



DLT Awards - Pennsylvania

2006 Grant Awards

Elk Regional Health System

St. Marys, Pennsylvania

\$197,927

Areas Served: Cameron, Elk, McKean

Contact: Ms. Gwen Auman

Telephone: 814-788-8585

Fax: 814-788-8093

Congressional District: PA-05

Rural Development funds will be used to expand the ERHS telemedicine system to psychiatric, diabetic, and wound care as well as personal care facilities. Telemedicine equipment will be utilized by the staff psychiatrist to monitor patients located in nursing homes, personal care facilities, and the System's in-patient geriatric psychiatric unit. The physicians will monitor patient's daily condition and the Diabetic Counselor will utilize the monitoring equipment to monitor diabetic patients.

Family Home Health Services, Inc.

Monroeville, PA

\$62,900

Areas Served: Fayette, Greene, Westmoreland, Washington

Contact: Mr. Kiran R. Bakshi

Telephone: 412-856-4000

Fax: 412-373-6877

Congressional District: PA-09, 12, 18

Rural Development funds will be used to implement a home health care telemedicine program which will utilize telemonitors, videophones, integrated stethoscopes and digital cameras. This equipment will allow communication of medication reminders, remote health sign monitoring and visual imagery of patient wounds and problems. Data will be transmitted to a confidential website where it would be available to authorized healthcare team members in real time. The videophone capability will allow health care professionals to interact with patients who reside at home or in assisted living facilities.



Lewistown Hospital

Lewistown, PA

\$500,000

Areas Served: Juniata, Mifflin, Snyder

Contact: Mr. Ron Cowan

Telephone: 717-242-7218

Fax: 717-242-7132

Congressional District: PA-05, 09, 10

Rural Development funds will be used to complete the implementation of a PACS system that will allow the hospital to provide clinicians with Internet access to multiple current and archived radiology and cardiovascular images and related analytic reports. The system will also enable the hospital to access various remote imaging service locations and permit the patients' imaging results to be transmitted electronically via the Internet to the hospital for immediate interpretation by trained radiologists and cardiologists.

Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29

PA

\$205,631

Areas Served: Schuylkill

Contact: Mr. David A. Zerbe

Telephone: 570-544-9131

Fax: 570-544-6916

Congressional District: PA-17

Rural Development funds will be used to purchase equipment that will enable IP based videoconferencing of courses at schools in this rural Pennsylvania county. This project will help increase student achievement and provide access to educational programming currently not available for students. A total of 25 hub and end-user sites are connecting to form a hi-speed fiber IP based network capable of utilizing various technologies including IP based video conferencing. For all schools to be able to utilize this network, the project will fund an IP based videoconferencing group system, a smart board, a video projector, and audio speakers in each location. This project will directly affect the education of nearly 18,325 students that comprise these sites.



Warren County School District

North Warren, PA

\$109,940

Areas Served: Warren

Contact: Mr. Matthew J. Jones

Telephone: 814-723-6900

Fax: 814-723-5359

Congressional District: PA-03, 05

Rural Development funds will be used to install three distance learning classrooms in the rural high schools. Additionally, one high school and one middle school will receive mobile distance learning labs. These distance learning classrooms will provide Warren County students with challenging coursework as well as provide greater access for professional development activities for district faculty and staff.

Wayne Memorial Hospital

Honesdale, PA

\$155,213

Areas Served: Pike, Wayne

Contact: Mr. John R. Dennis

Telephone: 570-251-6533

Fax: 570-253-8993

Congressional District: PA-10

Rural Development funds will be used to enhance a home health care system and implement bar-coding of patients and pharmaceuticals, enable automated dispensing of medications, and provide bedside telemonitoring of patients.

2005 Grant Awards:

Bradford Regional Medical Center

Bradford, PA

\$110,575

Areas Served: McKean County

Contact: Kathy Pascarella

Telephone: 814-362-7466

Fax: 814-362-9803

Congressional District: PA-05

The project will install telemedicine monitoring equipment at six senior citizen centers throughout the County. User-friendly software will guide the patient by voice to collect all vital data. The data is then transmitted to a central station via modem. The equipment can track and trend patient data; and record and view nurse and physician notes. No



patient demographics are recorded. The monitors will be available to over 2600 rural residents.

