



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE GRANTS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9, 2009 – Acting Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Douglas L. Faulkner announced today that USDA is accepting applications for grants through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program to provide access to education, training and healthcare resources in rural areas. Funding for the program is subject to Congressional appropriations.

“These grants will increase the range of educational opportunities available to students in rural communities and improve access to healthcare for countless numbers of rural Americans,” Faulkner said. “The DLT program provides increased economic opportunity by expanding telecommunications, educational resources and computer networks throughout rural America.” In 2008, USDA Rural Development provided grants totaling \$28.2 million under the program to 105 recipients in 41 states.

Complete applications must be received by March 24. For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, see the December 24, 2008, *Federal Register*, page 79041. Materials including an application guide and full details about the program can also be obtained at www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm or by calling the DLT program at 202-720-0413.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested nearly \$111 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 2 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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