

TELEHEALTH: ALASKA'S NORTH STAR

The Problem: COVID-19 has increased the reliance on telehealth, which means patients need internet access. Affordable internet does not exist in Alaska; in fact, 0% of Alaskans can get a plan for less than \$60/month.

The Solution: Make broadband financially feasible for all through mutual aid funds, improved data collection, and Local Broadband Service Councils.

Short Term

Filling the Gaps

- ☆ Creation of Telehealth for All Alaskans, a mutual aid fund
- ☆ Provide funds for low-income households at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- ☆ Advocate for long-term expansion of the USAC Lifeline program

Long Term

Plan for the Future

- ☆ Improve data collection to more equitably assist vulnerable populations with subsidies
- ☆ Create Local Broadband Service Councils to engage community members in broadband oversight

Roughly 10% of Alaskan households will get the internet access they need to lead healthy lives, as opposed to approximately 6% pre-COVID.