Lewistown Hospital

Lewistown, PA

\$392,950

Areas Served: Mifflin, Juniata, Snyder Counties

Contact: Ronald Cowan

Telephone: 717-242-7218

Fax: 717-242-7770

Congressional District: PA-05, PA-09

Residents of a three-county area of Pennsylvania will have access to home health care telemedicine monitoring, allowing vital signs and other medical data to be transmitted from a patient's home to the hospital. Doctors and other clinicians can then use up-to-the-minute patient data to make medical decisions. The project will also assist in the creation of electronic medical records for each patient served.

2004 Grant Awards:

Lewistown Hospital

Lewistown, Pennsylvania

\$500,000

Area(s) served: Juniata, Huntingdon, Mifflin, and Snyder Counties

Contact: Ronald Cowan, 717-242-7218 Congressional District(s): PA-05, PA-09, PA-10

With RUS funding, Lewistown Hospital will provide telemedicine service to other rural areas covering more than 800 square miles in the Juniata Valley Region within the Appalachian Mountains. Practitioners will be able to access their patients' records, test results, and monitor patients' vital statistics through the telemedicine network. Additionally, the hospital will modernize and reorganize the data gathering and storage system, including patients' clinical records. A multimedia record for each patient will be created which will integrate various clinical data repositories into a single unified system that can quickly and reliably respond to practitioner questions. The telemedicine network will serve approximately 70,000 rural residents of the Juniata Valley.



2003 Grant Awards:

Albert Gallatin Area School District; Uniontown, PA

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Fayette County

Contact: Walter Vicinelly (724) 564-7190; Fax: (724) 564-7512

Congressional District(s): 12th

Albert Gallatin Area School District will utilize RUS funding to provide additional educational opportunities through distance learning labs. The project is designed to remove the disparity in educational opportunities between students in rural, low income districts, and their peers in surrounding urban counties. The project will enable nine schools in the district to network with each other through the installation of mobile distance learning labs which will benefit 4,131 students and nearly 38,000 residents in the community.

Laurel Highlands School District; Uniontown, PA

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Fayette County

Contact: Carol Bubonovich (724) 437-2821; Fax: (724) 437-8929 Congressional

District(s): 12th

Laurel Highlands School District will utilize RUS funding in a distance learning system to enhance educational opportunities, improve employment prospects, and prevent population out-migration by serving 2,244 students in six elementary and middle schools. Service to over 200 faculty and community members will also be provided which will include adult education and professional development.

Warren County School District; N. Warren, PA

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Warren County

Contact: Penny S. Jobe (814) 723-6900; Fax: (814) 723-5359

Congressional District(s): 3rd and 5th

Warren County School District will use RUS funds to provide increased access to information, special training, and adult basic education to 2,000 students and 140 school faculty in seven exceptionally rural schools in Northwestern Pennsylvania. Geographically the school district is the second largest school district in the state. This is a reflection of how sparsely the school district is populated. The project entitled "Access Plus" is focused on increasing access to educational opportunities and resources for students and teachers. Additionally, it will provide access to the internet to provide continuing education and GED preparation for more than 13,000 other adults living in the



communities around the schools. In addition to the schools, access to the system will also become available in four libraries in four of the communities involved.

2002 Awards:

Brownsville Area School District; Grindstone, Pennsylvania

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Fayette County Towns of Brownsville, Grindstone, Cardale and East Millsboro

Contact: Gerry Grant (724) 785-2021; Fax: (724) 785-6988

Congressional District(s): Applicant: 20th / Project: 12th & 20th

The Brownsville Area School District will use RUS grant funds to establish an intra-district distance learning network for three (3) elementary schools that will provide educational opportunities for students, teachers, and community members. By broadening the scope of educational services, this highly rural school district intends to stem out-migration as well as improve prospects for economic development from the four (4) towns this project will serve. The multi-faceted approach to distance learning will include adult education, job readiness training, professional development, continuing education, and special events to establish the schools as a community resource rather than simply education service institutions. Distance learning technologies include an upgrade to a T-1 connection for all three (3) schools. All distance learning equipment will be connected to the Brownsville Area School District's wide area network and provide access building-to-building as well as access to other systems and resources outside the district. The project is expected to benefit more than 1,000 students, 178 school faculty, 3,464 individuals in the immediate school communities, and more than 3,500 other adults with special training and adult basic education/GED preparation needs.

