

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program USDA Rural Development

State	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
GA	Georgia Department of Corrections	\$364,960	Rural Development funds will be used to help the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) located in Baldwin County, GA and Augusta State Medical Prison located in Columbia, GA provide critical telemedicine connectivity to inmates located in 13 rural prisons in Georgia. The telemedicine project will provide telemedicine to the inmates in GDC care with an interoperable live real-time video and audio connection between doctor and patient at remote sites. By providing services through a high quality, interoperable telemedicine system with live interaction, the proposed telemedicine project will 1) reduce transportation costs for the state of Georgia; 2) provide cost savings to Georgia taxpayers; 3) improve public safety; and 4) improve the knowledge and skill set of employees.
NC	Montgomery County School District	\$337,376	Rural Development funds will be used to help provide telehealth and video conferencing equipment to two project high schools, three middle schools, six elementary schools and the district head office located in Troy, NC to connect with Montgomery County School Districts two existing School Based Health Care Centers. Through the use of telehealth and videoconferencing equipment the project will insure that students have full and complete access to health and dental care, provided by fully trained and qualified health care professionals
SC	The Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg & Calhoun Counties	\$348,782	Rural Development investments will be used to help fund telehealth equipment for the Regional Medical Center's (RMC) DLT project Telemedicine and Healthcare Education in Rural South Carolina. The project will enable five (5) project sites in three (3) counties--Orangeburg, Calhoun and Bamberg--to establish a high-definition telehealth and remote monitoring program to provide acute and preventive health care services that are not currently available in these communities. These services include primary care, health and wellness programs, specialty care, hospital care, and transitional care services. Through the proposed telehealth system technology, patients will gain access to specialists not currently available due to geographic barriers and physician shortages, and providers will be able share existing resources across a greater scale.
IL	Altamont Community School Unit District 10	\$122,923	Rural Development investments will be used to help fund distance learning for the Illinois Education Shared Resource Network that will serve seven public elementary, junior high and high schools located in Crawford, Effingham and Ogle Counties. These schools will be able to connect to the hub sites of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Urbana High School located in Champaign County, IL. This Distance Learning Project will create an interactive and highly collaborative video network to encourage resource sharing for schools, virtual classrooms, and professional development for teachers and administrators alike. This project will reach students that may not have access to certain advanced classes, or subjects, allow access to relevant educational resources and share educational resources with others, get support and advice from other teachers and administrators (mentors), and allows for certain staff development programs to be taught/offered that can reduce travel.
AZ	Cochise Technology District	\$141,648	Rural Development funds will be used to help modernize the distance learning program of Cochise Technology District (CTD) Joint Technology District (JTED), a public-school district that works in partnership with Cochise College, to bring Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to rural high schools in Cochise County, Arizona. The CTD distance learning program also links counselors, teachers, IT professionals and CTE Directors for training and educational meetings. The project will develop a more cost efficient and reliable PC-based connectivity that is user friendly and requires minimal maintenance to provide expanded distance learning opportunities to Cochise county rural students and schools.

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TN	Chattanooga Hamilton County Hospital Authority.	\$50,000	Rural Development funds will be used to help equip 12 schools in Sequatchie, Meigs and Bledsoe Counties, TN with telehealth endpoints which will connect to the hub infrastructure in the Children's Outpatient facility located in Hamilton County, TN. The telehealth project will utilize the network to deliver bimonthly training to school nurses and staff, increasing their skills and improving health impacts for the counties' students. Each session will focus on an applicable pediatric topic and be taught by an expert in that field. Distance learning equipment will also be used in Sequatchie County High School to connect their Healthcare Occupations (HOSA) program with instructors, doctors, and other resources at Children's Hospital and the surrounding Erlanger Health System campus (a teaching hospital in partnership with the University of Tennessee Chattanooga's College of Medicine), helping to increase the number and quality of trained healthcare professionals in Sequatchie and other rural counties.
MS	Holmes County School District	\$499,904	Rural Development funds will be used to help fund distance learning for the Rural Delta Plug-in Project which includes Holmes County School District, Humphreys County School District, Hinds County School District, and Pearl River County School District of Mississippi to bring educational opportunities to students, teachers, and the surrounding communities. The distance learning project will connect 26 schools across the 4 rural school districts to each other, to Delta State University, to the Mississippi School for Math and Science, and to the community via a network of interactive video conferencing equipment. This comprehensive and conscious establishment of services via distance learning technology will ensure all students, from the struggling to the high-achieving, in poverty-stricken rural Mississippi, have access to the education they deserve.
AK	Lower Kuskokwim School District	\$425,118	Rural Development investments will be used to help fund distance learning to bring educational opportunities to 28 rural schools across an area of 45,504 square miles. The title of this proposed distance learning project is the Lower Kuskokwim Education Plus project, or, simply, the ED+ project. The purpose of the project is to connect each of the rural schools, the central office, and two remote sites in Anchorage, AK with live, interactive video conferencing equipment and develop a distance learning network to raise the quality of education in every school and improve educational outcomes. The project is designed to serve the needs of the Yup'ik and Cup'ig people who comprise the majority of residents at each rural village. The ED+ project will link their villages together in solidarity, will support independent, culturally-sensitive education, and will facilitate the growth of their languages and time-honored traditions.
KY	Primary Care Centers of Eastern Kentucky, LLC	\$186,645	Rural Development investments will be used to help fund a telemedicine project that will connect nine schools and clinics across one of the poorest areas of Kentucky. Through the telemedicine program, community members and children will have an unprecedented level of access to basic and specialty care. Primary Care Centers of Eastern Kentucky (PCCEK) is a healthcare facility serving the residents of southeastern Kentucky in the counties of Perry, Leslie and Knott. The telemedicine project will help PCCEK provide family and adult medicine services as well as dentistry and behavioral health services. In addition, PCCEK will provide prenatal/women's health services as well connectivity to a diabetes center in Hazard, KY. The telemedicine project that will link students and residents of southeastern Kentucky to all the services of PCCEK.

