microphones, hot spots and other hardware
- Library maintains and updates technology with appropriate upgrades, software, etc.
- Provide on-site or remote technical support and assistance for using the technology

## Telehealth in Libraries



The role of libraries in telehealth is not to serve as a health-care provider, but to facilitate and enable this connection between patients and providers. There are a variety of ways that libraries can do this, and the purpose of this grant is to explore and develop models that will work for different needs and situations. I've listed two very basic models here, but we anticipate that our group of trailblazer libraries will come up with other creative solutions or variations as well. [Read through slide]

So, now that we have established a baseline of what telehealth is and where libraries fit into the picture, I'd like to dive into a bit more detail regarding the Telehealth Trailblazers grant opportunity.

# Important Dates & Timeline

- **February 7, 2022** - Application released
- **March 14, 2022** - Application due
- **April 1, 2022** - Funding decisions announced
- **Early April 2022** - Funds disbursed
- **Late April 2022** – Grantee Orientation & Kick-off
- **April 1 to December 15, 2022**
  - Project period
  - Cohort meetings
  - Grantee Reports (TBD)



First, I want to quickly review the timeline and major milestones for this project. [Quickly read slide]

Please note that this grant has a relatively short project period, and grantees should be prepared to work within this timeframe. Selected grantees can begin incurring costs as soon as they have signed the paperwork, even if funds have not been disbursed yet. Grant funds should be fully expended or obligated by December 15<sup>th</sup>, but we do have some flexibility should a grantee encounter significant delays or set-backs.

I also want to note that grantees will be expected to participate as part of a cohort, but the ICfL intends for these activities to be supportive and fluid in nature and minimally disruptive. This will likely involve occasional Zoom chats to share challenges and successes, a dedicated list-serve for asking questions of one another, and ongoing support and technical assistance from the ICfL . Finally, grantees will also be required to submit an interim and final report, and should be prepared to keep sufficient records, including receipts and time/effort reports. We will go over these items in greater detail at the grantee orientation meeting, but I did want everyone to be aware of these stipulations as they are deciding whether to apply for the grant.

# Eligible Applicants

- **Eligible applicants must:**
  - be a public (city/district) or tribal library in Idaho
  - serve a rural/remote community with limited access to healthcare services
- **Rural/Remote** = Defined by the impact to residents. Services and amenities are limited in number, scope, or hours. Traveling to obtain services or amenities is difficult or poses a strain on time/resources.
- **Healthcare** = Service provided by a trained and licensed healthcare provider
  - **Providers:** physicians, nurses, pharmacists, counselors, psychiatrists, physical therapists, etc.
  - **Services:** clinics, primary care, specialty care and consulting (cardiac, oncology, etc.), emergency rooms, physical therapy/outpatient services, pharmacy, behavioral health and addiction counseling etc.
- **Limited access** = a service is unavailable or inadequate to meet the needs of the population.



Next I'd like to talk about who is eligible to apply for this grant. There's a lot of information on this slide, so we'll go through it one piece at a time.

[Read first bullet] I'm going to break that down for you a little bit, as some folks may not be sure if they are eligible.

Rural Remote – We are not putting specific parameters around our definition of rural because we realize that the needs and barriers for every community are different. Instead, we are thinking of this in terms of how a community's location and resources impact its residents. In general, to qualify, the number of services and amenities are limited in number, scope, or hours. And if a service or amenity is not available or adequate in the community, residents must travel to another location where the service is available, where such travel has a negative impact on time and resources.

I also want to break down the phrase "limited access to healthcare services" for greater clarity.

For something to be a healthcare service, it must be provided by a trained and licensed healthcare provider. This could include doctors, nurses, pharmacists, counselors, psychiatrists, physical therapists etc. Examples of such services include health clinics, primary or urgent care, specialty care or consulting, emergency rooms and EMS, pharmacies, outpatient services, and behavioral health and counseling services.

And finally, when we talk about “limited access” we generally mean that the service is either completely unavailable or it exists but is inadequate to meet the needs of the population. For example, a community might have one small health clinic with a single doctor, but that facility simply cannot keep up with the demand or need of the community.

## Qualifying Projects

Will consider all projects within the funding range of \$1,000 to \$25,000.

Must establish and facilitate a direct connection to health care providers or services.

- **Facilitate** – provide the space, resources, technology, and technical support specifically designed to support telehealth activities (i.e. considerations of privacy, scheduling, video quality, etc).
- **Direct Connection** – A real-time connection with a live provider. Could be via video, phone, or chat.