Greene County Industrial Development Authority:Waynesburg, Pennsylvania

\$456,647 Grant

Area(s) Served: Carmichaels Borough, Village of Mapletown, Village of Rogersville, Jefferson Borough and Waynesburg Borough in Greene County

Contact: Bert Menhart, (724) 627-9259; Fax:(724) 627-6586

Congressional Districts: Applicant: 20th / Project: 18th & 20th

The Greene County Industrial Development Authority will use RUS funds as part of a collaborative effort to provide a variety of user-friendly technologies for over 40,000 rural residents to access telepreventive medicine and telemedicine. Greene County has been classified a Health Professional Shortage Area and Medically Underserved Area by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The project will focus on motivating rural residents to improve health related behavior and support and guide them when searching for solutions to health care problems. Specifically, a private Wide Area Network (WAN) will be developed for Greene County schools, government and a hospital that will provide access to high speed fiber optic lines. The WAN will provide the flexibility to



unite pre-existing software and programming, with custom-designed options for education, online information, consulting and links to health and human services agencies. Greene County residents will be able to link to a telehealth support system of health care providers, local and state health and human services agencies, software programs that can answer health questions and cover treatment options, times and location of health care teleconferences, and be flexible enough to respond to other needs as they arise.

Home Health Services Foundation; Butler, Pennsylvania

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Butler Township, Center Township, Summit Township in Butler County; Ford City in Armstrong County; Vandergrift in Westmorland County

Contact: Robin Kriley (724) 282-6806; Fax: (724) 282-7517

Congressional District(s): Applicant: 21st / Project: 4th, 5th, 12th, 19th, 20th, 21st

The Visiting Nurses Association, Western Pennsylvania (VNA) in partnership with Home Health Services Foundation, proposes to use RUS grant funds to provide telemonitoring systems in the homes of rural patients which will improve patient care through the frequent and consistent monitoring of vital information. The challenge and over-riding goal of the project is to implement a method of daily patient monitoring that provides the information and feedback necessary to consistently detect impending problems. This method will result in reducing the need for emergency care while not requiring either frequent on-site visits by health professionals or travel to health care sites by the patient. The human toll on quality of life issues and the financial strain on the health care system and improved patient health outcomes are greatly reduced. The VNA project is designed to utilize existing telecommunications networks and equipment as much as possible. The HomMed™ Monitoring System (Sentry III) design allows blending of this state of the art monitoring technology with the ubiquitous communications networks currently available throughout the rural service area of the project. With the 115 units proposed for the project, approximately 345 patients could be served directly in their homes with 41,975 monitored patient days. The VNA estimates that they could impact approximately 13 percent of the estimated 2,600 deaths that occur on an annual basis due to heart disease in these rural communities they serve.

Wayne Memorial Hospital; Honesdale, Pennsylvania

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Pennsylvania Counties of Lackawanna, Wayne and Pike; New York County of Sullivan

Contact: Jack Dennis (570) 253-8992; Fax: (570) 253-8993

Congressional District(s): Pennsylvania: Applicant: PA 10th / Project: PA 10th / New York: Project: NY 20th & 26th .

Wayne Memorial Hospital will use RUS funds to convert from traditional radiology services to a teleradiology system. The film based X-ray system will be upgraded to



digital images using computerized radiology. Digital radiological images will be transmitted over the Internet from one of the 13 participating end user sites to one of three full service hospitals where they will be read, in real time, by a hospital radiologist. The radiologist will then transmit the report back to the rural office where treatment can begin immediately. This exceptionally rural area suffers from a lack of public transportation making it difficult for many of the residents particularly the elderly, sick and the indigent to reach qualified radiological services, which are only found outside of their service area. Due to the current shortage of radiologists and technicians in this medically underserved area it is not unusual for patients to wait six to eight weeks for X-ray results. In addition to X-rays the system will accommodate Ultrasound, CT Scans, MRI and Digital Fluoro images. The upgrade to digital technology will save valuable time when treating trauma, cardiac and pediatric cases where delays can cost lives. The upgrade will also provide higher quality images that are easier to store, retrieve and forward to clinical specialists for further diagnoses of complex issues. Approximately 120,000 rural residents will benefit from this project.

