



DLT Grant Awards – Alaska

2012 Grant Awards

Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc.

Alaska

\$422,521

Areas Served: Aleutians East, Aleutians West, and Valdez-Cordova

Contact: Robin R. Gould-Medina

Telephone: (907) 564-2511

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Rural Development funds will be used to fund an expansion and upgrade of its telemedicine equipment to better enable direct real-time visual diagnosis, provider-to-patient communication and medical staff consultation. The organization is the only health care safety net provider in the 80,000-square mile Eastern Aleutian region of Alaska; the West Aleutian community of Adak; and the Kenai Peninsula community of Whittier. The Tribes provide comprehensive health care services through several primary, behavioral and dental health care programs. The eight Hub/end-user sites in this project are scattered throughout an island chain stretching 1,200 miles westward from Anchorage, the nearest urban area through thousands of square miles of ocean. The service area is sparsely populated with approximately 2 people per square mile.

2011 Grant Awards

Yukon-Koyukuk School District

Alaska

\$454,938

Areas Served: Yukon-Koyukak

Contact: Gina Hrinko

Telephone: (907) 374-9419

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

USDA Rural Development funds will be used to help extend and improve a distance learning system that serves nine schools in Yukon River valley, one of the most remote areas of the U.S. in the Alaska interior. The project will add additional endpoints extending their current distance learning services to seven schools of Yukon Flats, including a vocational education center. Most of the schools can only be reached by plane. Almost all of the students are Alaskan natives. Outdated equipment will be updated. Mobile video carts with video-equipped netbooks in some locations will be paired with fixed video equipment at corresponding locations. A video control server will help manage video traffic and better facilitate connections through the netbooks. The new system will bring access to a wider range of teachers for the two school districts and will offer



career-oriented, continuing education, dual credit, traditional courses, and teacher development and support. The school district will match grant funds with \$140,000 of local funding.

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Alaska

\$201,650

Areas Served: Aleutians East, Aleutians West, Kenai Peninsula, Lake and Peninsula, Nome, North Slope Borough, Prince of Wales Outer Ketchikan, Sitka City, Skagway Hoonah Angoon, Wrangell Petersburg, Yukon-Koyukak

Contact: David Peters

Telephone: (907) 729-4488

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Older Alaskan Natives who suffer with diabetes and other chronic diseases benefit immensely from telemedical services such as home monitoring, especially those who reside in some the most remote areas of the state. USDA Rural Development funds will assist Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in expanding the Home Telehealth Monitoring of Native Alaskans, purchasing 220 new devices capable of transmitting blood glucose, blood pressure, pulse, weight and other vital signs and monitored by a 24/7 call center. Distribution of devices will be managed by a host of health clinics throughout Alaska, such as the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital in Barrow, the Dena'ina Health Clinic in Kenai, the Iliamna Clinic, the Hydaburg Health Clinic, the Kake Health Clinic and many others. The Consortium will match grant funds with \$203,350 of local funding.

Yakutat School District City / Borough of Yakutat

Alaska and Washington

\$499,635

Areas Served: Yakutat

Contact: Rodney Wayne Schug

Telephone: (907) 784-3317 x 226

Congressional District: Young, At-Large; Hastings, 4th Dist. (WA); and Dicks 6th Dist. (WA)

This distance learning project, assisted with USDA Rural Development funding, spans six school districts in Alaska, Washington State and Colorado. School districts will link with two content-providing hub sites, an administrative hub, and 515 home schooled students. The project will tap into the Unlimited Learning Center in Cortez, Colorado, an organization that will provide vocational training in healthcare, hospitality, culinary arts and office administration. The range of courses offered include core curriculum for high school, dual credit and AP coursework, and a variety of vocational courses from Unlimited Learning that lead to certifications. End-user equipment will mainly consist of laptops. Yakutat will match grant funds with \$162,230 of local funding.



