



DLT Awards - California

2007 Grant Awards

Sierra Plumas Joint Unified School District

California

\$133,028

Areas Served: Sierra

Contact: Mr. Charles Mitchell

Telephone: 530-994-1044

Fax: 530-994-1045

Congressional District: CA – 04 Doolittle

This distance learning project will connect five rural schools in the mountainous area of northern California. It will provide for expanded curriculum activities, virtual field trips and increased professional development opportunities for staff.

Enloe Medical Center

California

\$154,074

Areas Served: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Plumas

Contact: Jana C. Baber

Telephone: 530-332-4550

Fax: 530-893-6922

Congressional District: CA – 2 Herger, CA – 4 Doolittle

The Rural Emergency Cardiac Alert Program will utilize telecommunications technology to improve survivability of the acute heart attack victims in the rural populations of three counties in Northern California. The grantee will use remote telemetry of an electrocardiogram and enable the acute heart attack victim to be triaged at the closest facility. Specialized 12-lead heart monitors will be installed in eleven ambulances. Transmission of data will be done over cellular phone and/or land lines phones to a cardiologist and to the emergency room at Enloe Medical Center in Chico

2006 Grant Awards

Tustin Teleradiology Medical Group, Inc.

Tustin, California

\$60,231

Areas Served: Glenn, Orange, Tehama



Contact: Ms. Jillian M. Brooks
Telephone: 530-824-9433
Fax: 530-824-9428
Congressional District: CA-02, 48

Rural Development funds will be used to upgrade a telemedicine network that will connect their radiology group at the hub site with an existing independent diagnostic X-ray facility. This network will provide diagnostic images and radiological diagnoses for medical providers and their patients living in medically underserved Tehama and Glenn Counties.

2005 Grant Awards:

Open Door Community Health Centers, Inc.

Arcata, CA
\$205,833
Areas Served: Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties
Contact: Herrmann Spetzler
Telephone: 707-826-8633
Fax: 707-826-8638
Congressional District: CA-01, CA-02

Six isolated rural health clinics will link to a hub site located in Eureka, California, using upgraded equipment and existing T-1 lines. Specialty medical services will be the primary focus of the network. Over 21,000 patients visited these clinics in 2003.

2004 Grant Awards:

West Hills Community College

Coalinga, California
\$447,752
Areas served: Fresno and Kings Counties
Contact: Susan M. Kincade, 554-924-1539
Congressional District(s): CA-20, CA-21

West Hills Community College District, composed of West Hills College Coalinga and West Hills College Lemoore, is the only public two-year college district serving 16 rural communities and 8 high schools in an isolated area of central California. The grant will help finance a student wireless laptop program. Using this system, students can apply to the colleges, get placement testing, work with advisors, register for classes (including online courses), and gain access to library resources. The grant will also help finance a video conferencing system that will connect students with the Huron Community Technology Center.



2003 Grant Awards:

Monterey County Office of Education; Salinas, CA

\$321,555

Area(s) Served: Monterey County

Contact: Mike Mellon (831) 755-0383; Fax: (831) 784-4167

Congressional District: 17th

The Monterey County Office of Education will utilize RUS grant funds to develop a system of distance learning opportunities for over 2,000 high school and elementary students in rural Monterey County. Benefits include academic courses that will prepare students for post-secondary and vocational studies, diverse course curriculum for elementary students to increase their preparation for secondary level studies, and adult education courses that will provide access to adults for improving their educational levels.

Oro Grande School District

Oro Grande, CA

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: San Bernardino County, CA and Hawaii County, HI

Contact: Chris Menini (766) 245-9260; Fax: (766) 245-1339

Congressional District(s): Applicant, 40th California, Project, 40th California, 2nd Hawaii

Students, teachers, and families in Oro Grande, California, Pahoia and Captain Cook, Hawaii will be joining an exciting online learning adventure to discover their own state's islands and each others.

The project will utilize RUS funding to combine innovative distance learning technologies and methodologies by using a combination of desktop computers and mobile hand-held devices to introduce innovations in teaching and learning. The project will also build an innovative content delivery program via these technologies and introduce new virtual learning environments that create classrooms without walls and stimulate inter-community knowledge sharing. Content experts from more than 10 internationally recognized agencies will be participating in the project. The overall goal of the project is to increase community access to empowering technologies and assist in employable skill development. Approximately 1,400 students, 78 teachers, 122 school administrators, staff and volunteers and 1,400 parents in three school districts will benefit from the project.

