



Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants

What does this program do?

This grant program helps rural communities acquire the technology and training necessary to connect educational and medical professionals with the teachers and medical providers who serve rural residents at the local level.

Who may apply for this program?

Eligible applicants, which are providing education or healthcare services through telecommunication facilities, include:

- State and local governmental entities
- Nonprofit organizations
- Consortia of eligible entities
- Federally recognized Tribes
- For-profit businesses

What is an eligible area?

The intent of the DLT program is to benefit rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less.

How may funds be used?

Grant funds may be used for:

- Audio, video and interactive video equipment
- Broadband facilities that support distant learning or telemedicine
- Computer hardware, network components and software
- Acquisition of instructional programming
- Acquisition of technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment

What kinds of funding are available?

Grant funds are awarded through a nationally competitive process. Funding is not currently available for DLT loans or loan / grant combinations.

What are some grant requirements?

- Awards can range from \$50,000 to \$500,000
- A minimum 15 percent match is required and cannot be from another federal source.

How do we get started?

- Application windows for this program are announced through the national office on a periodic basis.
- Program Resources are available online at www.rd.usda.gov (includes forms, guidance, certifications, etc.)

Who can answer questions?

Contact a General Field Representative that serves your area, call (202) 720-0800 or email dlinfo@wdc.usda.gov.

What governs this program?

- Code of Federal Regulation: 7 CFR Part 1734

Why does USDA Rural Development do this?

The DLT program helps rural residents tap into the enormous potential of modern telecommunications and the Internet for education and healthcare, two of the keys to economic and community development.