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LA	Livingston Parish Public Schools	\$476,588	Rural Development investments will be used to help fund a distance learning project to add new interactive videoconferencing and audiovisual equipment to the Livingston Parish Public School District 8's proposed six highest need hub and end-user schools in Livingston Parish. The purpose of the project is to expand and proactively fill in major gaps in curriculum delivery and provide access to quality educational programming to the neediest schools, teachers, and families. Funds will be used to help implement a broadband hub-end user network between sites and install interactive distance learning. The project will provide students with flex-time access to advanced coursework, academic enrichment and remediation, mentoring, and professional development options as well as fill in major educational gaps identified by students, staff, and community members.
WV	Lincoln County Board of Education	\$440,295	Education purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services to eight hub/end user sites located in Lincoln County. The project will provide portable video conferencing units and software to allow the schools to support expanded educational opportunities to elementary, middle and high schools, improve college and career readiness, provide education services to home bound and home schooled children and increase job training opportunities throughout the county.
CA	Woodland Community College	\$463,000	Rural Development investments will be used to help the Woodland Community College purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services to one hub and six end user sites located in Colusa, Lake and Yolo counties. Education services will be delivered from Woodland Community College and its branch campuses to participating high schools and a tribal nation. The project will provide servers, media storage and streaming equipment, video conferencing equipment and software to allow the college to improve college readiness and post-secondary degree attainment, reduce remedial education and expand access to adult education.
OH	Rio Grande Community College	\$187,105	Rural Development investments will be used to help Rio Grande Community College purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services to one hub/end user and three end user sites located in Gallia, Jackson, Meigs and Vinton counties. Education services will be delivered from the College to its outlying branch campuses. The project will provide servers, media storage and streaming equipment, portable and fixed video conferencing equipment and software to allow the College to improve and expand course offerings, assist students with transportation challenges and improve adult education opportunities.
FL	Barry University, Inc.	\$238,494	Rural Development investments will be used to help Barry University purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services between a hub and three end user sites located in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Education services will be delivered from the University in Miami-Dade County to the St. Croix sites. The project will provide video conferencing equipment and software to allow the College to expand their Physician Assistant Program to improve access to high-quality medical care for the medically underserved people.

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AK	Northwest Arctic Borough School District	\$169,077	Rural Development funds will help the Northwest Arctic Borough School District purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services. The project will benefit two hubs and 12 end-user sites in 11 communities by broadening curriculum choices, sharing classes, delivering professional development, increasing career awareness and enhancing pre-school instruction.
AK	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	\$484,632	Rural Development funds will help the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive telemedicine services. The project will provide behavioral health specialty care, including addiction medicine and psychiatry. It will benefit one hub and 112 end-user sites in 111 communities by providing mobile telemedicine carts with exam cameras and exam equipment. This will allow health care providers to expand access to emergency, trauma and behavioral health services. It also will allow more timely and accurate diagnoses and treatment of issues that could otherwise result in a worsening health crisis requiring emergency room visits and/or inpatient admissions.
AK	Alaska Gateway School District	\$76,743	Rural Development funds will help the Alaska Gateway School District purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services. The project will benefit seven end-user sites in seven communities by providing schools with video conferencing equipment, laptop computers and networking equipment to allow them to share classes and teachers. The school district is planning to rework its class schedule so all students have access to the course offerings. Every site will be able to offer and receive distance content taught by subject-area specialists. The project is expected to increase student interest and engagement and result in increased achievement, attendance and graduation rates.
AK	Lower Yukon School District	\$478,626	Rural Development funds will help the Lower Yukon School District purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services in the Kusilvak Census Area (formerly known as the Wade Hampton Census Area). The project will benefit one hub and 10 end-user sites in 10 communities by providing servers, video conferencing units and software. It will enable schools to share classes and teachers, provide pre-school education to parents, and provide professional development to teachers.
AK	Iditarod Area School District	\$182,695	Rural Development will help fund distance learning in the Iditarod Area School District to expand learning opportunities by connecting teachers and resources in remote areas of the Yukon Koyukuk Census Area. The School District will provide high-quality, high-definition distance learning systems connecting teachers and students throughout the District, which covers 61,000 square miles.
AL	University of Alabama	\$128,664	Rural Development funds will bring telemedicine capacity to Pickens County. The telemedicine equipment will provide a direct, two-way link between Pickens County ambulances and the Pickens County Medical Center's Emergency Department. Medical oversight training will also be provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health's State EMS program.

