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Kansas Health-e Broadband Consortium

- Organized under Healthworks
- Liaison and advocate to USAC
- Assistance with RFP, contract negotiation, vendor management and subsidy applications
- Records management and compliance
- FFG partner to assist with program implementation



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Healthcare Connect Fund – Key Features

LEVEL SET

- FCC Universal Services Fund Program administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)
- Currently over \$780 million for 2027 and indexed for inflation
- Subsidizes broadband connectivity, infrastructure, maintenance and management
- Provides up to **65%** discount on broadband services and infrastructure
- Encourages use of consortium to save costs and share health care resources

WINDSTREAM COMMUNICATIONS DETAIL OF CURRENT CHARGES

Toll charge inquiries call 1-833-241-0100

SERVICES

1	BUS ONE TOLL FREE SERVICE	4.95	
5	1K-50K LD BLOCK OF TIME	100.00	
1	BLOCK OF TIME PLAN-BUSINESS	11.27	
	TOTAL SERVICES		116.22

SURCHARGES AND OTHER FEES

	INTERSTATE SERVICE FEE	9.87	
	FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FEE	8.53	



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Who is Eligible to Participate?



- Public or not-for-profit hospitals
- Rural health clinics
- Community health centers (FQHCs)
- Community behavioral health providers
- Public health departments, post-secondary educational institutions/teaching hospitals/medical schools,
- Skilled nursing facilities

Also,

- Non-rural HCPs may participate if they belong to a consortium that has a majority rural HCPs
- The largest HCPs (400 + patient beds) are eligible, but support is capped if non-rural



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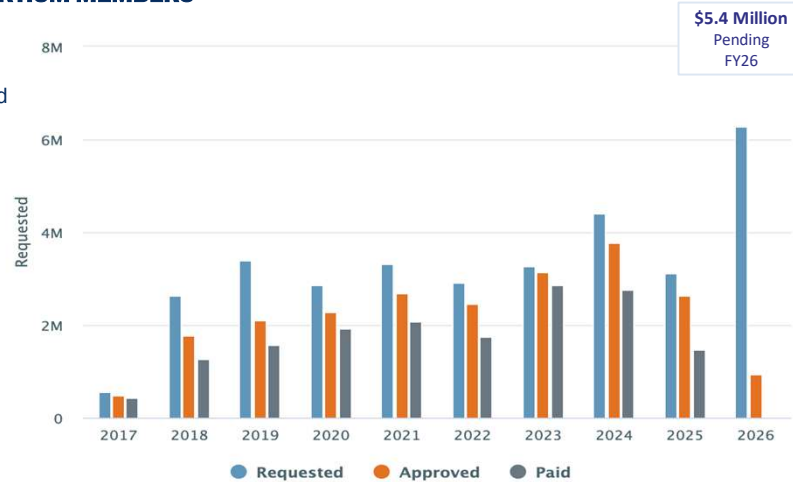
Consortium Statistics

50 PARTICIPATING CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

- 280 locations

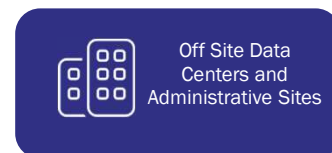
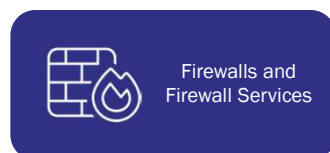
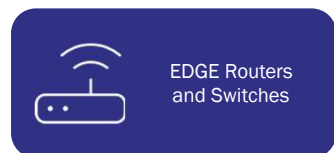
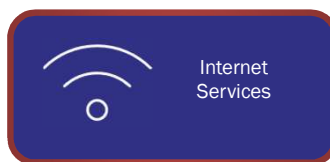
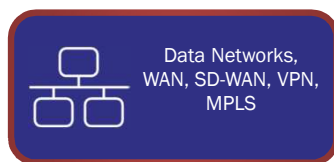
Funding Secured for KS

