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The National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers (NCTRC) is a collaborative of 12 regional and 2 national Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs) committed to assisting organizations in the implementation of telehealth programs for rural and underserved communities.
The National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers (NCTRC) is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT). TRCs provide valuable training, education, research, and consultative services to all 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as the U.S. territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the freely associated states of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Since 2017, the NCTRC has been dedicated to collaboratively expanding the reach of healthcare, supporting the building of sustainable telehealth programs and improving health outcomes.

All 14 TRCs are committed to helping healthcare organizations, practices and other stakeholders implement telehealth programs that best fit their needs and overcome barriers, advance telehealth education, and provide resources.

Working together to achieve national goals, the NCTRC brings together experts in policy, technology, operations, technical assistance and more:

- 12 regional TRCs are regional experts in telehealth implementation and provide a wide range of services targeted to local community needs including: technical assistance, education, guidance, and resources on various topics.
- Two national TRCs include the Center for Connected Health Policy and the Telehealth Technology Assistance and Resource Center.
In 2020 the NCTRC delivered value to various stakeholders including hospitals, providers, healthcare associations, clinics, vendors, academic institutions, HRSA grantees, government, insurers and many new groups during a year of unprecedented challenges.

Rising to the Challenge

Fielded over 10,000 Technical Assistance requests throughout the year to provide an average of nearly 850 consultations per month. 353% increase over 2019

Delivered 2,716 Outreach Events to a total of 200,487 participants through educational webinars, regional meetings, and technology showcases. 207% increase over 2019

Received over 3,200,000 Website visits providing access to wide-ranging resources, tool kits, and key information. 93% increase over 2019

*Data is combined from all 14 TRCs.

Training:
- Educational programs through webinars, regional conferences and technology showcases
- Training on policies, technologies, implementation of best practices and sustainability

Resources:
- Development of tool kits, materials, and resources
- Specialized tools and templates for telehealth programs and providers

The NCTRC works collaboratively to advance telehealth across the nation by connecting telehealth stakeholders at local, state, and federal levels to raise awareness and collaboration, as well as, by providing technical assistance and educational services to enhance telehealth programs and services.

National Impact

Expert Technical Assistance:
- Design and execution of needs assessments
- Identification of funding sources
- Strategic and business planning
- Selection and use of various telehealth technologies
- Policy analysis and guidance
- Program evaluation

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NCTRC
EXPERT
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE
TRAINING
RESOURCES

Rising to the Challenge

NCTRC EXPERT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING RESOURCES
Two National TRCs have specific roles providing valuable technology and policy expertise and services to the industry from a national perspective. 12 Regional TRCs provide valuable expertise and resources at the state and local level.
TTAC offers expertise on technology used in telehealth programs, from medical peripheral devices, mHealth apps and devices to video conferencing and telemedicine platforms. Information is provided through webinars, toolkits, and video presentations on telemedicine technology, all of which are provided through the TTAC website. The toolkits and interactive platforms allow visitors to learn how the technology works and how it can be used in patient care.

TTAC features newer technologies in Innovation Watches and trending technologies in Technology Showcases. TTAC also conducts Technology Showcases at Regional TRC Conferences, allowing attendees the opportunity to review and assess medical devices and peripherals side by side in a vendor-neutral environment. When the Covid-19 Pandemic created a year of virtual conferences, TTAC adapted the Technology Showcase to a virtual environment of technology discussion and a combination of pre-recorded videos using the equipment, to a hands-on, live discussion of the technology.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, TTAC saw a surge in requests for technical assistance and information regarding how providers can conduct clinical encounters with their patients’ in the home environment. Additionally, there was a significant increase in interest in direct-to-consumer telehealth technology, platforms, and connectivity into the patient’s home. Significant work was accomplished throughout 2020 in reimbursement for telehealth services, as well as identification of various platforms that can be utilized for telehealth delivery into the home (e.g. Zoom, Vidyo, Skype, Google Hangout) and identification of areas where lack of broadband access impedes telehealth delivery, most specifically in rural communities.

