



DLT Awards - Minnesota

2006 Grant Awards

Mid-State Education District 6979

Little Falls, Minnesota

\$210,675

Areas Served: Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Nobles, Stearns, Todd, Wadena

Contact: Mr. Charles R. Diebel

Telephone: 320-360-3696

Fax: 320-632-3981

Congressional District: MN-01, 06, 07, 08

Rural Development funds will be used to enable MSET to expand distance learning and other educational services to all learners via live, two-way interactive programming in existing ITV classrooms. Students will be able to access streamed content at computer stations and participate via email or phone. Technology upgrades will enable archiving for future use.

The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, dba The Clearbrook Good Samaritan Center

Clearbrook, Minnesota

\$232,302

Areas Served: Beltrami, Clearwater, Koochiching, Marshall, Polk

Contact: Mrs. Angel A. Normandin

Telephone: 218-776-3157

Fax: 218-776-3836

Congressional District: MN-07, 08

Rural Development funds will be used to provide healthcare services to seniors and others in their own homes in an efficient and cost effective manner. The project will offer telehealth services to rural residents in eleven counties of northern Minnesota and will install state-of-the-art healthcare video and monitoring units. These devices will allow for the monitoring of blood pressure, blood glucose, weight, pulse, and oxygen levels. The system equipment will also allow for video monitoring of the clients overall health.



2005 Grant Awards:

Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs, Inc.

St. Paul, MN

\$475,022

Areas Served: Becker, Beltrami, Brown, Carlton, Carver, Chippewa, Clay, Cook, Cottonwood, Filmore, Houston, Hubbard, Isanti, Itasca, Kandiyohi, Koochiching, Lac qui Parle, Lake, LeSueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Pine, Pipestone, Pope, Polk, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Sherburne, Sibley, St. Louis, Swift, Todd, Washington, Watonwan, Winona, Wright, Yellow Medicine, Benton, Stearns, Crow Wing, Morrison, Wadena, Scott Counties

Contact: Ronald C. Brand

Telephone: 651-642-1903

Fax: 651-645-1399

Congressional District: MN-01, MN-02, MN-03, MN-04, MN-05, MN-06, MN-07, MN-08

Psychiatrists, physicians, and other clinicians will provide mental health consultations to people needing services, and be able to confer, over a telemedicine (mental health) system. The system will expand continuing professional education, crisis services, psychological assessment, clinical supervision, and family psycho-education opportunities. 32 private, community-based, non-profit mental health organizations will participate. The program is expected to serve an estimated 125,000 children, adults and families.

MediSota, Inc.

Dawson, MN

\$102,100

Areas Served: Chippewa, Lincoln, Redwood, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Lyon, Murray, Watonwan, Meeker, Stearns, Yellow Medicine Counties

Contact: Debra Ranallo

Telephone: 320-769-2269

Fax: 320-769-2298

Congressional District: MN-07

14 rural hospitals in critically underserved areas will offer education for physicians, healthcare providers, pharmacists, hospital and nursing home administrators, and other allied health personnel. Videoconferencing will allow participating hospitals "face to face" communications in recruitment of healthcare professionals, and support patient access to education and support groups. The project will serve 132,403 residents located in 11 counties.



Tri-County Hospital, Inc.

Wadena, MN

\$500,000

Areas Served: Otter Tail, Todd, Wadena Counties

Contact: Maureen D. Ideker

Telephone: 218-631-7481

Fax:

Congressional District: MN-07, MN-08

This project will allow Tri-County Hospital (TCH) to provide teleradiology and emergency services to six end-user sites, and expand and upgrade an existing wide area network (WAN) to include 10 additional telemedicine sites. The expansion will initiate 5 new telemedicine services and clinical information systems applications in 8 healthcare facilities. Wadena-Deer Creek High School will also serve 7 end-user schools for school nursing and speech-pathology services. The TCH serves over 25,000 residents in 3 counties of west central Minnesota.

2004 Grant Awards:

Minnesota Tele-Media

Marshall, Minnesota

\$482,791

Area(s) served: Cities of Adrian, Grove City, Benson, Olivia, Belgrade, Hector, Canby, Morgan, Comfrey, Dawson, Edgerton, Ellsworth, Fulda, Hills, Kerkhoven, Madison, Cottonwood, Lester Prairie, Ivanhoe, Luverne, Clara City, Brownton, Minneota, Mountain Lake, Slayton, New London, Ortonville, Lamberton, Tyler, Round Lake, Sleepy Eye, Okabena, Springfield, Tracy, Westbrook, Windom, and Granite Falls

