



INTRO TO PGAP & CURRENT FUNDING

Victoria Fine, Dana Satterwhite
Poly Grant Assistance Program (PGAP)



AGENDA

1

WHAT IS PGAP?

2

EDUCATION FUNDING

3

GRANT PROGRAMS:
RUS-DLT

4

HEALTHCARE FUNDING

WHAT IS PGAP?



POLY GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Free resource for clients
- Expertise of LDA team
- Research and education on:
 - Where to find funding, “follow the money”
 - Which programs are the best fit
 - Prequalification
 - Hand-holding throughout application process
 - Post-award support
- “No strings attached”



Empowering Underserved America

TYPES OF FUNDING

Non-Discretionary

- Non-competitive
- Often a minimal application / certification process
- Money is allocated to specific entities
- Example: a lot of **COVID relief funding** is nondiscretionary (more details soon!)

Discretionary

- Competitive
- Often a more involved application process
- Applicants are reviewed / scored before winners are announced
- Example: **RUS-DLT grant** (more details soon!)

Funding is rarely about specific items /
technology...

It's all about how those solutions address a specific need

- Who do you serve – demographics?
- Where do you serve – geography?
- What specific challenges do you face?
- Why do these challenges exist?
- How do you hope to address these challenges?
Over what time period?
- How do you plan to measure and achieve your
proposed goals?

Basically, funding follows the problem. And one size does not fit all!



EDUCATION FUNDING

2



EXAMPLES

- COVID relief funding (distance learning, mitigating learning loss, emergency aid to students, etc.)
- Literacy programs
- School safety
- STEM initiatives
- Student primary or mental health service delivery (school-based health)
- Workforce development (healthcare professionals in particular!)
- Distance learning in rural communities (RUS-DLT)

COVID RELIEF: PUBLIC K-12

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

- \$13.2 billion fund created last year by the CARES Act (ESSER I). The CRRSA Act has added another **\$54.3 billion** to this fund (ESSER II), roughly **4X CARES Act**.
- Highly flexible fund meant to help districts respond to the pandemic. Eligible costs include:
 - Coordinating preparedness and response efforts
 - Training and professional development
 - Purchasing education technology (hardware, software & connectivity)
 - Providing mental health services and supports
- Addressing learning loss among students disproportionately affected by the pandemic is a particular focus of ESSER II
- ESSER I funds must be used before ESSER II
- **Deadlines**
 - ESSER I = September 30, 2022
 - ESSER II = September 30, 2023





COVID RELIEF: HIGHER ED

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

- \$14.3 billion fund created last year by the CARES Act (HEER I). The CRRSA Act has added another **\$22.7 billion** to this fund (HEER II), roughly **2X CARES Act**.
- A portion of the funding must go toward emergency aid for students but the rest can be used on “institutional spend,” defined as “any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus.” This includes:
 - Changing the instruction delivery model
 - Supporting more interactive learning
 - Continuity of operations
 - Replacing lost revenue
 - Staff training
- HEER I must be used before HEER II
- **Deadlines**: One year after receiving award, for both HEER I and HEER II

OTHER COVID RELIEF



Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

- For K-12 and higher education entities the state education agency / governor have deemed to be most significantly impacted by the pandemic
- GEER I (CARES Act) = about \$3 billion
- GEER II (CRRSA Act) = about \$4 billion
- GEER II includes about \$2.75 billion of emergency assistance for non-public schools

GRANT PROGRAMS:

RUS-DLT



THE BASICS

Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program

- Technology-focused competitive grant program put forth by the USDA
- Provides funding for **interactive “real time”** distance learning and / or telehealth projects that give rural residents access to content and / or services
- Almost any type of organization is eligible to apply (Exceptions: Federal organizations, sole proprietors, and organizations in coastal barrier zones)
- Organizations in **rural areas** who serve communities with **high economic need** score the highest / win
- Very consistent and reliable source of funding (one that you can rely on in the future!)
- PGAP helps dozens of organizations apply for this program every year