Now that we have an idea of who is eligible to apply, I want to talk about the types of projects that would qualify for funding.

We will consider projects of all sizes within the indicated funding range. Projects need not be large in scale or scope, but they should be aligned with the needs and challenges of your specific community. A small library may be able to make a significant impact with only \$1,000. Additionally, we want to establish functional models and best practices for a variety of libraries and needs. For these reasons, we encourage applications for projects of all sizes and scope that meet the goals of the grant.

In order for a project to qualify for funding, it must facilitate a direct connection between patients and providers. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways using a variety of models, and there is significant flexibility in exploring how libraries might make this work. However, this direct connection is a core component of the project. Proposals that do not include or address this requirement will be disqualified from consideration.

Grant funds may be used to purchase related materials and resources as part of the project, such as expanding the library's collection of medical books, subscribing to health databases, and purchasing medical equipment such as thermometers and automatic blood pressure cuffs. However, these related expenses must be part of a larger project that includes the requirement for facilitating a direct connection between patients and providers.

## Allowable activities

Cannot support general expenses of library/partner.

Flexible funding intended to support exploration and pilot projects.

Lots of possible uses. Examples include:

- Creating or enhancing private, digitally enabled spaces in the library (construction costs, installing pods, etc.)
- Establishing a lending model for at-home telehealth (hardware, software, etc.)
- Costs of medical equipment for use on site or as part of a lending model
- Staff salaries, travel related to the project
- Advertising and outreach for the project



Because the grant is funded by the Blue Cross Foundation for Health, we have significant flexibility in how funds are used to meet the goals of the project. There is only one hard restriction, which is that grant funds cannot be used to support the general operating costs of the library or its partners. In other words, the grant must be used to support project-related expenses. I've listed a few examples of allowable activities here, and you can find an expanded list on the grant web page.

As you are developing your proposal, keep in mind that the spaces, resources, and technology funded through this grant can be used to support other library programs and needs AS LONG AS it remains available for telehealth services AND telehealth services are given priority. For example, if the library installs a privacy pod or builds a new private room, those spaces can be used for other purposes like quiet study space, telework, or meetings, as long as priority is given to telehealth services and scheduling.

# Grant Application



- Due March 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm MT.
- Located on grant page under “Grant Application & Resources.”
- Must be completed online. Cannot save progress.
- Budget total must be in \$100 increment
- Will receive an email with a copy of your application.
- Reach out to Amelia for any questions about completing or submitting the application.



Here are some important things to keep in mind as you work on completing and submitting your grant application.

Please note that the grant application form cannot save your progress. You will need to have all your information and responses ready when you sit down to fill out the application. We recommend drafting your responses in a Word or other local document first.

As you are completing the budget table, please round or adjust your budget line items as necessary to ensure your total budget is in an even \$100 increment.

A copy of the application will be sent to the email addresses included in the application. If you do not receive a copy, please reach out to us so we can ensure your application was received and there are no issues with the email address you provided. Make sure you check your spam/junk folder as well. The email will come from JotForm

Don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions about completing or submitting the application.

# Selection Criteria



SCORED ON A SCALE OF 0-100 BY A REVIEW COMMITTEE.



CLEAR OBJECTIVES THAT ALIGN WITH THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT.



BUDGET AND LOGISTICS INDICATE A CLEAR STARTING POINT FOR ACHIEVING THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES.



FEASIBLE FOR THE SIZE AND CAPACITY OF THE LIBRARY AND ITS STAFF.



All qualifying applications will be reviewed by a committee and scored on a scale of 0 to 100. You can see how many points are possible for each question on the application form, and you'll want to tailor and prioritize your time accordingly.

We realize that these are pilot projects and as such, the logistics and budget breakdown may change over time as the library learns and adapts. That being said, a strong application will demonstrate a real need in the community, will provide clear objectives related to addressing that need, and will have a realistic starting point. Finally, the proposed project must be feasible for the size and capacity of the library and its staff, within the timeframe of the grant.

## Questions



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[libraries.idaho.gov/grants-funding/telehealth-trailblazers-grant/](https://libraries.idaho.gov/grants-funding/telehealth-trailblazers-grant/)



I know that we just covered a lot of information, so I'd like to open the floor for any questions you might have at this time. Feel free to enter your questions into the chat or unmute yourself. I've also included my contact information and you are welcome to reach out to me directly.