TTAC has experienced significant growth in Technical Assistance requests since the beginning of the pandemic (March through November) with over 188% increase in Technical Assistance requests and over 488% increase in Outreach activities including presentations at webinars primarily directed towards providing services to patients in the home environment, remote patient monitoring, direct-to-consumer care, cybersecurity, telehealth platforms and broadband challenges. TTAC also created a Pandemic Response Project Team to develop an Action Plan for a model to support rural communities in a return of COVID-19 or any future pandemic, applying telemedicine capabilities and technologies.

In 2020, an initial white paper was created to address the demands of the quarantine that include, but are not limited to: screening, testing, tracking and monitoring, public health, communications, education, behavioral health, outpatient care, emergent care, workers (healthcare and essential other). An outcome of this work also included a Policy overview of telehealth reimbursement processes and the relaxation of rules during the Pandemic. Although it is well understood that the relaxation of rules is a temporary measure, it is still important to understand how the Pandemic has shifted the focus on Telehealth and made significant changes in how telehealth services are delivered. TTAC is also partnering with the California Telehealth Resource Center (CTRC) to identify Best Practices implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CCHP provides extensive policy analyses, updates, resources, education, legislative tracking and oversees administrative operations for the Consortium. In 2020, CCHP focused on meeting the unique Technical Assistance demands for policy assistance brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to creating CCHP’s biannual 50 state report on telehealth laws, regulations and Medicaid policies, produced since 2012, CCHP also tracked federal developments and built a state-by-state database specifically for tracking temporary policy changes implemented as a result of the pandemic. CCHP developed numerous resources including fact sheets, YouTube videos, and email alerts on specific policy changes in the Medicare program. These efforts included fact sheets and charts that covered federal COVID-19 actions and their expiration dates, an easy to reference chart of CMS guidance for FQHCs and RHCs, and a crosswalk between CMS’ Interim Final Rules on the COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities and their published guidance document. CCHP also migrated to a new legislative tracking tool in 2020 that provided a more user-friendly experience and updates on a minute-by-minute basis with the latest information on telehealth legislation and regulation as it moves through the policy process.

CCHP experienced a large increase in Technical Assistance requests in 2020 compared to previous years as a result of the rapid adoption of telehealth by new providers during the pandemic. New audiences such as private practices, large hospital systems and consumer groups engaged CCHP for assistance in working through the requirements of telehealth policy and the complexities of billing for telehealth services. Additionally, hospice providers and home health agencies were another group that contacted CCHP for guidance during this pandemic. CCHP worked with hospice providers such as Legacy Hospice in Mississippi and Regency Home Healthcare in Minnesota to help them understand Medicare’s reimbursement policies. New patient advocacy organizations and disease groups also sought CCHP assistance, including the American Foundation for the Blind and the Obesity Society. As has occurred in years past, CCHP was used as a resource by State Medicaid offices and other government agencies, such as Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, North Carolina Office of Rural Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

Additionally, media attention on the CCHP skyrocketed with over 50 published articles between January and July, including many by mainstream news organizations, such as U.S. News and World Report, The Washington Post and over 60 media interviews. CCHP saw increased demand for website resources of 2.4 times over 2019, going from an average of 15,000 hits/month to an average of 51,000 in 2020, hitting peak volumes of 100,000 visitors in March and April. CCHP’s weekly email alerts and newsletter subscribers more than doubled from 7,000 in early 2020 to over 15,000 by end of the year. Overall, 2020 was a year of tremendous growth in demand for Technical Assistance requests and resources from the CCHP who rose to meet the challenge.

“You two completely mastered the ‘COVID Tango’ where you quickly and artfully danced around the transformation from an in-person to an on-line showcase.”
During the months of March and April, CTRC staff responded to a 670% increase in Technical Assistance requests. Overall, since the beginning of the year, CTRC provided Technical Assistance services to over 2,000 individuals and reached over 9,000 individuals through trainings, webinars, and other group presentations.

In response to the overwhelming need for information regarding new regulations, modified workflow and rapid start telehealth implementation for direct to patient care during COVID-19, CTRC quickly developed COVID-19 specific pages on our calculc.org website, focusing on reimbursement, policy, patient and provider information. These pages continue to grow as new information is either created or curated by the CTRC.

