



## **HEROES Act: Relevant Broadband and Telehealth Provisions**

The HEROES Act (H.R. 6800) provides emergency funding for a variety of agencies, state and local governments, and households for expanding broadband and internet access during the pandemic. There are also provisions that affect the conditions surrounding telehealth and remote access to COVID-19-related healthcare.

**CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support:** \$130 million for public health data surveillance and analytics infrastructure modernization.

**Continued Connectivity:** Bans cancellation of service and imposition of late fees during the emergency period.

**Coverage of COVID-19 Treatment:** Health insurance providers cannot impose cost-sharing measures for any kind of necessary medical treatments related to COVID-19, including telehealth services.

**Education Dept. State Fiscal Stabilization Funds:** \$90 billion available for state and local education agencies to support online learning by purchasing educational technology and internet access for students, their families, and educators.

**Emergency Benefit for Broadband Service:** Internet providers must provide internet services, upon request, to eligible households at a price that matches the amount the household has received in emergency funds for internet.

**FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund:** Authorizes \$1.5 billion to pay for Wi-Fi hotspots, internet routers, laptops, and other tools for distance learning.

**FCC Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund:** \$4 billion to subsidize internet access for families and increase aid for Wi-Fi hotspots. This provides a \$50 monthly discount to households where an individual is receiving school lunch subsidies or has experienced a substantial loss of income since Feb. 29. Households on Tribal lands receive a \$75 monthly discount. It also requires wireless carriers in the FCC Lifeline program to offer unlimited minutes and data usage for low-income households.

**Funding for Housing Counseling Services:** \$100 million to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation. The money may be used for broadband internet and equipment upgrades.

**Healthcare Broadband Expansion:** All healthcare providers are considered “rural healthcare providers” for the purposes of the Healthcare Connect Fund Program. The discount rate for the Healthcare Connect Fund Program is increased to 85%. Temporary, mobile, or satellite health care delivery sites are considered “healthcare providers”.

**Homeless Veterans Telehealth Services:** The VA may make telehealth available to veterans who meet certain homelessness criteria.

**Homeowner Assistance Fund:** Each state receives a minimum of \$250 million to provide relief to homeowners. Can be used for utility payment services, including broadband.

**Indian Health Services:** \$500 million of the funds provided to the Indian Health Services shall be used for direct health and telehealth services. \$140 million shall be used to expand broadband infrastructure and information technology for telehealth and electronic health record system purposes.

**Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund:** \$4.575 billion available for a variety of medical developments, including platform-based technologies with U.S.-based manufacturing capabilities, workforce modernization, telehealth access, and relevant infrastructure.

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