- Over \$22 Million secured



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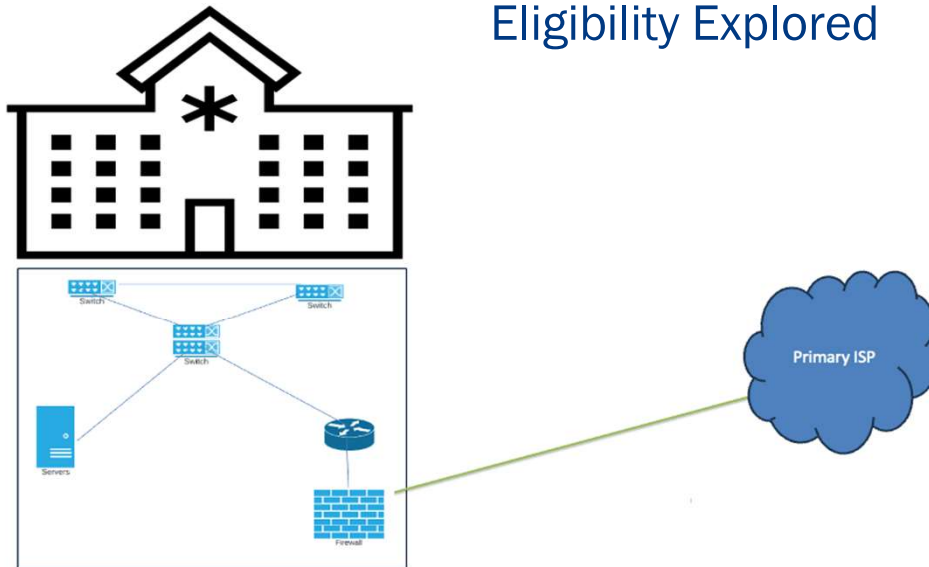
Eligible Services



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Eligibility Explored

Critical Access Hospital
1 Internet Connection

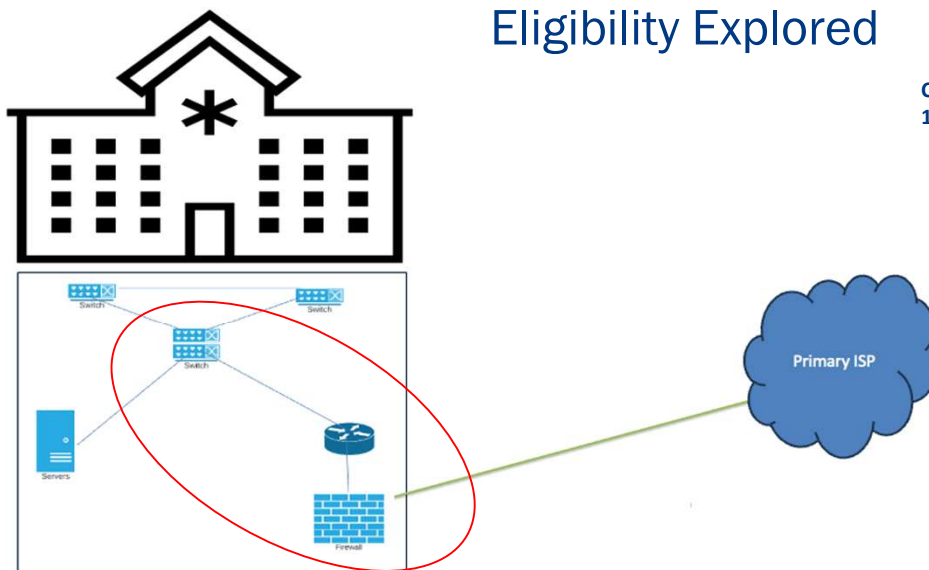


What's eligible?