“You and your team are simply amazing, and I don’t know what we would do without you…. Whether it’s clinical connections, billing questions, interpretation of regulations, or even technical questions, the CTRC team is the best!”

CTRC had previously developed a series of online Telehealth Coordinator courses which have been incorporated into required curriculum for several nursing schools nationwide. Between March and June 2020, CTRC saw an exponential increase in registrations and completion of these courses. In 2020, CTRC developed two additional courses: Questions to Ask a Specialty Provider Prior to Signing a Contract and FQHC/RHC Reimbursement During COVID-19.

In addition to online courses, CTRC quickly developed and posted educational videos for telehealth start-up, and billing and reimbursement during COVID-19. Nationwide and statewide organizations invited CTRC to speak in numerous webinars on topics such as rapid start-up and reimbursement. The CTRC presented on the Health and Human Services’ Telehealth Hack nationwide webinar series on Telehealth Workflow in August 2020 and 20 Questions to Ask a Specialty Service Provider in December 2020. CTRC also participated in the NACHC Telehealth Roundtable series of national meetings that convenes telehealth technical assistance providers for the purpose of discovering and sharing relevant resources. CTRC is also partnering with other TRCs to create and contribute educational videos for MATRIC’s FQHC video library.

In an effort to discover and disseminate promising practices for telehealth transition from the clinic-to-clinic model to a provider-to-patient model, the CTRC initiated a Subject Matter Expert (SME) interview project and has recruited seven additional TRCs to collaborate in the collection of recorded and transcribed interviews with SMEs from over 100 clinics nationwide. The information gathered from this interview project will be used to create materials, courses and presentations that can be shared nationwide as part of an emergency response toolkit.

New partnerships were established with STRATIS Health, several Area Health Education Centers, a social work graduate training program in Berkeley, and RN

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, gpTRAC created a new website (www.telehealthquickstart.org) to provide information on COVID-19 policies and best practices for rapidly starting up a telehealth service; ramped up capacity to provide Technical Assistance and Outreach presentations, including participating in taking on the Telehealth Hack series. gpTRAC provided planning and presentation for the “Bonus Hack” focused on integrated telebehavioral health, which attracted over 380 attendees. gpTRAC and the NCTRC Data Committee played key roles in expanding data collection and reporting capabilities using the TRC-ALPHA data collection system. New reports were developed to show weekly trends in TA and Outreach volume and accurate reporting for HRSA funders. gpTRAC also began an effort to more consistently collect and publish stories of organizations rapidly deploying telehealth services during the pandemic.

“Dozens of our therapists were getting set up on Zoom, learning about telehealth visits, and studying the ethical ramifications. It lined up perfectly; by the beginning of COVID, we were feeling confident that we could use telehealth in our practice.”

New partnerships were established with STRATIS Health, several Area Health Education Centers, a social work graduate training program in Berkeley, and RN
Telemedicine ECHO again to learn from experts and to get emails, HTRC began a new Telemedicine project ECHO for healthcare providers in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

By Providing an ECHO, the HTRC reduced individual Technical Assistance calls on the same topics, allowing the TRC to direct time and energy to creating brief didactics and robust discussions concerning technology, how to get started, clinical workflows, quick implementation, billing and regulations. Many of the provider questions reflect the following: how to get started with telehealth, what platforms are easy to use, will reimbursement be the same after COVID? billing and coding advice; and best practices. The telemedicine ECHO for the Heartland program began in April with two ECHOs each week, one for Primary Health and the other for Behavioral Health. As the program evolved, the number of ECHOs reduced to one time per week and then two times a month. The program averaged 35 participants per ECHO and received very high satisfaction marks.

HTRC also implemented a 2020 Webinar Series that included updates on various topics such as federal and state telehealth policies during COVID-19 and access for veterans in rural areas. HTRC created valuable website resources including a dedicated COVID-19 webpage so that clients could access information quickly.