2002 Grant Awards

Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association, Inc

Valley Center, CA

\$479,235 Grant



Area(s) Served: San Diego and Riverside Counties
Contact: Jack Ward (760) 742-8600; Fax (760) 742-8610
Congressional District(s): Applicant 48th; Project 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd

The Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association will use RUS grant funds to establish the Tribal Digital Circle Network (TDCN). The TDCN will create an infrastructure that will provide access to state-of-the-market telecommunications technologies to provide residents with the opportunity to learn employable skills, share native traditions, preserve and restore native languages, access advanced education, disseminate public information and provide information on healthy lifestyle choices. The area has an extremely high unemployment rate with 76% of the families living below the poverty level. The high school drop out rate is nearly 60%. There is an urgent need for services that improve the employability of American Indians. This project will address many of these needs through a three-tiered approach utilizing high resolution video over the internet, digital archive access and lesson delivery via a Wide Area Network. The tribe has an agreement with the California Community College Satellite Network through which tribal members can access thousands of video based courses. This project will provide many new educational opportunities for the rural residents of this project service area. It will serve approximately 17,000 Native Americans.

Yosemite Community College District

Modesto, California

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Tuolumne County Towns of Sonora, Columbia and Tuolumne City, Calaveras County Town of Angels Camp, Stanislaus County Towns of Modesto and Oakdale

Contact: Tom Bennett (209) 575-6514; Fax: (209) 575-6526

Congressional District(s): Applicant and Project: 4th & 18th

The Yosemite Community College District (YCCD), including Modesto Junior College and Columbia College will implement a three-year distance learning project to upgrade distance learning facilities and programs at five current sites and open three new extension sites at public and private locations with RUS grant funds. The rural "Mother Lode Gold Country" region is declining economically and community partnerships are forming to address economic development issues through the use of technology and improved training for job skills. This project will also be coordinated with the Tuolumne Technology partnership, a public/private group fostering community technology initiatives and their rural e-commerce program Mother Lode-Express, that will offer e-commerce training to help transform the economy. The project is expected to serve over 10,000 students in 3 rural counties and link these students to global opportunities. The project will also serve as a demonstration for community partnerships by collaborating with two new public and private locations. Distance learning technologies and equipment to be deployed include: (1) Broadcast multi-point videoconferencing; (2) Desktop videoconferencing; (3) Instructor desk-top video conferencing; (4) Online teaching; and, (5) Student online courses.



2001 Grant Awards:

Clovis Unified School District

Clovis, California

\$438,011 Grant

Area(s) Served: Clovis, Sanger and Del Rey

Contact: Ms. Hylon Kaufmann, (559) 327-4320, Fax: (559) 327-4795

Congressional Districts 19th and 20th

The Clovis Unified School District, in a cooperative venture with the Sanger Unified School District, has been awarded a Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant of \$438,011 for their Central Valley Learning Distribution Project (CVLDP). The goal of the CVLDP is to provide educational opportunities and resources to off-campus learning centers to accommodate the learning needs of approximately 5,620 rural students. RUS funds will be specifically used to install the necessary infrastructure to create a fully interactive network of distance learning classrooms at three rural schools as well as enhance the current classroom located at the Central Valley Applied Agriculture and Technology Center (hub). Courses being developed for this project will address a variety of subjects that surround the agricultural industry including Science, Business, Law, Communications and World Trade. Classes will range from entry level to advanced placement.

Monterey County Office of Education

Salinas, California

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: South Monterey County

Contact: Mr. Mike Mellon; (831) 755-0383 Fax: (831) 784-4167

Congressional District(s) 17th.

The Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) submitted this application on behalf of four area high schools serving the rural region of South Monterey County. This region lacks the ability to attract and retain qualified teachers and to offer a full range of classes needed to prepare students for post-secondary education or vocational employment. Parents and other community members also need access to continuing education. RUS funds will be used to purchase and install origination and reception equipment at each high school that will connect into an established network and enable them to share instructional resources and connect with the MCOE and Hartnell Community College. This network will provide access to core curriculum courses, advanced placement courses, vocational training and adult education courses. This project will benefit approximately 200 students per year and 150 adults. The four high schools have an enrollment 3,339 that could also potentially benefit.