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AL	The Bibb County Healthcare Authority	\$480,706	Rural Development funds will help the Bibb County Healthcare Authority purchase distance learning and telemedicine equipment to provide enhanced medical and teaching services. The project will benefit one hub and eight end-user sites in three communities by providing computer servers, video conferencing units, laptops and software. Bibb Medical Center facilities will be able to access remote resources, including trauma and specialty care, along with continuing medical education. This project will also provide health and wellness education to residents at the county's assisted-living community and provide increased access to clinical care for inmates at the county jail. Bibb County Schools will be able to create new learning opportunities for their students and professional development for their teachers. They will be able to share resources and provide career technical courses, advanced math, music and reading intervention. The distance learning technology will also be utilized for adult education.
AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham	\$495,877	Rural Development funds will help establish a telehealth network to connect the University to various hospitals and medical centers across the state. The network will connect patients and providers to deliver telemedicine programs across the medical spectrum, from low-acuity ailments to electronic intensive care units, telestroke care, rare genetic diseases, transplant care and pediatric specialties. The network also will be used for professional training and continuing education.
AZ	Flagstaff Medical Center, Inc.	\$249,601	Rural Development funds will help finance telemedicine carts at five sites, upgrade telemedicine carts at 10 sites and purchase 89 remote monitoring devices for patients in isolated rural communities in central and northern Arizona. Flagstaff Medical Center and Verde Valley Medical Center will be the hub sites for the project. This project will serve residents in Apache, Coconino, Mohave, Navajo and Yavapai counties. Patient consultations, specialist referral services, remote patient monitoring and medical education will be available to the region's rural, low-income, tribal patients. The project will reduce travel time for patients and their providers, improve the communication of medical data and improve access to health care.
CA	Colusa County Office of Education	\$126,056	Rural Development funds will help the Colusa County Office of Education expand its distance learning program to include all county schools and tribal communities. The project will serve six end-user sites.
CA	Institute for Telehealth	\$325,665	Rural Development funds will help the Institute for Telehealth in Placer County purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive telemedicine services. The project will benefit one hub and 33 end-user sites in 32 communities by providing video conferencing units and software. It will allow hospitals, medical clinics and nursing homes to communicate with specialists and participate in an Anti-Microbial Stewardship program implemented by the Institute.
CO	Lincoln Community Hospital and Nursing Home	\$265,622	Rural Development funds will provide a telemedicine network between hospitals and clinics for more than 20,000 residents in Adams, Cheyenne, Kit Carson, Lincoln and Phillips counties. Improved medical services include behavioral health, post-operative care and care management for chronic conditions. Mobile clinics will provide medical services at patients' homes and will provide access to specialty care and tele-stroke services. Additionally, the telemedicine connections will help emergency departments at Lincoln Memorial Hospital's behavioral health providers assess behavioral health issues more rapidly and move patients in crisis out of the departments and into more appropriate care settings.

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GA	Augusta University Research Institute, Inc.	\$310,950	Rural Development funds will help Augusta University Research Institute create an emergency telehealth network in rural Georgia. The Institute will be the hub. There will be five end-user sites: Miller County Hospital, Crisp Regional Health Services, Emanuel Medical Center, Washington County Regional Medical Center and Wills Memorial Hospital. The project will provide direct, two-way links between emergency rooms at the end-user sites and the Augusta University Medical Center as well as provide 12-lead EKG machines in three ambulances dispatched from the Washington County Regional Medical Center. Equipment will include telepresence carts, EKG machines, ultra-sound systems, video laryngoscopes and digital stethoscopes.
GA	Chattahoochee Technical College	\$480,000	Rural Development funds will help Chattahoochee Technical College establish distance learning capabilities to reach schools in Gilmer, Paulding and Pickens counties. This will enable rural students to participate in classes via distance learning to receive the support they need to ensure they graduate on time. Health program classes will be a top priority, given student demand for these classes and the high demand/high-wage nature of health careers. Video capability will be established at Gilmer and Pickens High Schools and at the main offices at Paulding County Schools to enable dual enrollment and teacher professional development.
IL	Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago	\$252,673	Rural Development funds will help finance a pediatric telemedicine project to connect the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital to 20 hospitals and medical clinics in Illinois. The project will allow care staff at end-user sites to connect to the emergency department at Lurie Children's Hospital for trauma and/or emergency care consults. Providers can assess the patient, review diagnostic images and data, and provide an expert diagnosis. The project will also provide professional development for staff and clinicians at each site.
IL	County of Clay	\$58,935	Rural Development funds will help the Clay County Hospital purchase telemedicine equipment to provide a direct link between its three ambulances and larger, specialized medical facilities that can treat patients with critical cardiac issues. Patients will receive better and more appropriate care in the field and during transport, and lives will be saved through access to cardiac specialists. Telecommunications equipment will include a monitor and defibrillator, ability to transmit EKG readings remotely, cuff kits to monitor blood pressure, oxygenation sensors and other supporting equipment.
IN	East Central Educational Service Center, Inc.	\$498,261	Rural Development funds will be used to help purchase video conferencing equipment for two hubs and 18 end-user sites in 13 communities. The project will link sites in Martin, Jasper, Newton, Randolph, Jennings and Fayette counties in Indiana with a site in Aroostook County, Maine. Users will gain access to new learning material, expertise and staff. The Center and the Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association will provide professional development training and resources.
IN	East Central Educational Service Center, Inc.	\$490,800	Rural Development funds will be used to help the East Central Education Service Center purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services. The project will benefit two hub and 10 end-user sites in rural Indiana and South Carolina. It will provide computer servers, video conferencing units and software to allow schools to share foreign language, science, technology, engineering and math classes. Advanced Placement courses, after-school tutoring and enhanced special education services will be offered. The project will also provide teachers with increased access to professional development and training.