In 2020, the HTRC engaged in various community partnerships during the COVID-19 pandemic. One collaborative initiative with Phillips County Health System in rural Kansas saved a geriatric mental health support program by quickly implementing an iPad solution for patients, allowing patients to continue to meet with a licensed therapist and psychiatrist via telehealth. Within 24 hours, the program switched from in-person care to 100% telehealth.

“Because of the highly-infectious nature of COVID, many of us transitioned from transitional visits to televisits. So I feel blessed because I was a little bit ahead of the curve, and it was pretty seamless. But it’s so important again, if you’re gonna have to do that so quickly, to have resources like HTRC’s Telemedicine ECHO again to learn from experts and to get practical tips.”

Outgrowing its present display format. The toolkit includes best practices for clinicians of all types, including physicians, behavioral health providers, allied health professionals and more.

“I appreciate all of the resources you have provided as this will help us begin to develop a framework that we can use as part of our IPE project. While we have some individuals with more in-depth knowledge of these concepts, many of us are just beginning to understand and use telehealth ourselves. Applying these concepts to a context to which we are not largely familiar has been challenging but it’s important to ensure we develop these modules with the most up-to-date and accurate information as possible. Again, you are a wonderful resource and I thank you!”

In addition to this comprehensive online toolkit, MATRC’s major initiatives and activities in 2020 included: 1) co-hosting a four-day Virtual Conference Series called “Launching into Telehealth” with over 1,000 registrants in partnership with the Northeast TRC; 2) offering Virtual Office Hours multiple days per month; 3) developing telehealth best practices toolkits for vulnerable populations in response to COVID-19 to include geriatric populations, post-acute and long term care facilities, correctional facilities and homeless populations; 4) curating COVID-19 response best practices across the MATRC region; 5) hosting a webinar for the NCTRC webinar series on Inpatient eConsults in response to COVID-19; 6) hosting/moderating a session for the HHS Telehealth Hack Series; 7) collaborating with the Northeast TRC and South Central TRC to revitalize a Telehealth Locator tool to assist providers, policy makers and patients/clients; 8) participating with TTAC on the National Pandemic Response Best Practices Series; 9) collaborating with multiple TRCs to develop an FQHC and RHC Telehealth Toolkit and Video Library; 10) collaborating with multiple TRCs to develop a taxonomy for FQHC telehealth data collection; 11) developing training modules (some free as part of our IPE project. While we have some individuals with more in-depth knowledge of these concepts, many of us are just beginning to understand and use telehealth ourselves. Applying these concepts to a context to which we are not largely familiar has been challenging but it’s important to ensure we develop these modules with the most up-to-date and accurate information as possible. Again, you are a wonderful resource and I thank you!”
NETRC promotes the advancement of telehealth across an eight-state region. Throughout 2020, NETRC was committed to providing stakeholders across the northeast with Technical Assistance (TA), training, and resources in response to COVID-19, with a 920% increase in TA requests during the early months of the pandemic.

To meet the expanding needs of the region during COVID-19, NETRC developed many new resources, including a COVID-19 and Telehealth webpage [www.NETRC.org/COVID19](http://www.NETRC.org/COVID19), Telehealth Town Halls and Project ECHOs. These tools and events allowed quick dissemination of telehealth updates and enabled region-wide collaborative support and problem solving. NETRC also created an assortment of educational tools, including fact sheets, webinars, and podcasts.

Policy flexibilities allowed during the Public Health Emergency (PHE) enabled many new groups to leverage the benefits of telehealth. NETRC provided TA to diverse organizations across the health care spectrum, including health systems, hospitals, primary care, behavioral health providers, colleges/universities, policy makers, judicial systems, family planning, and others. Notably, many new FQHCs and RHICS contacted NETRC to assist in launching their first-ever telehealth programs, permitted in part by policy expansions under the PHE.

NETRC provided expertise in the development of workforce training resources across all health science disciplines, including creating a New York State Telehealth Training Portal in collaboration with New York State Department of Health [www.NYTelehealth.NETRC.org](http://www.NYTelehealth.NETRC.org). NETRC also saw a significant increase in requests from colleges and universities to implement telehealth training to meet immediate needs for virtual courses and clinical placements for students as a result of COVID-19, and planning for permanent integration of telehealth into curriculum moving forward.