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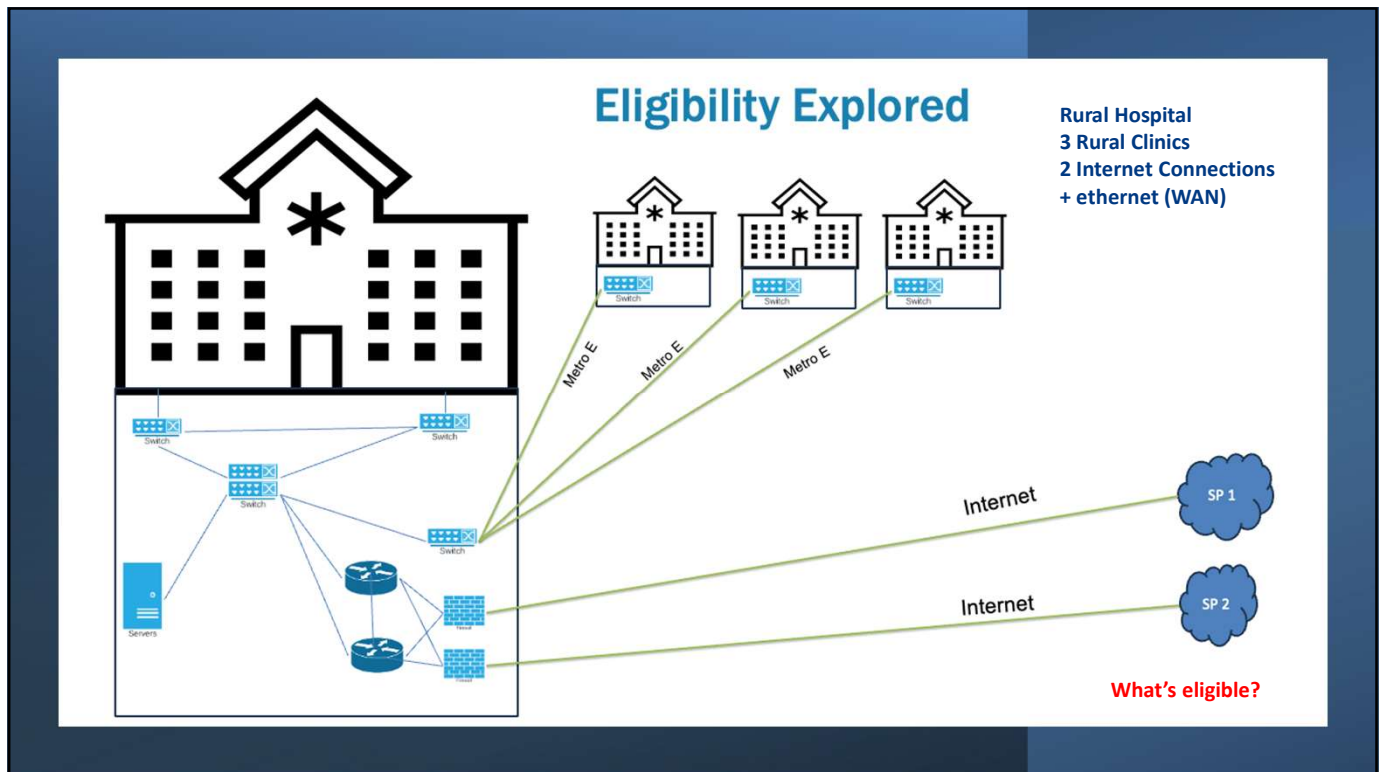
Eligibility Explored

Critical Access Hospital
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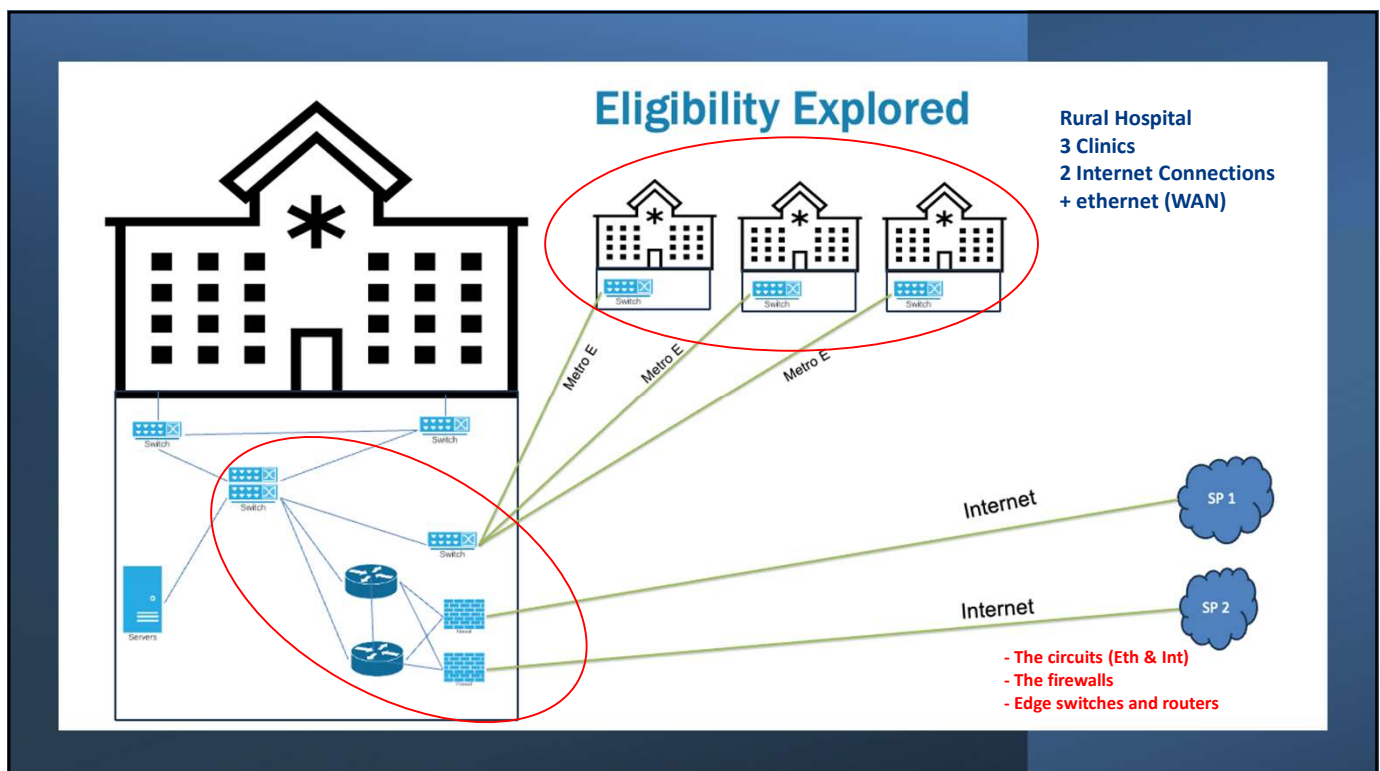