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KY	Hazard Community and Technical College	\$449,031	Rural Development funds will help Hazard Community Technical College (HCTC) purchase telemedicine equipment to provide education and telemedicine services for students, health care providers and patients. HCTC will connect to 30 health care providers, including a regional ambulance service, to improve specialized care to students and low-income patients. HCTC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in southeastern Kentucky with campuses in Hazard, Jackson and Hyden.
KY	Grace Community Health Center, Inc.	\$496,081	Rural Development funds will help Grace Community Health Center, d/b/a Grace Health, purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive telemedicine services. Using telemedicine will expand access to mental health and substance abuse treatment services, including opioid addiction, which has increased significantly in the service area. The project will benefit one hub and 21 end-user sites in nine communities by providing computer servers, video conferencing units and software to allow health care providers, counselors and patients to connect and communicate without the need for extensive travel.
KY	Berea College	\$499,544	Rural Development will help finance a distance learning project at Berea College to connect 19 sites in 15 counties in southeastern Kentucky. The project will expand workforce training and continuing education opportunities for school-age students and adult learners. It also will help the College's Partners for Education program, which coordinates school-based and other services to improve education outcomes in Eastern Kentucky.
KY	Northeast Kentucky Regional Health Information Organization	\$495,851	Rural Development funds will help the Northeast Kentucky Regional Health Information Organization purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive telehealth services. The organization and its project partners will address the need for mental health and substance abuse services in Kentucky, where the demand for treatment to painkiller addiction has increased 900% during the last decade. The project will benefit two hubs and 22 end-user sites in 13 communities. It will provide computer servers, mobile telemedicine carts and software so patients do not have to travel great distances to see specialists and mental health counselors.
LA	RKM Primary Care	\$298,100	Rural Development will help fund a fixed-site telemedicine project in four of the most rural and low-income parishes in Louisiana: Livingston, West Baton Rouge, Tangipahoa and Tensas. These parishes have disproportionate percentages of vulnerable populations (the young, the elderly and minorities). They have shortages of health care professionals and a high percentage of uninsured residents. This telemedicine project will connect patients to behavioral health and specialty care providers at remote sites, using interactive videoconferencing. It will also connect rural health providers with professional development opportunities, so they may continue to hone their skills without having to leave their rural communities.
LA	Lafayette General Health Systems, Inc.	\$311,356	Rural Development funds will help Lafayette General Health Systems, Inc. expand the South Louisiana Telehealth Network. Hubs will be established in Lafayette, Breaux Bridge, Crowley and Kaplan to connect 30 end-user sites in Arcadia, Vermillion, Evangeline, St. Martin, St. Mary, Iberia and St. Landry parishes. Lafayette General Health and its partners will train registered nurses to improve access to medical care, and improve health outcomes. The expanded telehealth network will serve public schools, community college campuses and government agencies in multiple parishes across South Louisiana.

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LA	Winn Community Health Center, Inc.	\$277,672	Rural Development funds will help support the North Central Louisiana Telemedicine Program at the Winn Community Health Center. The project will connect to nine school-based health clinics and two community-based health centers in Winn, Grant and Bienville parishes. The project will enable teleconsulting by qualified practitioners to improve the health outcomes of residents in extremely rural, low-resourced, and high-poverty communities.
LA	Franklin Parish Hospital Service District No. 1	\$111,794	Rural Development funds will help the Franklin Medical Center purchase telemedicine equipment to provide enhanced telemedicine services. The project will provide interactive audio/video equipment, a terminal server, tablet computers, transportable exam stations and care coordination software. Three end-user sites will have expanded communications capabilities that enable the Franklin Telemedicine Network to provide expanded access to specialists. The Franklin Medical Center's Services Coordination Team will educate providers regarding the benefits of care coordination through the network and will deploy the program. The project will reach patients discharged with chronic diseases or conditions, including cardiac health issues, making them high risk for future readmission. Education will be provided to patients in their homes to ensure care goals are met. Patients will be monitored to prevent a reoccurrence of their original reason for medical care.
ME	New England Music Camp Association	\$132,214	Rural Development will help fund a distance learning project that will equip five schools in central Maine with the technology to provide rural Maine communities with music and performing arts education as well as a broader range of cultural opportunities. The region faces challenges such as rural isolation, unemployment and poverty. This project is designed to mitigate these challenges by providing exposure to a variety of academic and cultural opportunities to primarily low- to moderate-income individuals. This technology will provide a content-rich educational model to students and professional development opportunities for instructors.
ME	City of Sanford	\$495,541	Rural Development funds will help the Sanford School Department in York County purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services. The project will benefit three hubs and 13 end-user sites in 14 communities. Computer servers, video conferencing equipment, software and networking components will be provided to allow the schools to strengthen curricula, particularly that related to STEM education, and to promote cross-cultural learning through history and the arts.
ME	MaineHealth	\$274,092	Rural Development funds will help MaineHealth provide a three-component telehealth network, including EMS enhanced communications, nursery care support, transfer decision support, and post-discharge care to home-based patients. Ten area hospitals in Franklin, Oxford, Lincoln, Kennebec, Knox and Waldo counties in Maine, and a hospital in Carroll County, N.H., will be hub/end-user sites and will connect to 13 ambulance companies throughout the area. The project includes EMS enhanced communications that will connect rural ambulances to hospital emergency departments. The nursery care support and transfer decision support components will facilitate telehealth consultations between local care providers and specialists. Also, the post-discharge element of the project will provide comprehensive home-based medical services for infants and adults who have been discharged, in order to provide post-hospital care and reduce re-admissions.