“I reached out to the NETRC for help during the pandemic as we were faced with the task of orienting almost 1,000 graduate students to the concept and practice of telemental health seemingly overnight. The staff at NETRC responded quickly, pleasantly, and collaboratively, ultimately producing a resource personalized for Simmons in the best (and ethical) practices in using telehealth platforms for the delivery of social work services. We are infinitely grateful for the kind spirit and responsiveness during such a stressful time.”

NETRC’s 2020 impact includes:

- Over 1,800 recipients of technical assistance to support telehealth program development and optimization
- Provided >250 training and educational opportunities for over 19,000 attendees, including key topics such as "Leveraging Telehealth to Address Social Determinants of Health".
- Co-hosted a four-day Virtual Conference Series - “Launching into Telehealth” with over 1,000 registrants, in collaboration with MATRC.
- Hosted weekly state-specific Telehealth Office Hours & monthly Telehealth Leadership Forums, including a regional Primary Care Association collaboration
- Developed toolkits to support telehealth implementation and best practices, such as the Roadmap and Toolkit for Primary Care and Behavioral Telehealth Services, during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Developed patient/consumer facing resources to help providers with patient outreach and engagement, such as "Telehealth Perspectives", a short video that shows telehealth’s vital role in our healthcare system.
- Initiated development of Telehealth Locator mapping tool in partnership with MATRC and SCTR.
- Contributed to multiple peer-review articles and other publications, including contributions to O’Hara V et al. "The pediatric weight management office visit via telemedicine pre-to post COVID-19 pandemic", and a chapter on Technology and Older Adults for the Handbook of Rural Aging, to be published March, 2021.

In addition, the NRTRC signed sub-awards with each state in the region to assist with COVID-19 challenges and identification of telehealth specific policies and regulations for its amazing support and collaboration with the BHI during this unprecedented public health crisis created by COVID-19."
PBTRC
Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center

PBTRC promotes the advancement of telehealth across Hawaii and the Pacific Basin. In 2020, the PBTRC established a Telehealth ‘Hui’ (e.g., ‘group’ in Hawaiian) for Telemedicine Directors, Payors, and other telehealth stakeholders in the region. The PBTRC held weekly telehealth roundtable discussions with the Hawaii Primary Care Association to facilitate peer-to-peer information sharing for FQHCs. Over the year, significant support and outreach was provided to special populations including: a joint webinar with Papa Ola Lokahi an organization that coordinates the Native Hawaiian populations including: a joint webinar FQHCs. Over the year, significant support to patients and health care providers that live in remote and rural Pacific Islands.”

In 2020, the PBTRC engaged with many new groups such as the Hawaii Primary Care Association, Pacific Island Primary Care Association, Homeless Service Agencies, Family Advocacy Groups, Independent Physician Groups, State of Hawaii Medicaid, Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, and AARP. 

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the PBTRC responded to significantly higher volumes of requests for Technical Assistance (465% increase over 2019 between March to October) and Outreach, increasing from hosting 17 webinars with 1400 participants to 48 webinars with over 3000 participants in the same period. Additionally, the PBTRC established weekly virtual office hours to assist health care providers quickly transition to telehealth services because of COVID-19 public health emergency measures, such as, stay at home orders and social distancing mandates and conducting a full spectrum of telehealth training to include topics on policy, billing and reimbursement, how to get started, provider and patient resources, clinical workflows, and evaluation.

The PBTRC assisted the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEM Ag) State Emergency Support Function #8 Public Health and Medical Services develop a Hawaii statewide telemedicine needs assessment survey, participated in the State of Hawaii Lt. Governor’s COVID-19 taskforce meetings; and assisted the Hawaii Department of Health in coordinating the Governor and Lt. Governor’s press conference on telehealth with health care leaders in Hawaii that launched the telehealth campaign “call before you click.”