Contact: Daniel J. Baun 507-537-6978; Fax: 507-537-6095

Congressional District(s): Applicant - MN-07; Project - MN-01 and MN-07

Minnesota Tele-Media provides research, planning, funding assistance, implementation and organization of telecommunications and distance learning services for educational institutions in southwestern and west central Minnesota. With RUS grant funds, Minnesota Tele-Media will increase curriculum options for the region's K-12 students, offer more professional development opportunities for teachers and staff, and provide more access to post-secondary and adult basic education programming. These benefits will be provided by an "Electronic Learning Commons" which will enhance the region's educational services infrastructure and provide a wide array of technological tools and support needed to develop this infrastructure. A total of 11,136 enrolled students and 971 teachers at 37 schools will benefit from this project.



2003 Grant Awards:

Lakewood Health System; Staples, MN

\$494,115

Area(s) Served: Counties of Wadena, Todd, Cass, and Morrison

Contact: Laurie Bach (218) 894-0302; Fax: (218) 894-0355

Congressional District(s): Applicant, 7th; Project, 7th and 8th

Lakewood Health System will utilize RUS grant funds to upgrade a wide area network for distance learning and telemedicine in Staples, Minnesota and seven surrounding communities. The network includes five school districts with 4,790 students, a hospital, rural health clinics, and the local community college. The project will provide expanded K-12 and post-secondary curriculum, general college credits and health care curriculum over a distance learning network and upgrade established distance learning sites for students of all ages. Additional objectives are to collaborate with education and healthcare professionals to address healthcare workforce shortages, decrease early out-migration of students and utilize technology to bridge time and distance for patient care.

St. Joseph's Medical Center; Brainerd, MN

\$472,239

Area(s) Served: Counties of Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena

Contact: Dale Benson (218) 828-7339; Fax: (218) 828-3103

Congressional District(s): 7th and 8th

Saint Joseph's Medical Center, Independent School District 181, and Central Lakes College are collaborating to connect medical facilities and schools in an eight county area of Northern Minnesota with funds from this grant. The designated purpose is for distance learning, however, the medical community serving Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties will benefit as well. A total of seventeen schools with 18,134 students will receive an upgraded distance learning network and eight medical facilities will gain telemedicine links to better serve healthcare workers and rural residents of the counties. The proposed network will allow schools to share resources, and clinics to gain access to upgraded knowledge bases, while residents gain improved medical care close to home.



2002 Award:

First Care Medical Services; Fosston, Minnesota

\$200,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: MN Counties of Norman, Mahnomen, Marshall, Pennington, Clearwater, Polk, and Red Lake

Contact: Patricia Wangle, (218) 435-1103; Fax: (218) 681-1134

Congressional District(s): 2nd and 7th

The First Care Medical Services of Fosston, Minnesota will use RUS grant funds to implement a telemedicine project to enhance healthcare services to hospice and high-need, elderly, and home care patients. The Telemedicine program will provide telehealth two-way interactive audio video technology that will directly link approximately 60 patients to their physician in a clinic setting for a regular physician visit and to on-call First Care Medical Services nurses 24 hours per day, 7 days per week within minutes. Clinic physicians and First Care Medical Services nurses will be able to assess and manage pain and symptoms through a face-to-face live video display and connections that measure and transmit biometric data which can transmit temperature, blood pressure, pulse oximetry, pulse, blood glucose, weight and stethoscope readings. The project service area is defined as a 30-mile radius of each office location, and the service area stretches 130 miles north to south and 100 miles east to west.

Mille Lacs Health System; Onamia, Minnesota

\$ 207,720 Grant

Area(s) Served: Onamia, Hillman, Isle, and Ne Ia Shing Clinic -Mille Lacs Reservation

Contact: Randy Farrow, (320) 532-7950; Fax: 532-3111

Congressional District(s): Applicant & Project: MN 8th

The Mille Lacs Health System will use RUS grant funds to assist in the implementation of a diagnostic inter-facility teleradiology network with picture archive and communication system (PACS) integration. The network will help ensure the basic delivery of high quality health care, improving its ability to meet the needs of over 4,000 living on the Mille Lacs Reservation and on off-reservation trust land as well as the remaining 12,000 residents, many of whom are underserved, uninsured or underinsured. The health system also serves over 10,000 seasonal residents and 12,000 tourists. Specifically, this project is being developed exclusively for the purpose of using telemedicine to connect four (4) clinic end-user locations with the Mille Lacs Health System and with consulting radiologists in Brainerd, Minnesota, location approximately 50 miles northwest of Onamia. The new teleradiology /PACS system will allow "real time" readings of emergency department modalities such as CT which will substantially reduce clinicians' time in diagnosis and treatment of emergency conditions.