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ME	School Union 76 and Isle Au Haut	\$441,189	Rural Development funds will help create a distance learning network linking two hubs in Belfast with 30 other hub/end-user sites in Waldo, Sagadahoc, Hancock, Knox, Cumberland and Washington counties and including the Passamaquoddy Indian Tribe. The project will include video conferencing equipment that will allow for expanded opportunities for real-time, interactive education. The project will help students strive for higher academic achievement, complete post-secondary educations, and it will enhance professional development opportunities for teaching.
MI	Michigan Science Center	\$115,060	Rural Development funds will help implement a distance learning program at the Michigan Science Center. Twenty-three end-user sites in 16 counties will connect to the Michigan Science Center and the Henry Ford Health System so they can explore science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) from remote locations. These educational opportunities provide multiple entry points into meaningful career pathways for students.
MN	Little Crow Telemedia Network	\$119,828	Rural Development funds will help the Little Crow Telemedia Network and the River Valley Education District provide technology and distance learning opportunities for their member districts. The distance learning network will offer more courses for high school students, such as college prep and advanced placement courses. This project will serve 19 school districts, two adult basic education sites, and the Upper Sioux Community. An estimated 10,000 rural students, 600 rural educators, 50 adult basic education students and more than 400 Upper Sioux Community tribal members will have access to educational and other services through this project.
MO	Lester E. Cox Medical Centers	\$120,246	Rural Development funds will help the Lester E. Cox Medical Center purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive telemedicine services. The project will benefit one hub and 22 end-user sites in 11 communities. It will provide cart-mounted telemedicine video conferencing equipment to allow the Medical Center to connect children and school nurses with children's parents and with a health care provider. The project will increase access to health care, reduce transportation costs, help alleviate the rural health care shortage and increase affordable health care.
MS	Amite County School District	\$335,811	Rural Development funds will help create a distance learning network in Forrest, Amite and Marion counties. The hub will be the Southern Regional Educational Service Agency. End-user sites will be at Amite County High School, Amite County Elementary School, Liberty and Amite County Vo-Tech, East Marion High School and West Marion High School. The network will provide enhanced educational opportunities not previously available in the area. Schools will be able to interconnect and share teaching staff. Expanded course offerings will help prepare students for higher education. The project will also provide opportunities for professional development for the teaching staff.
NC	East Carolina University	\$61,772	Rural Development funds will help East Carolina University purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning and telemedicine services. The project will benefit one hub and eight end-user sites in nine communities. It will provide video conferencing equipment, endodontic microscopes and software to enable the University to promote, train and develop dentistry students in the area.

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NC	Mission Healthcare Foundation, Inc.	\$231,192	Rural Development funds will help the Mission Healthcare Foundation purchase video conferencing equipment to provide enhanced telemedicine services. The project will benefit one hub and 11 end-user sites in 11 communities. It will provide telemedicine carts, digital stethoscopes and horus scopes to give rural residents increased access to the health care system and increased access to specialty care. The project will decrease travel time for patients and costs to obtain care.
NC	North Carolina Central University	\$499,081	Rural Development funds will help North Carolina Central University create a distance learning program, named the Virtual Justice Project, to enable citizens of North Carolina to access legal services at the University. Nineteen end-user sites in central and western North Carolina will have access to the Virtual Justice Project. Many low- and moderate-income North Carolinians will have increased access to free or reduced-cost legal education and services that will enable them to represent themselves in an informed manner, or seek pro bono services.
NC	East Carolina University	\$395,000	Rural Development funds will help East Carolina University purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning. The project will benefit two hub and 17 end-user sites in 15 communities. It will provide video conferencing equipment to enable the University to connect with community colleges and high schools to allow the sharing of classrooms and teachers.
NE	Southeast Community College	\$120,582	Rural Development funds will help create a distance learning program at Southeast Community College (SCC). Campuses in Lincoln, Milford and Beatrice will act as hubs and will connect to learning centers in Hebron, Plattsmouth and Falls City. Distance learning will focus on health care education and continuing education. Both are a high priority in these communities. The project will benefit rural communities by allowing SCC to increase capacity and provide more distance learning courses.
NM	New Mexico Junior College	\$411,350	Rural Development will help fund the Lea County distance learning project on the campus of New Mexico Junior College. The project will connect to four end-user sites in Tatum, Eunice, Lovington and Jal. It will create an environment that facilitates the development of distance learning instruction. It will support first-generation college students and will encourage faculty participation in distance learning initiatives. It also will support the development of instructional technology courses and materials.
NM	Western New Mexico University	\$191,589	Rural Development funds will help Western New Mexico University purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services. The project will benefit one hub and eight end-user sites in six communities by providing video conferencing units and software. It will enable high school students to take dual-enrollment courses, provide virtual experiences and expand professional development opportunities for educational staff. The equipment also will give community residents access to employment training.