SCTRC
South Central Telehealth Resource Center

SCTRC promotes the advancement of telehealth across a three-state region. With the impact of the pandemic, the SCTRC provided expanded just-in-time Technical Assistance to healthcare providers and organizations. Yielding well over 500 requests between March and October, the SCTRC saw a dramatic increase of over 260% compared to the same period in 2019. In addition to ad-hoc questions, the SCTRC developed resources and educational materials to meet specific regional requests and then often shared those same materials via the LearnTelehealth.org website for reference to a wider audience.

The SCTRC furnished a variety of services in 2020 including: (1) educational webinars of state-specific and national interest on topics such as Telehealth 101, billing and reimbursement, policy, clinical best practices, technology updates, remote patient monitoring, program overviews, and telehealth grant writing; (2) virtual, real-time Technical Assistance including development of multiple, provider-specific resources that were shared via the LearnTelehealth.org website including the Telehealth Assistance for Providers kit and regional resources such as the Virtual Visit Billing and Reimbursement Guides for each state; (3) new course modules including the Telehealth Technology Overview; (4) new archived webinar video recordings that were added to the website to provide education on telehealth, remote patient monitoring, and a variety of other state-specific topics; (5) podcasts in partnership with Dr. Amit Sachdev at HHS featuring Dr. Curtis Lowery on practical guidance on the use of telehealth by healthcare providers; (6) co-hosted and co-developed several virtual events in collaboration with many organizations such as the Community Health Centers of Arkansas, the Mississippi Telehealth Association, the University of Southern Alabama, and Vanderbilt University; and (7) partnering with groups including the Telehealth Centers of Excellence to host the SEARCH2020 National Telehealth Research Symposium which highlights and promotes telehealth research and best practices development.

“Navigating through 2020 has been a challenge, but the SCTRC has risen to the challenge by being a leader in the areas of telehealth promotion/advocacy as well as telehealth education...Because I work in a rural and underserved area in Mississippi, I can’t wait to use what I learn to help the masses locally, nationally, and internationally.”
I am writing to sincerely thank you for the tremendous support that SETRC and GPT have provided to The Scott Center for Autism Treatment’s telehealth program, as well as your pivotal role in fostering telehealth in underserved communities in the southeastern region and beyond.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, demand and usage of telemedicine rose dramatically in 2020. In response, SETRC served as a clearinghouse for first time implementors needing quick-start assistance and existing telehealth providers who requested help with digesting the rapidly changing waivers, how to implement in-home telehealth and what steps to take for a rapid expansion of existing telehealth services. SETRC staff delivered assistance and outreach to over 28,000 recipients in 2020. Telehealth Technical Assistance was delivered through a variety of modalities to include individual and group virtual meetings and teleconferences, webinars, phone conversations and individual or group email communications.

In 2020, SETRC implemented the University Training Partnerships project to prepare a “Telehealth Ready” workforce capable of addressing the increased demand for the delivery of virtual healthcare created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program enables graduating nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other health care students, to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to utilize telehealth technologies in practice.

Additionally, the SETRC has been working with the Governor’s office of the US Virgin Islands on their HIE efforts, which includes a telehealth component. Through the Governor’s HIE initiative a new set of telehealth rules were drafted and introduced. The SETRC is also working on a strategic planning initiative around building out a territory wide telehealth network. The SETRC also saw an increase in telehealth education requests from Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), resulting in the SETRC providing several Telehealth 101 sessions for AHEC students.

As the South Atlantic and Southeast Regions were the most affected areas by the COVID-19 pandemic, SETRC has focused efforts in these areas. The SETRC saw a 4X increase in Technical Assistance requests specifically for areas related to telehealth in April and May of 2020 compared to the same months in 2019.

SETRC promotes the advancement of telehealth across a four-state region by (1) providing Technical Assistance and promotion of best practices for the development of new and existing telehealth networks, and (2) delivering standardized telehealth workforce training in telehealth applications and technology.

“Your webinar from early April continues to positively influence my practice and I’m so grateful!”