2001 Grant Awards:

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

\$364,087 Grant

Counties and Municipalities Served: Butler County-Butler, 4th & 21st Dists.; Cameron County-Emporium, (Clinton County-Mill Hall, Elk County-Ridgway, Forest County-Tionesta, Jefferson County-Brookville, Potter County-Coudersport; Tioga County-Wellsboro, Venango County-Franklin, Warren County-Youngsville, McKean County-Smethport, 5th Dist.; Clearfield County-Clearfield, 5th & 9th Dist.; Armstrong County-Kittanning, Clarion County-Shippensburg, 5th & 12th Dists.; Crawford County, 5th & 21st Dist.; Bedford County-Bedford, Franklin County-Chambersburg, Huntingdon County-Huntingdon, Juniata County-Mifflintown, Mifflin County-Lewistown, 9th Dist.; Bradford County-Towanda, Fulton County-McConnellsburg, Sullivan County-Dushore, Wayne County, Susquehanna County-Montrose, 10th Dist.; Montour County-Danville, 11th Dist.; Indiana County-Indiana, Somerset County-Somerset, 12th Dist.; Fayette County-Uniontown, 12th & 20th Dists.; Adams County-Gettysburg, 19th Dist.; Greene County-Waynesburg, 20th Dist.; (31 counties)

Congressional Districts: Applicant 5th

Contact: Mr. Robert Killoren (814) 865-1372, Fax: (814) 865- 2988

The Cooperative Extension and Outreach Office at Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) has been awarded a \$364,087 Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant to develop a multi-dimensional model for disseminating health messages and motivating rural residents to improve health related behavior. The Penn State Cooperative Extension will promote and support community-based health activities in conjunction with coordinated health messages developed through Penn State Public Broadcasting (television, radio, interactive web), World Campus, Continuing Education, and various print media. This motivational/educational outreach project promises maximum public access and engagement throughout Pennsylvania. For example, Penn



State's 300 agents reach over two million people each year through programs in agriculture, family living, and 4-H/youth and community development. Program content will be delivered in multiple media formats, including documentary videos, paper publications and tool kits, and a Web site that makes it easier to access the material to transport from venue to venue.

2000 Grant Award:

HOME HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION, INC.; Butler, Pennsylvania

\$350,000 Grant

Area(s) served: Armstrong, Butler and Westmoreland counties

Contact: Mr. W. Christopher Hengler, (724) 282-6806, FAX: (724) 282-7517
4th, 12th, 20th and 21st Congressional Districts

The Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), an organization of Home Health Services Foundation, Inc., is a voluntary non-profit health care agency providing home care services throughout western Pennsylvania. This telemedicine project will provide a new clinical software system that will streamline the delivery of patient care services by allowing patient care staff to access clinical information and medical records from the patients' homes without traveling to the office. Patients and medical staff will benefit from this new system by having complete and accurate clinical records available to them during each visit. All VNA services are provided under the direction of the patient's physician. Staff efficiencies and productivity increases are estimated to result in savings of approximately \$142,000 annually.

1999 Award:

SUN Home Health Services, Inc.; Northumberland, Pennsylvania

\$300,000 Grant

Counties Served: Union, Clinton, Dauphin, Northumberland, Juniata, Snyder, and Centre
Contact: Mr. Steven B. Richard, (800) 634-5232: Fax (570) 473-3070

SUN Home Health Services, Inc., a non-profit organization, will have the ability to update and review patient records live from patients' homes via the use of laptop computers. The benefits of this program include: (1) being able to update patient records and to retrieve the latest information and doctors orders for a patient; (2) including transmitting vital sign information; (3) acceleration of the development of care-process maps designed to assist in the management of patient care and the management of patient outcomes; (4) a decreased need for nurses to backtrack to medical offices in order to update records or complete patients' visit preparations; (5) and improved decision making regarding patient care. The outcome will be more efficient and responsive care for patients and overall decreased cost of care which should allow for additional services to patients throughout a large rural area in need of reduced fee services and access to home health care.