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NY	New York State Office of Mental Health	\$500,000	Rural Development funds will help the New York State Office of Mental Health purchase telemedicine equipment to provide enhanced mental health services. The project will benefit 19 hub and 66 end-user sites by providing video conferencing equipment, tablets and software to allow clinics, schools, doctors' offices, nursing homes and correctional facilities to expand mental health services. Given the high demand and provider shortages, this project will address the needs of adults and children, with an additional focus on individuals who may need skilled nursing facility interventions and individuals involved with New York State's criminal justice system. Additionally, the New York Office of Mental Health will leverage collaborative relationships with Western New York Independent Living, Inc., which supports individuals living within the Seneca Nation of Indians and the Tuscarora Nation of Indians to improve Native peoples' access to mental health services.
NY	Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital, Inc.	\$96,775	Rural Development funds will help the Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital, Inc. purchase telemedicine equipment to provide enhanced telemedicine services. The project will benefit one hub and two end-user sites in Urbana by providing telemedicine carts, digital stethoscopes, exam cameras, software and networking equipment. The project also will help health care providers determine whether low-severity patients can remain in their community for treatment at their local hospital, which is more cost effective and more convenient for patients and their families.
NY	The ARC Oneida-Lewis Chapter NY SARC, Inc.	\$474,258	Rural Development funds will help the Oneida-Lewis Chapter of the NY State ARC purchase telemedicine equipment to provide enhanced telemedicine services in Utica and at 25 residential and day service end-user sites in Oneida and Lewis counties. End-user sites in rural areas will be able to connect to the hub site in live, two-way communications via voice, data and video for access to specialized medical professionals and services that are not available in rural areas. The project will serve more than 2,500 individuals with disabilities by providing enhanced medical care. It also will eliminate the need for patients to travel from rural areas to larger, urban medical centers. Equipment will include computer servers, bridges, video conferencing equipment and software.
NY	Southern Tier Health Care Systems, Inc.	\$132,899	Rural Development will help fund a distance learning program at Southern Tier Health Care Systems, Inc. The project will connect to four end-user sites in Salamanca, Cuba, Franklin and Gerry. The telecommunications equipment will help offset the struggle for basic operational funds to certify the training of emergency responders to the dramatic increase in opioid overdose rates in New York State. It will support education for emergency response personnel and community service agencies in Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties, including the Allegany Indian Reservation Volunteer Fire Department, which is within a tribal jurisdictional area. The Allegany Indian Reservation site will provide education to preserve the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Seneca Nation Indian people as well.
NY	Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming BOCES	\$466,686	Rural Development funds will help the Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming Board of Cooperative Educational Services purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services. The project will benefit one hub and 15 end-user sites in 14 communities by providing video conferencing equipment, network-enabled scientific instruments and computer networking equipment. It will enable schools to share classes and teachers and implement New York state's Strategic Plan for Science.

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OK	Northwestern Oklahoma State University	\$231,983	Rural Development funds will help Northwestern Oklahoma State University purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services. The project will benefit two hubs and five end-user sites in seven communities by providing video conferencing equipment. The University will provide college courses and professional development at partner high schools, provide remote access to continuing medical education at Cimarron Memorial Hospital, expand academic offerings at Panhandle State University, and provide distance learning to Crabtree Correctional Facility for college courses and degree programs to better prepare inmates for work after release.
OK	Hennessey School District 16	\$266,419	Rural Development funds will help Hennessey School District 16 in Oklahoma improve its distance learning program by replacing aging video conferencing equipment and technology. Two hub sites in Oklahoma City will connect to eight end-user sites in schools in Hennessey, New Cordell and Pond Creek. The distance learning program will have state-of-the-art video conferencing equipment. The program will focus on connecting schools to enable course sharing so all of the sites served will have access to a complete array of curricula.
OK	Stroud Independent School District 54	\$499,805	Rural Development funds will help Stroud Independent School District 54 purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services to 16 end-user sites in Bristow, Boswell, Davenport, Depew and Stroud. The project will provide servers, video conferencing units and software to allow the schools to share teachers, content and resources to support expanded course offerings, including college-level courses.
OK	YCO Tulsa	\$459,675	Rural Development funds will help YCO Tulsa purchase video conferencing equipment to provide mental health services to youth in Oklahoma City. The project will benefit three hubs and 21 end-user sites in 13 communities. YCO recognizes there is a shortage of mental health providers and a great need for solutions to address this rising problem. Telemedicine has been proven to be an effective approach and strategy to address mental health in rural areas where provider access is limited. This grant will help provide computer servers, video conferencing units and software for telepsychiatry, medication monitoring, group and individual therapy, including drug counseling, and other counseling and community outreach services to youth and their families.
OK	Clinton Independent School District 99	\$470,383	Rural Development funds will help Clinton Independent School District 99 purchase equipment to connect schools to the Support Oklahoma through Advancing our Reach (SOAR) distance learning program. The Clinton Public Schools central office will be connected to 12 rural schools in Custer, McCurtain and Beckham counties. The project will provide students and teachers with an expanded selection of course content providers, curricula, training and resources.
SC	Florence-Darlington Technical College	\$184,785	Rural Development funds will help Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) expand and enhance its distance learning network to deliver adult education and programs for students in alternative schools. FDTC is in Florence in the Pee Dee region. The network will serve more than 7,600 students at 16 end-user sites in Florence, Marion and Darlington counties.

