



HEALTH SERVICES

Project Summary: Rural Cape Telehealth Access Initiative

Requesting Organization

Outer Cape Health Services, Inc. (OCHS) is a federally qualified health center serving rural and medically underserved communities across the Outer Cape of Massachusetts, including Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet, Eastham, Orleans, Brewster, Chatham, Harwich, Dennis, and Yarmouth.

Funding Request

Outer Cape Health Services respectfully requests \$1,100,000 in FY2026 Congressionally Directed Spending through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) program. The total project cost is \$2.2 million, with the remaining balance supported through institutional and philanthropic resources.

Project Purpose

The Rural Cape Telehealth Access Initiative will build sustainable telehealth infrastructure to expand access to primary care and behavioral health services in a geographically isolated, workforce-constrained region. The project prioritizes older adults, homebound patients, and individuals with limited digital access by pairing technology deployment with hands-on Digital Care Navigation support.

Community Need

The Outer Cape faces persistent provider shortages, long travel distances for care, limited transportation options, and extreme seasonal population fluctuations. These challenges disproportionately affect older adults and low-income residents, leading to delayed care and avoidable emergency department utilization. Telehealth offers a cost-effective, scalable solution to address these barriers while maintaining continuity of care.

Use of Funds

Requested funds will support one-time, scalable infrastructure investments, including home-based care kits, connectivity solutions, telehealth platform expansion, cybersecurity enhancements, and time-limited implementation staffing. Funds will not be used for pre-existing personnel or operating expenses.

Expected Outcomes

The initiative will increase telehealth utilization from approximately 10% to 40% of total visits, enabling more than 4,000 additional telehealth visits annually. The project will reduce wait times, expand behavioral health capacity, improve chronic disease management, and decrease reliance on high-cost emergency care.

Federal and State Impact

This project advances federal and Massachusetts priorities related to health equity, rural infrastructure, digital access, and cost containment. By investing in durable telehealth capacity, federal funds will generate long-term savings for Medicare and Medicaid while strengthening resilience in one of the Commonwealth's most isolated regions.

Project Readiness and Stewardship

OCHS has established clinical infrastructure, experienced leadership, and active community partnerships to ensure rapid deployment upon funding. Telehealth services will be sustained through payer reimbursement following implementation, ensuring long-term viability without continued federal support.