- The circuit
- The firewall
- Edge switch and router

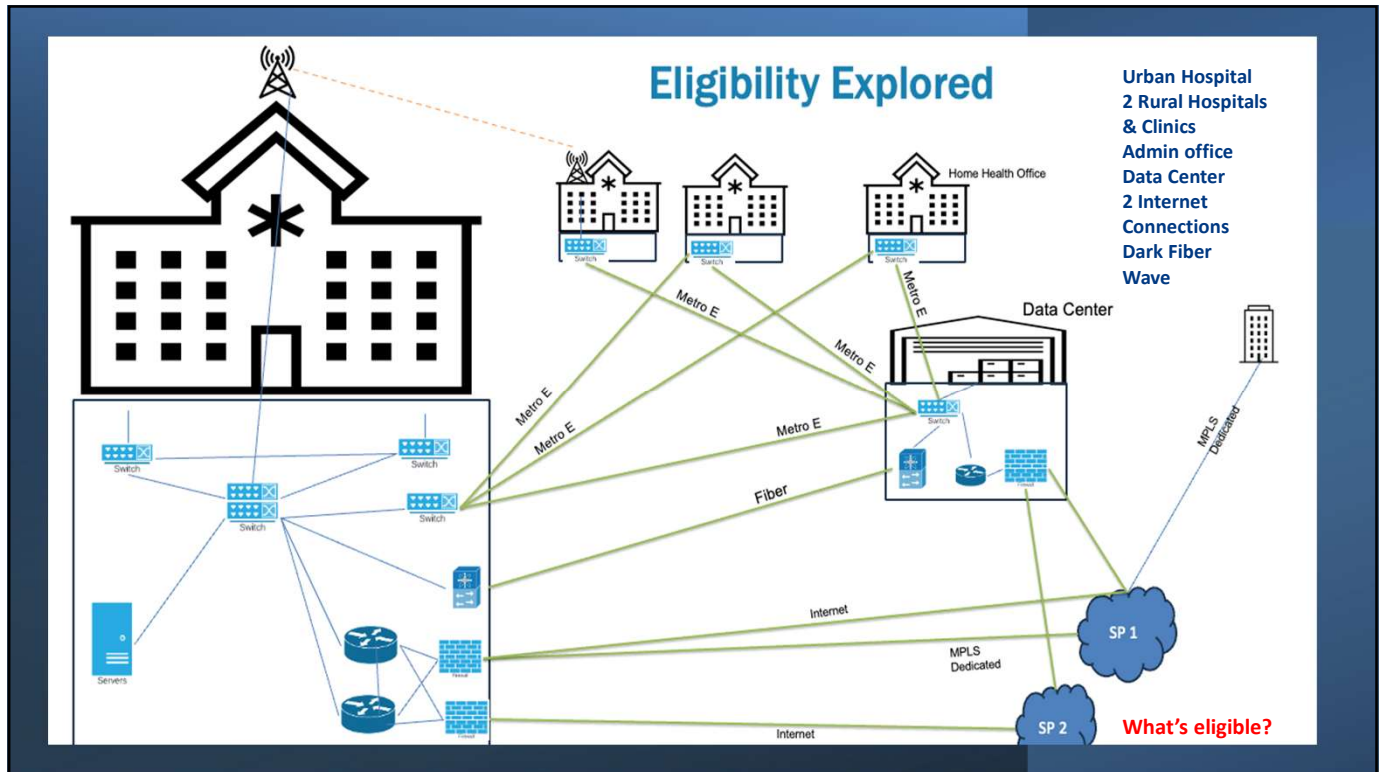
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