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SC	Beaufort County School District	\$419,510	Rural Development funds will help the Beaufort County School District purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services. The project will benefit 12 schools by providing mobile distance learning carts containing video conferencing equipment. The equipment will enable the schools to share teachers, combine resources and bring new educational services and opportunities to students and faculty. It also will allow high school students to connect with the Technical College of the Lowcountry, where they will take vocational and dual enrollment courses.
SC	Northeastern Technical College	\$500,000	Rural Development funds will help Northeastern Technical College establish a distance learning project that will provide virtual connections to classrooms in Dillon, Lake View and Latta. The hubs and end-user sites are in Chesterfield and Dillon counties. The project will allow schools to connect to other counties, schools, colleges and organizations to bring needed educational content to teachers and students. It will expand educational opportunities to provide students with core courses, electives, dual credit courses and advanced placement courses. It also will provide access to community meetings, continuing education and training for first responders.
SC	Central Carolina Technical College	\$365,457	Rural Development funds will help Central Carolina Technical College establish a distance learning network between its main campus in Sumter and campuses in Manning, Bishopville and Camden. The project will help expand access to education, technology and health-related services for rural residents in Clarendon, Lee and Kershaw counties. Residents of these extremely rural areas have pervasive health concerns such as strokes, diabetes and obesity, limited public services and little access to technology. These areas also are costly to serve, are economically distressed and have low secondary to post-secondary enrollment. To better serve these remote communities, Central Carolina Technical College will deliver distance learning solutions through video endpoints and network equipment at its campuses.
SC	Northeastern Technical College	\$415,256	Rural Development funds will help create a distance learning network in Marlboro and Chesterfield counties. Northeastern Technical College campuses at Bennettsville and Pageland will be the hub/end-user sites. High schools at Pageland, Chesterfield, McBee and Cheraw will be end-user sites. Expanded course offerings will include core courses, dual-credit courses and advanced placement courses. The learning network will also provide a community resource for workforce development, job training, community meetings and continuing education for first responders. Courses in advanced manufacturing also will be offered, which will enhance job opportunities in local manufacturing.
SC	Little River Medical Center, Inc.	\$418,184	Rural Development funds will help the Little River Medical Center (LRMC) establish a telemedicine network for a school-based primary care initiative in Horry County elementary schools. The project will provide much-needed behavioral health in the schools and the project communities, as well as primary care. The project will link four sites with the Medical Center at the University of South Carolina. It will utilize telemedicine and video conferencing to share patient caseloads within the network, and provide increased access to medical services via home and site-to-site visits. The project will improve health outcomes for more than 4,000 rural students, and will increase access to behavioral health and other specialists for more than 78,000 residents. It also will enable the four sites to serve more patients per day and reach hundreds of rural patients who are homebound due to health or economic constraints.

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SD	Avera Health	\$484,271	Rural Development funds will help Avera Health implement a telehealth project to enhance labor and delivery and post-partum services for mothers and their babies. The end-user sites are 11 rural hospitals in South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota. New equipment will be able to monitor a baby's heart rate, which is a critical indicator of fetal health during the birthing process. When necessary, the baby's heart rate information can be transported to Avera Health 24 hours a day, where specialists can assist at a critical time for mother and baby. Avera's Best Beginnings Rural Obstetrics Connections Project will reduce brain damage, permanent injuries and even deaths during difficult pregnancies when something goes wrong and additional help is immediately needed. This project will greatly improve labor and delivery services in rural hospitals by making highly specialized and dedicated specialists available whenever they are needed.
SD	Avera Health	\$128,045	Rural Development funds will help Avera Health implement an advanced telehealth project to integrate quality care for mothers and babies into small, rural, under-staffed hospitals. Avera will connect to end-user sites in Sibley, Hendricks, Freeman and Redfield. The project will provide telehealth programs with 24-hour labor and delivery support and remote neonatal intensive care unit monitoring. It also will address the increasing shortage of obstetricians in extremely rural hospitals while increasing patient safety and the quality of in-hospital care.
TN	United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.	\$496,718	Rural Development funds will help the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) purchase telemedicine equipment to provide enhanced telemedicine services. The project will benefit one hub and 10 end-user sites in 10 communities across three states. It will provide computer servers, video conferencing equipment, laptops and tablets, electronic stethoscopes and horus scopes, software and networking equipment. USET plans to expand its offering to Tribal Nation health departments to include direct services and support through professional development and telemedicine, initially in psychiatry and behavioral health. The goal is to establish a technology platform that facilitates quality health care for tribal citizens and builds the capacity of tribally operated health clinics to ensure high performance through professional development and improved efficiency.
TN	Quorum Health Corporation	\$485,395	Rural Development funds will help Quorum Health purchase equipment to provide enhanced telemedicine services to hospitals, medical clinics and schools in eight states. The project will benefit one hub and 16 end-user sites, including nine hospitals and medical centers, and seven school-based health clinics in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, North Carolina, Texas and Tennessee. The project will benefit rural patients by providing telemedicine carts, cameras and monitors to allow interactive video communications between clinicians and remote patients or students. The technology will enable images and media conten to be shared. This enhances patient and student experiences and provides more information to the clinician.
TN	Chattanooga State Community College	\$475,056	Rural Development funds will help Chattanooga State Community College develop a distance learning program that will connect to schools in Kimball and Dayton. The project will involve more than 55 classes. It will include academic advising, financial aid sessions, academic success coaching, as well as intervention and teacher meetings. Additionally, community residents, via connections with Chattanooga State's main campus, will be able to see and hear visiting speakers, authors and scholars' presentations.