PROJECT DESIGN EXAMPLES

✓ Connecting multiple K-12 schools to share teachers / courses

✓ Connecting school(s) to higher ed institution(s) for dual enrollment programs, teacher training

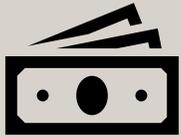
✓ Connecting multiple higher ed institutions to expand course offerings, create workforce development opportunities

**These are just SOME of
the possibilities with
RUS-DLT!**

✓ Connecting school(s) and health care center(s) for school-based health

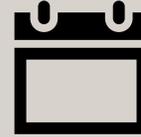
✓ Connecting hospital(s), medical center(s), and clinic(s) to share doctors, dentists, nurses; create expanded prevention / wellness programs; share continued medical education (CME) programs

THE DETAILS



Budget & Expenditures

- Funds must go toward **hardware / software** primarily being used for distance learning and / or telemedicine
- Up to 20% of budget can be spent on broadband-related expenses
- Funds must be utilized within 3 years
- 15% match requirement



Timing

- Program is typically announced **late winter / early spring**
- Application period = **60 - 90 days** after program is posted
- With the COVID pandemic and a new administration taking over, the timing for the 2021 program is a bit unpredictable



Looking back at 2020

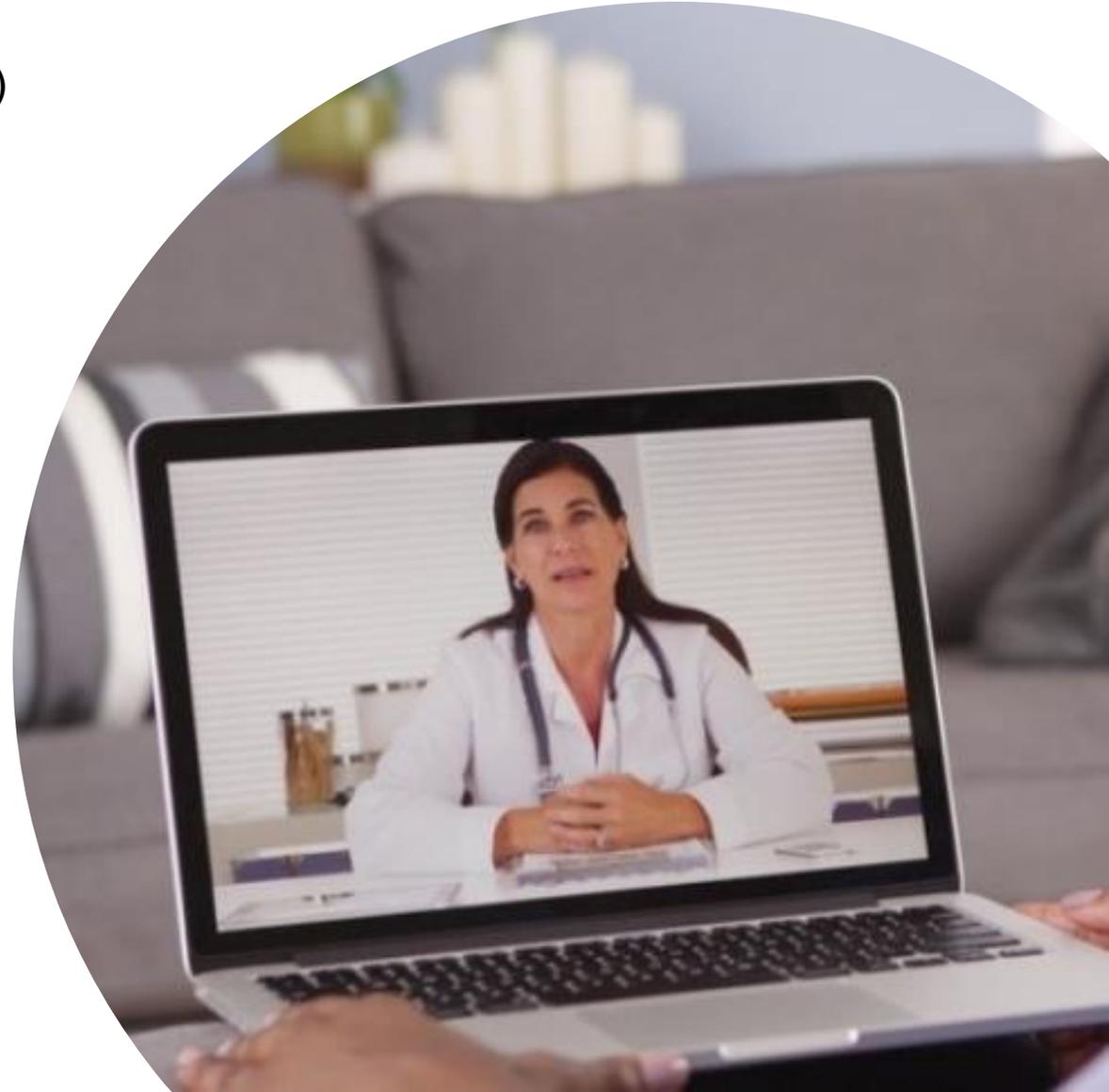
- Award sizes ranged from **\$50K to \$1M**
- \$71.5M awarded in total (Round 1)