Visible Light, Inc., Buellton, California

\$500,000 Grant; Area(s) Served: Areas of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado

Contact: Mr. Timothy Tyndall, (805) 686-1647; FAX: (805) 686-1149

Congressional District: Applicant B CA 22nd Project: CA - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 18th, 22nd, 40th, 44th, & 52nd; AZ - 3rd, 5th, & 6th Dists.; NM - 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Dists.; and CO - 3rd Dist.

Visible Light, Inc., an educational communications nonprofit corporation provides public Internet access programs through its public internet broadcasting network called The Regional Alliance for Information Networking (RAIN). This project will finance 30 new sites, and upgrades to sites of RAIN's existing network which includes Thermal and Mecca in California as part of the USDA designated Desert Communities Empowerment Zone. The Mecca site will receive upgraded services provided by RAIN's network and utilize the programming made available through the network. In addition, the project will enhance the RAIN's network by providing better and improved equipment to the Santa Barbara site to provide medical continuing education courses. Financing will be provided to improve telemedicine broadcasting and training to the RAIN's rural telemedicine remote sites. The project has the potential to reach 150 schools including 35 Indian schools. RAIN's system has the potential of reaching 5,000 students, 1,500 teachers, and 15,000 rural and urban residents with its programming.

Visiting Nurse Association of the Inland Counties

Riverside, California

\$339,524 Grant

Area(s) served: Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Contact: Ms. Lynn M. Campbell; (909) 413-1200; FAX (909) 413-1208

Congressional Districts: 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th & 48th

The Visiting Nurse Association of the Inland Counties will use RUS grant funds to implement a Telemedicine Disease Management Program to serve high-risk congestive heart failure (CHF) patients in the rural areas throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties in California. Telemedicine equipment will allow real time interactive visits via a remote video system between the patients' homes and one of the three branch offices. Nurses will be able to assess the patients' heart rate and rhythm, as well as lung sounds, via a remote stethoscope. They will also be able to assess the patients' blood pressure, oxygen levels and weight. The information will be electronically recorded for future retrieval. This project will benefit approximately 100 CHF patients in its first year and reduce the need of post-home care, emergency room visits, readmission to the hospital, and institutionalization of CHF patients.



West Hills Community College District

Coalinga, California

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Fresno, Kings, and San Benito Counties

Contact: Ms. Cathy Barabe; (559) 934-1085, ext. 3115; FAX: (559) 934-1096

Congressional Districts: Applicant B 20th and Project - 17th, 18th, 19th, & 20th

West Hills Community College District (WHCCD) is a publicly funded 2-year community college serving central California residents. WHCCD consists of West Hills Community College (West Hills) located in Coalinga, and 2 satellite facilities - Kings County Center campus located in Lemoore and North District Center campus located in Firebaugh. WHCCD proposes to create a distance learning network that links WHCCD in partnership with California State University (CSU), which is located in Fresno. Distance learning will be provided in the form of video-conferencing with CODEC technologies providing WHCCD students with an opportunity to take course work in fields such as education and allied health. The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Distance Learning Grant funds in conjunction with cash and in-kind matching funds from WHCCD, CISCO Systems and CSU will provide for the start-up equipment and its installation to transmit and receive instructional course work between the 3 campus sites of WHCCD. The anticipated benefits from the RUS Distance Learning Grant funds include increasing the availability of degree courses offered for graduation and certification to students who are underemployed, Hispanic and/or low income.

2000 Awards:

COMMUNITY HOSPITALS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA D/B/A COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTERS

\$206,100 Grant

Area(s) served: Fresno County

Contact: Robyn Gonzales, (559) 459-4900; FAX: (559) 459-3867

Congressional District: 19th and 20th

Community Medical Centers is a nonprofit corporation that serves over 1.2 million people within a 45-mile radius of Fresno and approximately 3.1 million in the Central Valley area and beyond, with its primary service area being Fresno County. The goal of this project is to establish a telecommunications network that would allow rural residents, clinics, and hospitals within rural Fresno County to have round the clock access to primary and specialty care as well as access to physician education. Residents will benefit from the expertise and resources located at the Community Medical Centers, UCSF Fresno Medical education facility, Valley Children's Hospital and Dr. Regina Hamlin's office.