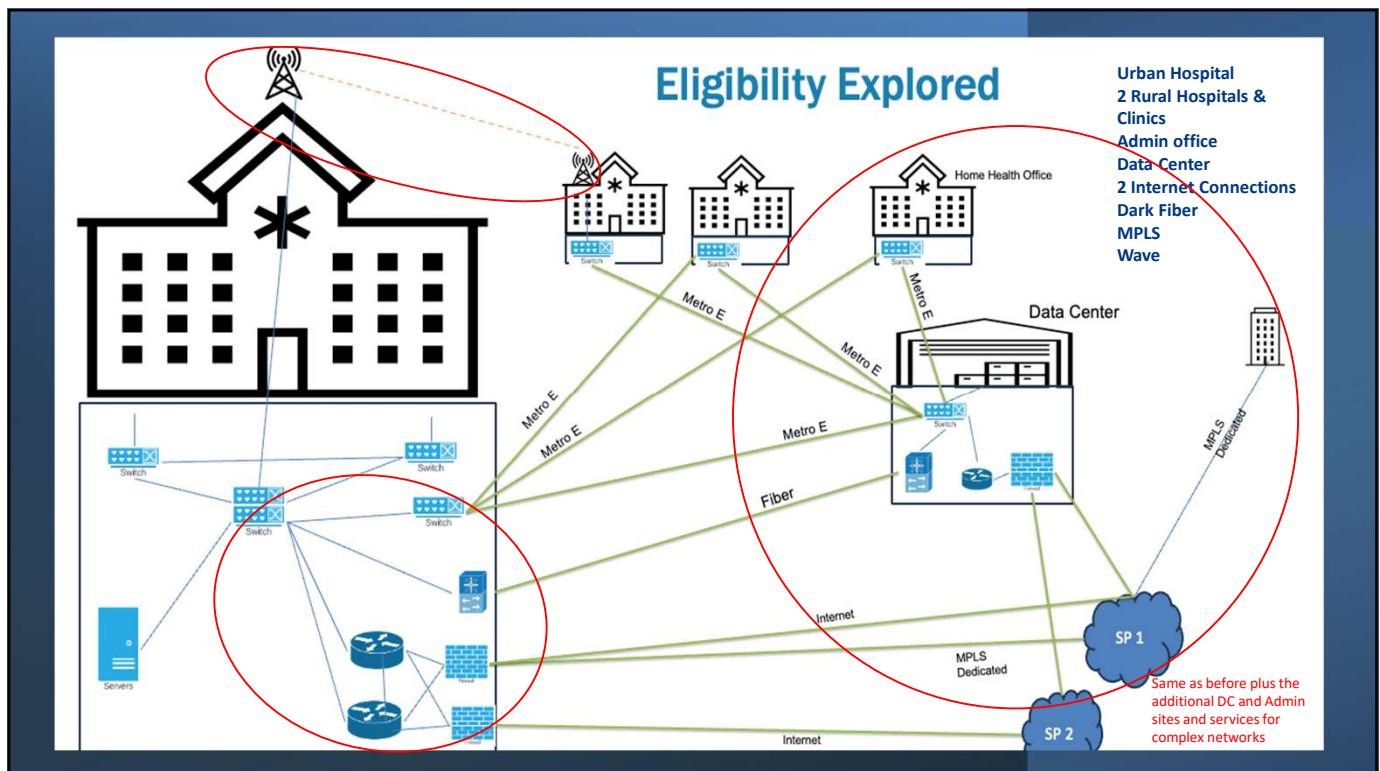
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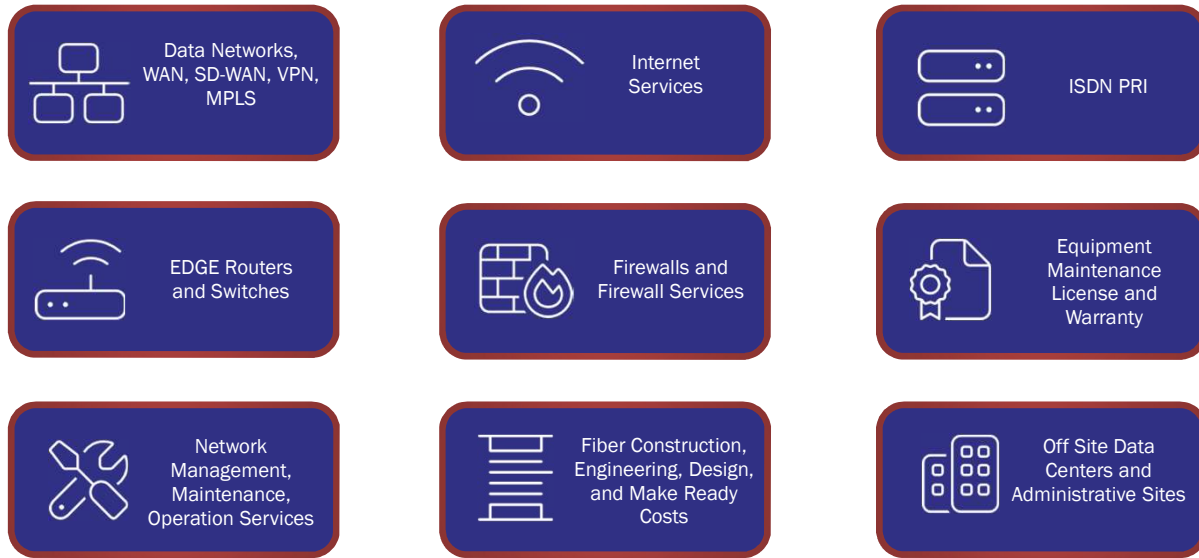