2001 Awards:

Tri-County Hospital, Inc.; Wadena, Minnesota

\$500,000 Grant; Area(s) Served: Bertha, Henning, Menahga, Sebeka, Verndale, Wadena
Contact: Dennis C. Miley; (218) 631-7483, Fax: (218) 631-7503
Congressional District(s): Applicant - 7th / Project -7th.

The goal of this project is to improve the quality of rural life in the Wadena, Minnesota and eight surrounding community areas, with approximately 25,000 people, using advanced telecommunications technologies by extending scarce rural resources through telecommunications collaboration, connectivity, and networking. RUS grant funds will establish rural telecommunications networks for eight exceptionally rural communities. Specifically, the funds will be used to upgrade a continuation of a connected distance learning network involving six schools with 4,152 students, a hospital, rural health clinics and a technical college. Funds will also be used to upgrade Tri-County Hospital's existing computer system to establish a telecommunication network between four medical clinics, a nursing home and a hospital. Two other telemedicine programs will be offered, telehome care for parish nursing and school telehealth.

Cuyuna Range Hospital District; Crobsy, Minnesota

\$500,000 Grant
Area(s) Served: Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Crow Wing, Pine Counties and Aitkin, Crosby and Moose Lake;
Contact: Mr. John Schaubach; (218) 546-2338, Fax: (218) 546-7268
Congressional District(s): 8th.

Cuyuna Range Hospital District is the lead applicant in a collaborative effort with Riverwood Health Care Center, and Mercy Hospital and Health Care Center. Cuyuna Range is a 42-bed general medical and surgical hospital with a full array of outpatient diagnostic and treatment capabilities. Riverwood, located in Aitkin, is an integrated physician clinic and 15-bed general medical and surgical hospital. Mercy is a 31-bed general medical hospital located in Moose Lake. Grant funds will be used for a telesurgery program linking the three hospitals, including equipment such as surgical cameras, a video hub, and flat panel monitors for transmitting images during surgical procedures. The technology will allow more efficient use of surgeons' time as the need for long distance travel is reduced. This will enable the rural areas to recruit specialists that are needed by the residents because of the access to a larger patient base and the capability to consult other physicians.



Paynesville Area Hospital District; Paynesville, Minnesota

\$264,071 Grant

Area(s) Served: Stearns, Kandiyohi, Meeker, and Wright Counties

Contact: Ms. Beverly Mueller; (320) 243-7708, Fax: (320) 243-7519

Congressional District(s): Applicant - 7th -Project B 2nd, 3rd and 7th.

A district hospital and clinic system, Paynesville Area Health Care System (PAHCS) employs 10 physicians and three additional primary care staff in central Minnesota. Because medical staff members travel between clinics with varying operating hours, patients must visit multiple sites for routine care. This presents tracking challenges related to patient records. Most patients have at least two records in different physical locations. This situation slows the administration of healthcare as, for example, physicians must access medical off-site records before prescribing medications. Grant funds are needed to establish an electronic patient records system in the form of a wireless LAN. Equipment to be purchased with RUS funds will include a computer server, notebook computers, and electronic medical records system software. Multiple access points would be placed throughout each PAHCS facility to provide physicians and nurses the capability to maintain contact with network resources while moving about.

2000 Awards:

BUFFALO LAKE – HECTOR SCHOOLS, District 2159, Hector, Minnesota

\$349,313 Grant

Area(s) served: Chippewa, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Stearns, and Swift

Contact: Mr. Gordon Hagert, (320) 848-2303; FAX: (320) 848-2401

Congressional District: 7th

Buffalo Lake was selected as the legal entity to apply for the grant on behalf of the Little Crow Consortium which already has a rudimentary distance learning system in place serving nine school districts. RUS grant funds will enable the expansion of the system through high bandwidth connectivity and increased channel capacity to provide video conferencing facilities, increased hours of usage, and expanded curriculum to the students in the participating school districts. The system is located in South Central Minnesota and will benefit 2,276 end users composed of 788 students, 151 teachers, 337 parents and 1,000 other community members who will have access to the system. The system also has a presence in St. Cloud State, Mankato State and Southwest State universities.



