

Section 2 - GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

2.13 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS SUPPORT PROGRAM (Cont'd)

2.13.1 General (Cont'd)

- A. To be eligible for the reduced rates, rural health care providers are required to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the FCC Rules.
- B. Reduced rates are available only to the extent that they are funded by the federal universal service fund.
- C. Eligible rural health care providers may aggregate demand with other entities to create a consortium. Universal service support shall apply only to the portion of eligible services used by an eligible health care provider.
- D. Responsibility of eligible health care providers
  - 1) Rural health care providers and consortia shall participate in a competition bidding process for all service eligible for reduced rates in accordance with any state and local procurement rules.
  - 2) Rural health care providers and consortia shall submit requests for services to the program Administrator, as designated by the FCC, and follow established procedures.
  - 3) Services requested must be used for purposes related to the provision of health care services or instruction that the health care provider is legally authorized to provide under the law.
  - 4) A health care provider that cannot obtain toll free access to an Internet service provider and who is eligible for support for limited toll-free access under the Rules must certify that it lacks toll-free Internet access and that it is an eligible health care provider.
  - 5) Services cannot be sold, resold or transferred in consideration for money or any other thing of value.
- E. Responsibility of the Company
  - 1) The Company shall offer the rates and charges as specified in Section 3, to eligible health care providers to the extent that facilities and services are available and offered. The Company shall offer services to eligible rural health care providers and consortia at prices no higher than the highest urban rate as defined in the FCC Order and Rules.
  - 3) In competitive bidding situations, where specific flexible pricing arrangements are allowed, the Company may offer flexible pricing (to determine the reduced rate) subject to New York Commission of Public Utilities approval.

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Issued By:

Faizal Hassad, President  
TELXMEDIA, INC.  
4402 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
LIC, NY 11101