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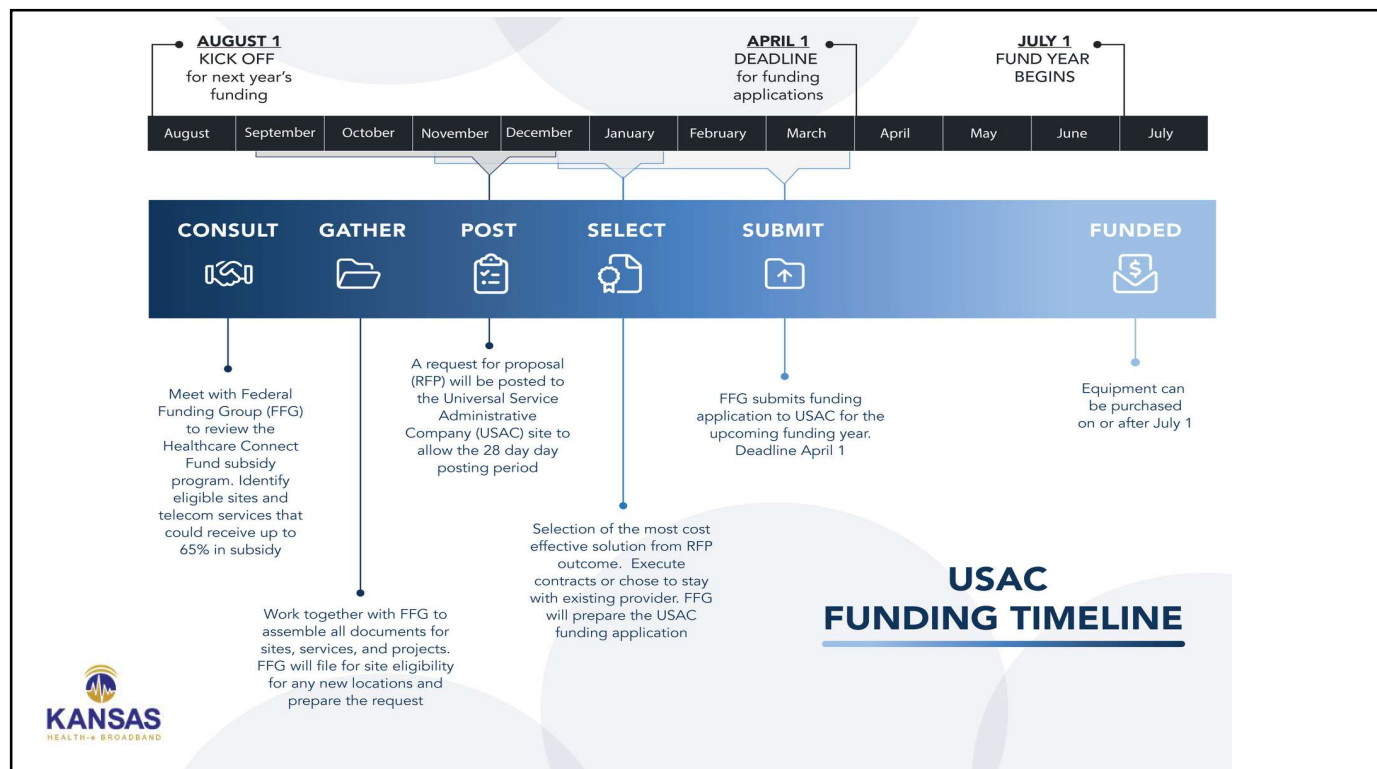