MARK TWAIN ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

\$50,000 Grant

Area(s) served: Calaveras County

Contact: Larry Cornish, (209) 754-2526, FAX: (209) 754-2566

Congressional District: 4th

Mark Twain St. Joseph's Healthcare Corporation (Mark Twain) is the only community acute care hospital in Calaveras County. They currently have no Perinatologist on staff. High-risk mothers must be transported to other hospitals for care. Mark Twain will use grant funds to introduce a Telefetal Monitoring Link (TML) between Mark Twain and the University of California at Davis Health Systems (UCDHS). The TML will give the medical staff and patients access to medical specialists and consultative backup. Expectant mothers will have access to early and continuous prenatal care without leaving their county. The TML will also provide support and leveraging opportunities for the new birthing center. Additionally, adding this new technology will enhance the existing telemedicine link between Mark Twain and UCDHS, which is currently used for emergency cardiac consultations.

AEGIS MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC.

\$348,000 Grant

Area(s) served: Fresno, Imperial, La, San Bernadino and Yuba Counties

Contact: Dr. Louis Hughes, (626) 919-1879; FAX: (626) 919-3053

Congressional Districts: Applicant – 2nd, 18th, 19th, 21st, 24th, 37th, 40th, 41st, and 52nd Project – 2nd, 18th, 19th, 21st, 24th, 37th, 40th, 41st, and 52nd

Aegis Medical Systems, Inc., a leading California public health services provider, proposes to establish a statewide network consisting of voice, video and data. The Rural Utilities Service Telemedicine Grant funds will help to improve treatment for substance abuse patients and provide health training and continuing education to substance abuse counselors and providers. The project will consist primarily of telemedicine linkages for delivery of direct medical services. Distance learning facilities and project applications will also be provided for health care education, community based college courses and continuing education for Aegis staff. This network will utilize T1/ISDN/xDSL circuits to connect 3 Hubs—Bakersfield, Modesto and Pomona, and 6 End Users—Calexico, Chatsworth, Marysville, Phelan, Pinedale and Wilmington for telemedicine and related distance learning services.



VISIBLE LIGHT, INC.

\$334,500 Grant

Areas served: San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Ventura Counties

Contact: Ms. Marcy Montgomery, (805) 686-1647, FAX: (805) 686-1149

Congressional District: Applicant – CA 22nd Project: CA 22nd, 23rd, 40th, and 44th

Visible Light, Inc., an educational communications nonprofit corporation provides public Internet access programs through its public Internet broadcasting network called The Regional Alliance for Information Networking (RAIN). RUS grant funds will assist the extension of RAIN's existing 9 site network to 5 community sites, Oro Grande, Baker, Thermal, Mecca, and Oasis, 3 of these sites are located in the USDA designated Desert Communities Empowerment Zone. These school sites will be provided computers and training to establish access to RAIN's network and utilize the programming made available through the network. In addition, the project will enhance the RAIN's network by providing better and improved infrastructure through the development of the Geographic Information System (GIS), a interactive management resource to store and access information to be used by the network and others. Financing will be provided to improve telemedicine broadcasting and training to the RAIN's rural telemedicine services at the hub and remote sites; install a wireless inter-agency connection in Cuyama Valley; establish a community technology development center in Oak View; and install upgrades and computers to RAIN's 2 mobile vans, used to provide training classes. The proposed project will provide benefits to the existing 9 sites and the 5 additional sites in Riverside County that affects 12,000 residents by the project.