1997 Award:

Line Mountain School District

Award: \$137,503 Loan / \$83,697 Grant

Total: \$221,200

Location: Herndon, PA

Area(s) Served: Northumberland

Contact Person: Dale Martz

Telephone Number: (717) 758-6511

FAX Number: (717) 758-3147

An RUS grant and loan will provide funds to help deliver cost effective educational services to this sprawling rural central Pennsylvania school district. Line Mountains' "Access the Future" is a project to develop Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) infrastructure to support district telecommunications and distance learning classes. The "Access the Future" project will deploy an ATM network over a fiber backbone that will carry distance education classes, administrative network traffic, and voice phone service between distant schools. The district wide network will subsequently be connected to a regional ATM network connecting multiple school districts throughout Pennsylvania and finally to the Pennsylvania Higher Education Network that serves the state's universities. "Access the Future" will provide a variety of advanced language and science courses that would otherwise be unavailable to this rural community. Distance learning courses for business leaders, e-mail communications for idea exchanges between educators and the elimination of a duplication of their efforts are some of the immediate benefits of this project. This network will also provide Internet access to the community at large.

1996 Grant Award:

Green County Vocational-Technical School

\$336,124

Waynesburg, PA

Contact Person: Charles P. Reinbold

Phone Number: 412-499-5183

FAX: 412-499-5623

Green County Area Vocational-Technical School, in partnership with a consortium of 5 Green County School Districts and Waynesburg College, will use an RUS grant award to establish electronic communication among partners so that teachers and students located in one rural area can connect with teachers and students that are located in a different area, as well as be able to access other information gateways. The grant will also help support staff development that enables technologically-literate teachers to be "Trainers of Trainers." These instructors will provide technical training to their colleagues and eventually serve as specialists in instructional diversity and learning styles, authentic assessments and community based learning.



1994 Grant Award:

University of Pittsburgh

Name of Project: Rural Pennsylvania Telemedicine Network

Jefferson, Forrest, Potter, Elk, Cameron, McKean, Allegheny (hub site) counties

The project will interconnect 4 rural hospitals in the Northcentral region of Pennsylvania with the University of Pittsburgh. This link will provide the rural site access to medical education, teleradiology, consultation with specialists and medical information. RUS funds will equip Brookville Hospital and Punxsutawney Area Hospital in Jefferson County with interactive video equipment, X-ray scanners, digital diagnostic accessories and other computer equipment. The State of Pennsylvania will fund corresponding equipment for the other sites. With added support and communications from the medical network, the University of Pittsburgh Medical School plans to increase med student rotations and field placements in rural health, thus bolstering the project's impact with vital medical personnel and enlarging its benefits.

1993 Grant Award:

Towanda School District - Northern Tier Rural Distance Learning Consortium (NTRDLS)

Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wyoming and Tioga Counties

In 1992, six school district superintendents from northern Pennsylvania formed the Northern Tier Rural Distance Learning Consortium (NTRDLC) to identify solutions to improve the quality of education in their rural and economically disadvantaged communities. Their research revealed that small, rural school districts on average have half the money available per students than do suburban school districts.

NTRDLC believes that the answer to improving the quality of education in their schools is combining the resources of the schools and utilizing distance learning technology. In 1993, the NTRDLC applied for and was awarded a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant award for \$500,000. Common Wealth Telephone Company, a RUS borrower, lent their financial support to the project as well.

RUS funds were used to develop a two-way interactive television network that permits six rural school districts, two colleges, and the State Museum of Pennsylvania to share personnel and access resources in ways not previously not possible. The project serves over 15,000 students in the six rural area school districts. The technology has also assisted the six rural school districts to enhance teacher training and improve high school curriculum. One hundred and ten students are enrolled in high school credit courses shared among the project's schools and 9 students are participating in dual enrolled high school level course work and college level courses. In the 1995-96 school year, 30 students will have earned college level credits prior to their high school graduation. Penn State, for example, plans to offer at least 25 college level courses to high school students.



Small, rural school systems across the country are facing the similar problem of being unable to deliver a quality educational program to these students because of geographic isolation, insufficient funding, limited course offerings (especially advanced courses) and shortages of qualified teachers. RUS funds assist distance learning projects such as the NTRDLC resource sharing network because new avenues of opportunity become available that help rural students prepare for their future.