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Eligible Services



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Multi-Year Funding Timeline

Planning Begins Months Ahead of the Start of the Fund Year

The Fund Year is July 1 – June 30



If you are planning a network equipment refresh in Q1 of 2028,
- **NOW** is the application period.

If you are planning a network refresh in October 2028,
- **Next fall** is the application period

Non-recurring charges (NRC) must take place during the fund year.

- Purchased on or after July 1 and installed and operational before June 30.



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Why Join the Consortium?

- Dedicated program expertise
- End-to-end application and funding support
- Less administrative work for your team
- Fewer errors, delays, and missed opportunities
- Ongoing compliance, audit, and appeal assistance
- Proactive planning for future connectivity needs
- Regular funding and reimbursement updates
- More time to focus on patient care and operations

What if you already participate in the program?

- Consider Consortium Only Eligible Items
- Higher Caps on Infrastructure Projects ~ \$14,000,000 vs \$50,000 if filing individually
 - Consortium project limit per application is **\$50,000 per active location** within the consortium
 - 280 location in the consortium = 14M

Flexibility – ANY WAY YOU CHOOSE

- Program provides for multiple method filings
- You may have contracts in place
- Keep existing consultants in place to maintain historical filings if desired
- Work with consortium for consortium only, complex filings and all other left over eligible items



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Member Optimization

PROVIDE A PROGRAM CHAMPION

- Knowledgeable about IT spend
- Evaluated on program production

PROVIDE "READ ONLY" PORTAL ACCESS

- Ongoing need for invoices
- Cuts down on your time requirement
- Access to service records

PREPARE TO PLAN AHEAD FOR INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATIONS

- Think ahead, 3 years, 5 years

PREPARE YOUR VENDORS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATIONS

- SPIN numbers
- Accurate invoicing



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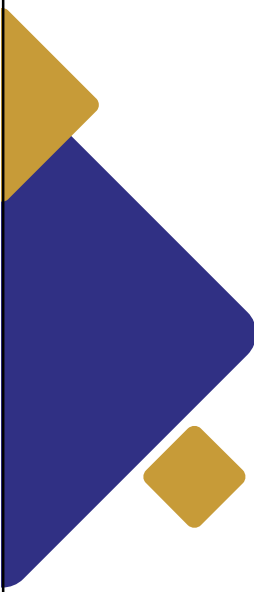
Service Fee Example

Cost of Circuit	\$1,000.00
HCP Pays 35%	\$350.00
USAC Pays 65%	\$650.00
HCP pays service fee to FFG	\$162.50
Total Cost to Hospital	\$512.50

49% savings



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Questions?

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Next Steps



NEW MEMBERS

**Execute Membership
Packet Documents**

Schedule Onboarding

- Contacts
- Sites
- Eligible services
- Projects



EXISTING MEMBERS

Schedule Annual Checkup

- Contacts
- Sites
- Eligible services
- Projects



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Kansas Hospital Association & FFG Partnership



Federal Funding Group

- Evergreen, Colorado
- USAC Consultants
- Requested more than 86 Million to date

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