LONGVILLE LAKES CLINIC, Longville, Minnesota

\$93,822 Grant

Area(s) served: Cass and Crow Wing

Contact: Mr. John Schaubach, (218) 546-2338; FAX: 218-363-2233

Congressional District: 8th

Longville Lakes Clinic is a nonprofit organization that contracts with Cuyuna Regional Medical Center (CRMC). The community of Longville does not have a pharmacy. Thus, persons who receive prescriptions at the Clinic at the time of treatment have to drive 30 miles to get prescriptions filled, or they have to wait for their mail order service, which takes a minimum of 4 to 5 days at a minimum. RUS grant funds will make a remote pharmacy service available to persons at the Clinic at the time of service. The pharmacist at CRMC would be the dispensing pharmacist. The dispensing unit at the remote site operates through a software package running on a Pentium PC, which controls a secure automated dispensing device containing prepackaged multi-dose bottles.

MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE, Onamia, Minnesota

\$106,305 Grant

Area(s) served: Minnesota: Mille Lacs, Aitkin and Pine; Wisconsin: Burnett

Contact: Ms. Sharon Gislason, (320) 532-4752; FAX: (320) 532-4354

Congressional Districts: Minnesota: 8th, Wisconsin: 7th

The Mille Lacs Telepharmacy project is needed to better serve band members and other reservation clinic patients to access pharmaceuticals. Many band members and other patients live in remote areas, which are up to 30-40 miles from the nearest pharmacy while the main pharmacy is up to 85 miles away for some band members. This project will provide medications and pharmaceuticals in each district of the Ojibwe Band. This will be accomplished by providing remote controlled package and bottle dispenser equipment as well as video teleconferencing equipment to consult with and dispense medications.

SOUTH CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE, N. Mankato, Minnesota

\$350,000 Grant

Area(s) served: Blue Earth, LeSeur, Martin and Waseca

Contact: Mr. Glenn Morris, (507) 389-5106; FAX: (507) 389-1772

Congressional Districts: 1st and 2nd

The South Central Wireless Education Initiative (SCWEI) is a wireless distance learning project serving an estimated 8,000 persons annually. This project covers 8 school districts that are serving 26 end user sites. These sites will receive an internal wireless local area network (LAN) providing interactive statewide programming and Internet learning. This infrastructure will serve the entire K-12 enrollment, faculty and staff in each district, as well as community residents through public access services that the schools can provide.



1999 Award:

KRS Computer & Business Schools, Inc.; St. Louis Park, Minnesota

\$210,400 Grant

Counties Served: Becker, Clearwater, Hubbard, and Isanti

Contact: Mr. Kenneth R. Schnitker, (612) 938-8823: Fax: (612) 938-8945

The purpose of this grant is to purchase equipment for a distance learning hub site. This equipment will enable KRS to provide essential training skills to rural Minnesota using distance learning technology that has been developed by KRS. The target population to be served is comprised of under-employed individuals working in manufacturing facilities in rural Minnesota. This region is one of the most economically depressed in the state. Also, Native Americans on the White Earth Indian Reservation, located near KRS, will have access to critical training that is essential for them to succeed in high tech jobs.

1998 Award:

Leech Lake Tribal College, Inc.

\$246,000 Grant

Location: Cass Lake, Minnesota

Area(s) served: Cass and Itasca

Contact Mr. Larry Aitken

Telephone Number: (218) 335-2828

Fax Number: (218) 335-3024

Congressional District(s): 8th.

Leech Lake Tribal College, Inc., plans to provide distance learning opportunities to 7 communities serving 2,930 mostly low-income residents located in north central Minnesota. The tribal college serves an area covering 1,000 square miles. Since most of the residents are economically challenged, they are unable to find affordable and reliable transportation to and from the main campus. In addition, most of the students cannot afford childcare services that would enable them to attend the college. The winters are usually brutal with dangerously cold temperatures and heavy snowfalls that make vehicular travel very risky. Through this project, the tribal college will offer a variety of coursework that will enable future graduates to improve their standard of living while remaining in their communities. Some of the courses that will be offered include a four-year degree course in elementary education and studies in the native Anishinabe language. The distance learning sites will offer connectivity to anywhere in the outside world so that students will obtain the maximum learning benefit.



1997 Awards:

The Board of Regents of the University and Community

Award: \$279,617 Grant

Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Area(s) Served: Counties of Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Le Sueur, and Watonwan

Contact Person: Mr. Dale Jarvis

Telephone Number: 507-433-8804

FAX Number: 507-437-9606

The University of Minnesota's Hormel and Humphrey Institutes, in conjunction with KSMQ Public Television, plan to implement an interactive, video-streamed health care program aimed at health care providers and consumers in five rural communities in Southern Minnesota. The proposed project would involve two broadcasts (webcasts) over the Internet. The first program will involve health care professionals who will participate in webcasts led by Mayo Clinic specialists. The second program will be aimed at consumers of health care services. Citizens in five rural communities will utilize two-way video/audio/data facilities to interact with these medical specialists. After both bi-weekly programs have been webcast, they will be stored in digital format on a server for viewing on-demand. Anyone with Internet access can download free viewing software and access the library of stored programs on all types of health care topics.