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TN	Vanderbilt University Medical Center	\$269,792	Rural Development funds will help create a telemedicine network in Overton, Jackson and Pickett counties. Vanderbilt University Medical Center will be the hub site. Stroke-trained advance practice clinicians will be linked to 15 ambulances to enable EMS personnel to provide advanced, life-saving medical services. Each ambulance will have a tablet, a high-definition camera system and accessories to communicate with the hub site for enhanced medical services. Early detection and treatment of stroke victims is known to greatly improve survivability. This project will provide unprecedented medical treatment advances for rural residents.
TX	Texas Rural Education Association	\$391,510	Rural Development funds will help the Texas Rural Education Association purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services. The project will benefit two hub and 10 end-user sites in 10 communities by providing computer servers, video conferencing equipment, software and networking components to allow schools to provide a rich array of synchronous distance learning experiences. These opportunities will include dual-enrollment classes, virtual field trips, classroom collaborations, career explorations and an expanded menu of course offerings at all levels. Teachers will be able to participate in professional learning communities and access development opportunities without travel.
TX	Northwest Texas Healthcare System	\$427,113	Rural Development funds will help Northwest Texas Healthcare System, an acute care hospital, create a telemedicine project that will work with a consortium of seven health care facilities in the Texas panhandle. The project will connect rural patients to telemedicine opportunities through video teleconferencing. It will operate under the designation <i>Texas Panhandle Specialty Telemedicine Project</i> and will offer higher levels of specialized care via telemedicine to rural patients in Collingsworth, Hansford, Hemphill, Ochiltree, Swisher and Wheeler counties. Northwest Texas Healthcare System will offer emergency, trauma, cardiac, stroke, hospital and psychiatric services.
TX	Texas Rural Education Association	\$499,198	Rural Development Funds will help the Texas Rural Education Association purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services. The project will benefit two hub and 12 end-user sites in nine communities by providing computer servers, network equipment, video conferencing equipment, laptop computers and software. It will enable the schools to provide dual-enrollment courses, virtual field trips, classroom collaborations, career explorations and an expanded menu of courses at all levels. Teachers will be able to access professional development courses and learning communities without the hardship of long travel.
VA	Pittsylvania County School Board	\$215,523	Rural Development funds will help the Pittsylvania County Schools purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services. The project will benefit one hub and 20 end-user sites in seven communities by providing networking equipment, video conferencing equipment and software. It will enable schools to utilize a vast array of educational services through partnerships with the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, which serves as a regional catalyst for economic transformation, along with collaborations with the Houston Audubon Society, Team Kaizen and the NASA Johnson Space Center.

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VT	Vermont State Colleges	\$388,988	Rural Development funds will help Vermont State Colleges create a distance learning system to connect Johnson State College and Lyndon State College in Vermont to Sinte Gleska University, Lower Brule Community College and Ihanktonwan Community College in South Dakota and to 28 Vermont high schools. A mix of fixed and mobile video conferencing technology will increase course offerings to students, including dual-credit college courses. It will provide increased professional development opportunities for instructors. The project also will connect individuals in public service agencies, such as police and firefighters, with training and professional development opportunities.
WA	Sunnyside Community Hospital	\$68,237	Rural Development funds will help the Sunnyside Community Hospital Association create a telemedicine project by purchasing equipment to enable citizens of Benton, Grant and Yakima counties to get access to the latest telemedicine technology. Sunnyside proposes six hubs and six end-user sites. The hubs are specialty clinics spread across a 50-mile expanse of Interstate 82, from Yakima in the northwest corner of the service area to Prosser in the southeast corner. The specialties selected for inclusion are those that local primary care providers and office staff noted as the highest need and/or most difficult for patients to access. A newly recruited psychiatrist and a licensed social worker will support the bi-directional behavioral health integration called for in the state's Medicaid transformation efforts. The six end-user sites include three primary care clinics, a rural community hospital and two elementary schools. They are located in some of the most underserved, poorest and highly diverse communities in Washington.
WA	University of Washington	\$500,000	Rural Development funds will help the University of Washington in King County purchase telemedicine equipment to provide enhanced telemedicine services for its The RIDE (Regional Initiatives in Dental Education) teledentistry program. The project will benefit one hub and 11 end-user sites in 12 communities by providing teledentistry mobile carts, intraoral cameras, video conferencing equipment and software. The RIDE program trains students to be placed in rural dental practices after they graduate. It was developed to address oral health workforce needs in rural and underserved communities. RIDE students are sent on rural service learning rotations for five to six months during their four years of dental school. While all dental students go on five-week rotations, only RIDE students are required to do so in rural locations for a prolonged period of time. The equipment purchased will allow the students to continue their education while serving in the rural communities.
WA	Wenatchee Valley Hospital and Clinics	\$279,620	Rural Development funds will help Confluence Health purchase telemedicine equipment to expand its capacity to deliver clinical care, behavioral health services and medical training in North Central Washington. A 2016 community needs assessment for the region determined that access to behavioral health services was among the highest areas of need. The project will benefit two hubs and five end-user sites in Grant and Okanogan counties. It will provide computer networking equipment, mobile telemedicine carts, telemedicine medical devices and software. The project will improve communication between rural patients and clinical care providers, and give medical personnel more access to continuing education programs.

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WV	CAMC Health Education and Research Institute, Inc.	\$100,079	Rural Development funds will help CAMC Health Education and Research Institute, Inc. provide obstetrical services in a five-county area in south-central West Virginia. The Charleston Area Medical Center in Kanawha County will serve as the hub site. The Summersville Regional Medical Center will serve as the end user. The New River Health Association will provide daily perinatal services on the Summersville campus. The counties served are Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Nicholas and Webster. The project includes an innovative use of streaming fetal ultrasound for enhanced obstetrical care. Physicians will be able to operate remotely when necessary. These two innovative methods will greatly enhance medical care delivery to area residents.