1999 Awards:

Cabazon Band of Mission Indians

Indio, California

\$245,500 Grant

Counties Served: Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego

Contact: Dr. William Whiteley, 760-345-9342: Fax (760) 345-9342

The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians (Cabazon Band) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, and an incorporated legal entity. The Cabazon Band has joined together with the Coachella Valley Unified School District, Desert Sands Unified School District, University of California San Diego Medical Center, Santa Rosa del Valle Medical Group and Valley Partnership to offer distance learning capabilities, health care education and medical services delivery with a prime goal of distance learning at 25 end user sites. Approximately 11,500 secondary and elementary school students and 3,897 patients at the Indio, Coachella, and San Diego medical clinics will benefit from this project. The proposed system uses internet-based videoconferencing capabilities to connect on-site classrooms to each other while enhancing educational opportunities and offering tutorial assistance for needy students and native Americans. In addition, the project will provide



medical consultation and support through the Indio Emergency Medical Group's link with two outlying rural clinics. Plans are underway to expand this link to the Medical Center at the University of California, San Diego.

Visible Light, Inc.

Buellton, California

\$349,500 Grant

Area(s) served: San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties

Contact: Mr. Timothy Tyndall, (805) 686-1647: Fax (805) 686-1149

This project, also known as RAIN, is a non-profit educational agency working with distance learning and telemedicine projects to promote equal access to technology and to learning and wellness resources that promote a higher quality of life for rural residents. RAIN has received two DLT grants in the past and this additional grant will allow RAIN to continue to build on its work in the communities of Oceano, Nipomo, Shandon, Casmalia, Guadalupe, New Cuyama, Oak View, Sespe, and Piru serving 25,570 citizen, five public libraries, nine public schools, and six primary medical clinics with seven secondary clinics. This RUS grant will allow RAIN to provide: (1) live broadcasting between rural communities as well as linking these communities to national resources; (2) implement new interactive features on the DLT web to promote distance learning and telemedicine integration in schools; (3) after school programs, libraries, health clinics, and homes; provide for small computer labs in the three communities of Nipomo, New Cuyama, and Oak View; (4) create a flagship Community Wellness Project addressing the needs for access to preventative health, chronic health, physician networking, classroom/afterschool/home distance learning, community economic development, and civic participation opportunities under one program; (5) provide for a new telecommunications infrastructure and intranet for the Community Health Care of the Central Coast Agency; and, (6) form a project-wide Technology Master Family network of community leaders equipped with demonstration computers for neighborhood level training

California State University Fresno Foundation

Fresno, California

\$97,396 Grant

Area(s) served: Fresno County

Contact: Mr. Daniel Griffin, (559) 278-0840: Fax (559) 278-0992

California State University, Fresno Foundation will use RUS grant funds to deliver distance learning capability to the rural USDA enterprise community of Huron, California. A community-based Internet Service Provider System will be established in a community center in downtown Huron, allowing access to all residents of the area. This program will promote an increase of Internet usage and will allow local residents to participate in on-line classes offered by California State University, Fresno as well as other colleges. It is expected that the project will reach 200 residents within the first 6-10 months of being fully operational.



1998 Awards:

The Regents of the University of California, Davis

\$349,118 Grant

Davis, California

Area(s) served: Butte, Nevada, Plumas, Sacramento, Sierra, and Yuba

Contact: Dr. Thomas S. Nesbitt

Telephone Number: (916) 734-1358

Fax Number: (916) 734-7366

Congressional District: 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

The Regents of the University of California, Davis will use grant funds from RUS to provide much needed medical and educational services to underserved and geographically isolated rural communities in a five-county area of Northern California. The project will expand the reach of the Northern California Rural Telemedicine Network, one of the nation's leading rural telemedicine projects, to an additional 20 rural end-user sites. Over 90,000 rural residents in the five-county area will benefit from this project.

University of Southern California

\$122,956 Grant

Catalina Island, California

Area(s) served: Los Angeles

Contact Ms. Mary Tierney

Telephone Number: (213) 342-3671

Fax Number: (213) 342-2835

Congressional District(s): 30th, 31st.

This project will improve the quality of medical service on the island of Catalina located 30 miles off the coast of California by establishing state-of-the-art telemedicine facilities to serve the island's 4,000 year round residents and the estimated 636,000 annual visitors. Presently, the island does not have the trained medical professionals required to treat trauma cases associated with serious accidents and illnesses. In 1995, there were 400 serious accidents on the island requiring the highest level of emergency trauma care. Depending on the conditions, patients have to be flown by helicopter to the mainland or medical professionals have flown out to the actual site to provide critical medical care. This delay costs patients valuable treatment time and usually results in negative outcomes. In addition, the island's permanent residents have access to only one physician. By establishing a telemedicine facility, medical professionals will be able to remotely treat patients from the USC medical system and provide Catalina's visitors and residents virtually every medical specialty necessary. Also, the facilities will provide access to sophisticated medical libraries and databases.