HEALTHCARE FUNDING

4

EXAMPLES

- COVID relief funding (telehealth, vaccine distribution, etc.)
- Telemedicine services to rural, underserved communities (RUS-DLT)
- School-based health, tele-dentistry, extremely rural and frontier health
- Opioid abuse / treatment, mental health services (SAMHSA, HRSA, RUS-DLT)
- Violence prevention and behavioral health focus in schools
- Healthcare workforce development
- Education and training for healthcare professionals





COVID RELIEF: HEALTHCARE

- **FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program** (more details to come)
- Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund - Provider Relief Fund (PRF)
- Vaccines and Therapeutics
 - HHS / FEMA allocations rolled out and decided by each state

FCC COVID-19 TELEHEALTH (ROUND 2)

- Program designed to “support healthcare providers across the country in **expanding or developing connected health platforms to address the coronavirus pandemic.**”
- Funding for telecommunications services, information services, and devices necessary to provide critical connected care services
- Round 1 (2020)
 - \$200 million
 - First come, first served
 - Nonprofit / not-for-profit healthcare providers were eligible to apply
- Round 2 has been allocated \$250 million, \$50 million for administrative costs
- FCC is continuing to accept public comments on this program (deadline was 1/19/21 but has been lifted)
- Round 2 guidance to be released once comments are reviewed (should be **coming soon!**)



FCC: LESSONS LEARNED FROM ROUND 1

1

Prepare NOW – register for your FRN and 460 to determine eligibility (even though it is not required...it speeds up the review and award process).

2

Provide more information than they ask for – attach a budget and budget justification.

3

Connect the dots...even when they don't ask you specifically to do so. Give them the level of detail necessary to prioritize your project.

- Numbers served / Patient encounters
- Does your budget match the numbers served?

4

Cite sources that illustrate your needs in regard to COVID, including the population served.

5

Pay close attention to the list of eligible items (to include services or subscriptions) – don't make them edit your budget.

6

Consult with technology providers NOW and request quote so you are ready once the portal opens.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (STIMULUS 3)



Education

- K-12: \$130B (>2x ESSER II)
- Higher Ed: \$35B (vs \$23B HEER II)
- GEER: \$5B (vs \$4B GEER II)

Healthcare

- COVID testing: \$50B
- Vaccines: \$20B
- SAMHSA & HRSA: \$4B (likely associated with telehealth, mental health, and substance abuse programs related to COVID)

LET'S CHAT!
FUNDING IN THE
REAL WORLD

THANK YOU!

victoria.fine@poly.com

dana.satterwhite@poly.com