In 2020, the SWTRC experienced a 140% increase in Technical Assistance requests compared to 2019 due to the coronavirus pandemic, and in particular saw an increase in requests about telemedicine services from patients. In response to requests for assistance, the SWTRC produced two targeted webinars to educate and inform the general patient population on COVID-19.

Early in the crisis, on the provider side, the SWTRC saw an increase in Technical Assistance requests from small clinics, those in private practice and from practitioners in rehabilitation services such as occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech language therapy. The SWTRC’s training and webinar events experienced an average 300% increase in attendees compared to 2019 with participation from a much broader range of providers (e.g., occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech language therapy) and other attendees (e.g., administrators, and IT). Visits to the SWTRC’s website increased significantly, especially for access to education modules, blogs and COVID-19 resource pages.

The SWTRC also saw an increase in the number of requests for presentations at conferences and small meetings at organizations and associations. Overall, the SWTRC responded to increased demands created by the COVID-19 pandemic by expanding the number of training and informational webinars compared to previous years, generating new educational materials for providers and patients, creating a dedicated webpage (https://southwesttrc.org/resources/covid19) for general and state-specific COVID-19 materials, developing a newsletter focused on COVID-19 related information, and publishing a number of COVID-19 related blogs (https://southwesttrc.org/blog).
“Thank you for the resources that assisted in the development and now implementation of the new Virtual Care department at Parkland Health and Hospital System.”

Overall, in response to the increase in Technical Assistance requests with the COVID-19 pandemic, TexLa increased educational opportunities and saw significant increases in training and educational events’ attendance. TexLa TRC continues to develop relationships within Louisiana and Texas and beyond. Collaborations with regional organizations assisted to disseminate timely updates to their members including: Louisiana Primary Care Association, Texas Association of Community Health Centers, Texas Association of Rural Health Clinics, Texas Organization for Rural Community Hospitals, Texas Office of Rural Health, Louisiana Health Department/West-Ahead Louisiana/La Office of Rural Health – partners providing TexLa TRC support in Louisiana, CMS Regional Office, Louisiana and Texas Medicaid Offices, and Louisiana and Texas Rural Health Associations. Many new organizations reached out to TexLa TRC in 2020 including the Association of Community Cancer Centers, Vizient – a national membership-based performance improvement organization, Texas Pediatric Society, South Texas Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Association of American Medical Colleges, and the Texas Medical Board.

“UMTRC outreach exploded in 2020 with the unprecedented interest in telehealth due to COVID-19 and the rapid changes in policy and reimbursement from Medicare and state Medicaid programs. Increasing access for patients to be seen via telehealth while in the comfort of their own homes brought telehealth policy and reimbursement into the 21st century. These policy changes also sparked a tsunami of interest in remote patient monitoring and chronic care management programs. The UMTRC also worked with many new groups in 2020 including: University of Southern Indiana, Ohio State Office of Rural Health, Michigan Health Endowment, Illinois State Medical Society, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, State of Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addictions, Region 2 Area Agency on Aging, Michigan State Medical Society, Michigan Primary Care Association, Michigan Health Endowment Fund, Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals, Medical Advantage Group, Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Primary Care Health Association, Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers, Inc., Illinois State Medical Society, Genesee County Health Department, Dossoress Hospital, Community Health Network, ATTC, American Academy of Pediatrics, Advanced Practice Management, and Adult Day Programs. HRSA CARES Act funding allowed the UMTRC to increase staffing support and resources for stakeholders in the region to include creation of a virtual studio and technology demonstration center.”
In 2020, the NCTRC assisted and educated thousands of stakeholders across our communities, states, territories, and nation. In particular, the demands for telehealth technical assistance, information and training by the TRCs skyrocketed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Through extensive experience, expertise, and partnerships with stakeholders across the healthcare industry, the NCTRC rose to the challenge to help the nation advance telehealth solutions during a challenging time.

Contact the NCTRC for assistance:

We welcome the opportunity to connect with new partners and colleagues who believe in helping Americans receive quality healthcare through telehealth solutions. Please reach out to us at:

Address: P.O. Box 981655, West Sacramento, CA 95798
Email: nctrc@cchpca.org
Website: telehealthresourcecenter.org