First Care Medical Services

Award: \$39,648 Loan/ \$15,502 Grant

Total: \$55,150

Location: Fosston, Minnesota

Area(s) Served: Counties of Beltrami, Clearwater, Mahnommen, Polk, and Red Lake

Contact Person: Mr. Tim. R. Scheving

Telephone Number: 218-435-1133

FAX Number 218-435-1412

First Care Medical Services (First Care) is a community owned, 501 C-3 nonprofit corporation licensed as a 43-bed hospital offering acute care nursing services and advanced life support ambulance service. The nearest tertiary care center is in Bemidji, Minnesota, 45 miles distant. First Care plans to implement a Rural Telemedicine Program with its affiliated First Care Clinic in Oklee, Minnesota and other compatible health care facilities in Bemidji, Minnesota (North Country Medical Center) and Grand Forks, North Dakota (Altru Health Systems-Grand Forks). The goal of the program is to provide rural communities in their access area with specialized health care via an on-line consulting network, allowing primary caregivers to work closely with specialists through such means as teleradiology. RUS grant and loan funds will be used to acquire equipment and software to accomplish the program goal. The program will target service to patients in the Minnesota counties of Mahnommen, Polk, Red Lake, Beltrami, and Clearwater. The project's end user sites are located in Beltrami, Polk, and Red Lake counties, Minnesota,



and the city of Grand Forks, North Dakota. For the year ending September 30, 1996, First Care had 531 hospital admissions, 44 nursing home admissions, and 267 home health admissions.

1996 Grant Awards:

(1) Arlington Municipal Hospital

\$203,756

Arlington, Minnesota

Contact Person: Lynette Froehlich

Phone Number: 507-964-2271

FAX: 507-964-2941

Arlington Municipal Hospital, located in south central Minnesota, is the only remaining hospital serving the rural community of Sibley County. Rural isolation has created many barriers for health care and challenges for communities committed to providing quality health care for its residents. To help knock down these barriers, AMH, utilizing RUS grant funds, will implement a three component telemedicine plan consisting of: emergency room coverage, video conferencing for consultation and continued education, and teleradiology. Specifically, AMH will use the requested grant funds to purchase conferencing units, peripheral cameras, a laser film scanner and the installation of two dedicated phone lines.

(2) Northwest Technical College

\$100,000

East Grand Forks, Minnesota

Contact Person: Carol Buck

Phone Number: 218-773-4548

FAX: 218-773-4535

Northwest Technical College is a public institution of higher education located Minnesota and has proposed a Distance Learning Project in Licensed Practical Nursing (DL-LPN). The goal of this project is to develop instructional programming in practical nursing which will be delivered via existing telecommunication technology and systems, including Medstar and the Internet, to end-user sites in North Dakota. North Dakota needs practical nurses particularly in rural areas. The shortage in North Dakota's rural areas is result of an inability to recruit nurses into rural communities from training centers located in larger cities. An RUS grant has been awarded to NTC's project to develop instructional programming in practical nursing and will be part of an electronically complete associate degree in Practical Nursing. Rural residents in many different life situations will be able to acquire a complete nursing degree while remaining in their communities and meeting their other responsibilities. The project will provide all learners the ability to upgrade skills and acquire a degree free of time and place constraints. Additionally, rural students will have greater access to health professionals and world



class information, be able to develop new technological skills, and gain experience on the global information super highway.

1994 Grant Award:

Minnesota Tele-Media

Name of Project: Minnesota Tele-Media Regional Telecommunications Network Project
Area: Cottonwood, Kandiyohi, Lyon, Redwood, Nobles, and Jackson counties.

The system will modernize and extend the reach of a two-way interactive video system for distance learning from a central hub to 8 videoconferencing sites and 3 existing K-12 analog video educational networks serving an additional 23 studios. Programming will include training and graduate course work for K-12 staff, especially those working with limited English proficient students. Also available will be graduate courses for nursing staff and Continuing Medical Education for rural physicians. The grant will cover telecommunications terminal equipment, interactive video equipment, and engineering. The transmission will include a combination of T1 channels and upgraded microwave facilities.

1993 Grant Award:

Independent School District #262

Barrett

This fiber optic network will permit students, staff and community members at Barrett and other school districts located at Elbow Lake, Hoffman and Kensington to access wide variety of data and video, interactive shared classes, CD ROM-based services, and card catalogs of four libraries.