Visible Light, Inc.

\$346,700 Grant

Location: Buellton, California

Area(s) served: San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura

Contact Mr. Timothy Tyndall

Telephone Number: (805) 686-1647

Fax Number: (805) 686-1149

Congressional Districts: 22nd, 23rd.

The proposed project, also known as RAIN, will deliver distance learning and telemedicine products and services to six rural, low-income communities through a mobile van, local schools and libraries, after school programs and health clinics. RAIN was awarded a DLT grant from RUS in 1997 to serve three rural communities in the same tri-county area. The additional six communities specified in this proposed project are interested in benefiting from the program as well. The RAIN network is pioneering the field of Public Internet Broadcasting. It will function in a similar fashion as a traditional radio or TV station, serving as the broadcast facility. Contractors will develop and produce the specific programs that will be aired onto the Internet through RAIN's distance learning and telemedicine channels.

1997 Awards:

The School of Public Health, UCLA

Award: \$60,000 Grant

Location: Los Angeles, California

Area(s) Served: Counties of Kern, Imperial, Mecca, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Bernandina, Shasta

Contact Person: Gale Winting

Telephone Number: 310-825-5140

Fax Number: 310-825-8440

The School of Public Health, University of California at Los Angeles proposes to strengthen public health activities in six rural under served areas of Southern California economically challenged communities by setting up a system of videoconferencing units in rural health organizations. Financial assistance provided by RUS grant will assist the The School of Public Health to improve the education, learning, and training of health professionals at the rural end user sites, and, in turn, will improve the health care services of people residing in these rural isolated areas.

The mission of The School of Public Health is to develop, integrate, and apply pertinent knowledge from the biological, physical, and social sciences to enhance community health. A major component in fulfilling its mission is to provide continuing education for current professionals and leaders in the public health field as well as preparing future public health researchers and educators. The designated end user sites are economically



challenged communities that are isolated due to their rural locations. Budget and travel times restrict those in the more remote rural areas of California from receiving appropriate continuing education. Costs associated with travel, time and lost work productivity that a student typically incurs when traveling from a rural community to attend training/educational courses outside of their geographic area is expected to be greatly reduced if not alleviated. An RUS grant award will assist the school to continue to ensure the protection and improvement of the public's health.

Visible Light, Inc.

Award: \$210,200 Grant

Location: Buellton, California

Area(s) Served: Counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura

Contact Person: Timothy Tyndall

Telephone Number: 805-686-1647

FAX Number: 805-686-1149

Visible Light, Inc., is the legal name for a non-profit organization named the Regional Alliance for Information Networking (RAIN). RAIN is the developer of Public Internet & Telecomputer Services with a focus on distance learning & telemedicine applications. RAIN project links three rural communities across a tri-county region and delivers innovative neighborhood level, public library, classroom and medical clinic network development and training assistance. The RUS Grant will be used for an interactive television and computer network to improve educational and telemedicine services. The main outcomes of the project will be the demonstration of effective rural/urban distance learning and telemedicine program development that can be replicated in other communities. Life long learning opportunities for all ages will be significantly enhanced by having remote access to respected scientists, educators and health professionals through the project. Medical services to the public, and the level of community health and wellness, will improve as a result of expanded diagnostic and referral information sharing between doctors.

State Center Community College District

Award: \$144,759 Grant /\$128,511 Loan

Total \$273,270

Location: Oakhurst, California

Area(s) Served: Cities and Counties of North Fork, O'Neals, Madera, Auberry,

Tollhouse, Prather, and Fresno

Contact Person: Richard H. Hoffman

Telephone Number: 209-683-3940

Fax Number: 209-683-4193

The State Center Community College District, in a consortium with eight rural schools, will be using RUS funds to purchase the equipment needed to create a distance learning video conferencing system. The eight schools will be connected with one another, the



Education Enhancement, State Center Community College, Fresno State University and many others. Through this network, the schools will be able to share resources, reduce expenses, provide advanced classes for seniors, increase all class offerings for K-12, and improve the reading and language skills of younger students. The teachers will be able to communicate with others in their field of study, thus eliminating teacher isolation. Also, by connecting with area colleges, adults will be provided with continuing education opportunities. It is anticipated that 3,296 students will benefit from this project, not including the adults.

