



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

KODY H. KINSLEY
SECRETARY

February 1, 2023

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Donny Lambeth, Chair
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Health and Human Services
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 620, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

The Honorable Jim Burgin, Chair
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Health and Human Services
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 308, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

The Honorable Larry Potts, Chair
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Health and Human Services
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 307B1, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Chairmen:

Session Law 2021-180, Section 9B.8A, requires the Department of Health and Human Services to announce the recipients of the Virtual Behavioral Health Services Grant Program authorized under subsection (a) of this section and report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on the amount awarded to each grantee, the anticipated number of persons to be served by each grantee and the geographic area to be served as a result of each grantee's expanded telepsychiatry services. Pursuant to the provisions of law, the Department is pleased to submit the attached report.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact John Furnari, Program/Policy Analyst, at John.Furnari@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kody H. Kinsley".
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Kody H. Kinsley
Secretary

cc:	Mark Collins	Joyce Jones	Katherine Restrepo	Luke MacDonald
	Lisa Wilks	Amy Jo Johnson	Francisco Celis Villagrana	Jessica Meed
	Theresa Matula	Nathan Babcock	Fred Aikens	Todd Barlow

Report on SFY 2022 Virtual Behavioral Health Services Grant Program

Session Law 2021-180, Section 9B.8A



**Report to the
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Health and Human Services
by the
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
February 1, 2023**

Executive Summary

Session Law 2021-180, Senate Bill 105, directed the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Office of Rural Health (ORH) to use \$10,000,000 in non-recurring funds to award competitive grants to hospitals for expanded telepsychiatry capabilities to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency by allowing patients being served in primary care settings to access hospital-based virtual psychiatric assessments and consultations.

ORH awarded seven (7) hospitals up to \$1.5 million each through a Request for Applications process that was made available to eligible sites via notification on ORH's website. Applicants were scored based on their responses to eight (8) grant-based criteria. Each application's ranking and selection for award was scored using weighted values with a possible maximum cumulative score of 100 points. Selection was achieved by a panel of five (5) ORH staff members who scored each applicant individually. Final scores were tabulated, and seven applications were found to meet the minimum requirements for the grant award.

SECTION 9B.8A.(b) of S.L.2021-180 further directed DHHS to announce the recipients of the competitive grant awards authorized under subsection (a) and report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on the following:

- (1) The amount awarded to each grantee
- (2) The anticipated number of persons to be served by each grantee
- (3) The geographic area to be served as a result of each grantee's expanded telepsychiatry services

The table below identifies those hospitals across the state that have been selected to expand telepsychiatry capabilities through facilitating patient access to hospital-based virtual telepsychiatry services from a primary care provider's office, from home, or from another nonhospital setting.

NAME OF HOSPITAL	AMOUNT OF AWARD	NUMBER OF PERSONS TO BE SERVED	GEOGRAPHIC AREA TO BE SERVED
Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital	\$1,260,000	737	Medicaid region 1- Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties
FirstHealth of the Carolinas	\$1,500,000	260	Medicaid region 5- Hoke, Lee, Moore, Montgomery, and Richmond counties
LifeBrite Community Hospital of Stokes - Danbury NC	\$1,260,000	120	Medicaid region 2- Stokes County
Pitt County Memorial Hospital/East Carolina Health	\$1,500,000	669	Medicaid regions 4 and 6- Wilson, Chowan, Hertford, Beaufort, and Duplin counties
Scotland Memorial Hospital	\$1,500,000	92	Medicaid region 5- Scotland and Robeson counties
St Luke's Hospital	\$1,490,000	190	Medicaid regions 1 and 3- Henderson, Polk, Cleveland, and Rutherford counties
Cumberland County Hospital/Cape Fear Valley Health System	\$1,480,000	1,500	Medicaid region 5- Cumberland and Harnett counties