1996 Grant Award:

Amador County Unified School District

\$245,000

Location: Jackson, California

Contact Person: Kenneth A. Sherer

Phone Number: 209-223-1750

FAX: 209-223-1733

For the residents of Amador County, the cost of delivering accelerated and challenging courses for at-risk students and educational opportunities for low-income rural adults is difficult due to increased circular demands by the state and projected budget deficits. The Amador County Unified School District has proposed to address these issues with a distance learning project that will connect classrooms in seven rural schools for the purpose of enhancing educational opportunities. An RUS grant will assist in funding the School District's campaign to modernize its telecommunications system. Most of the nearly 4,700 District students should benefit from the distance learning project. Each will be able to receive advanced placement courses and possibly increase those students who will go on to college. At-risk students and those who stay in Amador will be better prepared for business in the future as a result of access to global information and education. Night school classes and training for adults should result in improvements to depressed income levels, and added revenues for the District.

Butte Glen Community College District

\$336,124

Location: Oroville, California

Contact Person: Stephen V. Stone

Phone Number: 916-895-2570

FAX: 916-895-2345

Butte College, in a collaborative partnership with Shasta College, Siskiyou College, and Lassen College, will use an RUS grant award to purchase the necessary equipment to expand, improve, and make affordable the use of advanced telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies to rural northern California for the purpose of providing educational and medical benefits through distance learning and



telemedicine projects. The proposed project will be designed for both distance learning and medical teleconferences to rural sites in eight counties in northern California. The predominant use will be educational, but medical applications will also constitute a significant share of the system. Through the educational component, instructional programs will be offered by the four college consortium to students residing in remote sites. Students may also join other interactive video conferences with similarly equipped schools in California, the US and the world. The project intends to connect up to 32 end user-sites, with a minimum of six end-user sites in each of the community college districts which will include public high schools, hospitals, community health centers, and public libraries. Health care professionals in rural clinics would be able to connect with other hospitals and medical practitioners located in similarly equipped facilities anywhere in the world in order to perform patient diagnoses, review charts, and discuss clinical issues. Rural doctors will be able to consult with specialists in larger hospitals, increasing the availability of quality health care services and reducing patient and staff travel costs.

1994 Grant Award:

Educational Enhancement Foundation

Madera and Mariposa Counties

Oakhurst, CA., is a small town of 25,000 residents, located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of Central California. Much of this area is considered wilderness and sections of Yosemite National Park are located near Oakhurst in Mariposa County. The distance from the larger cities like Fresno, 120 miles away, leaves the area isolated from many of the urban problems that plague those cities. However, living in such a scenic and remote area also means making sacrifices. One of these sacrifices is limited availability of education and training programs that enable the community to compete in the ever increasing job and college admissions markets.

The location problem, however, for town of Oakhurst has been greatly reduced. RUS loans to Sierra Telephone Company in the past provided the appropriate telecommunications infrastructure needed to accommodate distance learning capabilities. The Educational Enhancement Foundation (EEF) was selected to receive a RUS Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant award. The nearly \$400,000 grant will assist EEF to provide advance telecommunications services such as high-speed digital (which allows video transmission) distance learning network to Oakhurst area students. The RUS grant funds will also be used to purchase interactive equipment allowing an interactive network between California State University Fresno and Yosemite High School in Oakhurst and Mariposa County High School. By the end of 1995, distance learning facilities will be located at seven area schools utilizing a two-way video as well as audio network. Adult students have found easy access to GED and college level programs. Training and recertification programs for teachers and emergency services personnel have also been provided.



The implementation of the new technology will also help to foster the growth and success of local businesses and encourage new businesses to locate in the area. The network will soon offer a business center that features video conferencing, telecommuting services, and other specialized services, vital to rural travelers on the Information Superhighway.