Lower Kuskokwim School District

Alaska

\$500,000

Areas Served: Bethel

Contact: Gary Baldwin

Telephone: (907) 543-4912

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

This school district serves twenty-eight schools in the Kuskokwim River Delta region of Southwest Alaska. Twenty-two of these are located in remote Eskimo villages where Yup'ik Eskimo language is still the primary language of many students. Villages are accessible only by air, boat (in the summer) and some by ice roads in the winter. The school district has an existing 2-way video system, but it is technically outdated and limited in the number of simultaneous sessions that can be linked. USDA Rural Development funds will assist the district with replacing this equipment with new technology, which will double the availability of courses, and introduce enhanced functionality such as media capture, streaming and video management. Professional teacher development will increase the effectiveness of a limited pool of teaching staff. The school sites will install media carts for portability within each school, while the central office will deploy a wall-mounted video unit, as well as a new video recording unit. The distance learning system will be available for all residents, serving as a community resource integrated with their economic survival. The school district will match grant funds with \$458,451 of local funding.

Kodiak Island Borough School District

Alaska

Amount: \$294,958

Areas Served: Kodiak Island

Contact: Scott Edward Williams

Telephone: (907) 481-6215

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

This project, with the help of USDA Rural Development funds will be a first distance learning system that will link two distance learning studios in Kodiak with eight schools along the coastal villages in the Kodiak Archipelago, some only accessible by plane or boat. The students, mostly Alaskan Natives, will for the first time have direct educational access to the world outside of their villages. Educators will be acquiring the means to deliver core subjects, adopt science technology, engineering and mathematics, provide virtual field trips, and engage in professional teacher development. The distance learning system will be a combination of media carts equipped with desktop video conferencing equipment, and smart boards. The introduction of post secondary education for high school students, special education, and foreign languages will open doors of opportunity, especially with an enriched focus on career readiness in science and



engineering that the system will bring. The school district will match grant funds with \$148,000 of local funding.

Northwest Arctic Borough School District

Alaska

\$315,160:

Areas Served: Northwest Arctic

Contact: Judy Richards

Telephone: (907) 442-3472 x 223

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

USDA Rural Development funds will make it possible for the school district to purchase video conferencing equipment to equip their schools serving eleven villages in the Northwest Arctic. This system will replace a limited and outdated distance learning system in this remote region, where two of the schools reside at the Arctic Circle, and the other nine reside 30-80 miles above the Arctic Circle. Distance learning and telecommuting are the methods by which these residents can continue to thrive in this area where the only transportation is bush plane, or barge when the ice allows. The proposed equipment is a mixture of wall-mounted video conferencing units and cart-based video units. With a hub site in Kotzebue, teachers throughout the system will be better equipped to help their schools meet Alaska curriculum standards, and increase their class offerings in the area of AP Math, English, Organic Chemistry, Biology and Foreign Languages. The school district will also work with Alaska Technical Center to extend vocational classes and certifications. The school district will match grant funds with \$99,907 of local funding.

2010 Grant Awards

North Slope Borough School District

\$492,793

Alaska

Areas Served: North Slope

Contact: Linda Louise Stanford

Telephone: 817-851-4668

Congressional District: Don Young, At-Large

The North Slope Borough School will bring a video distance learning network to an area that is north of the Arctic Circle and larger than the state of Utah. The network will provide service to K-12 schools in remote villages populated by mostly Inupiat. This program will improve the quality of education for these Alaskan Natives and create greater opportunities for Natives to achieve professional success.



Norton Sound Health Corporation

\$483,705

Alaska

Areas Served: Nome, Northwest Arctic

Contact: Maurice Ninham

Telephone: 907-443-3293

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

This project will develop telemedicine services through a videoconferencing network that will connect sixteen isolated communities in northwestern Alaska. This region has no roads and most transportation involves expensive and dangerous airplane rides or long boat trips. Videoconferencing can eliminate unnecessary patient transports and increase the speed at which doctors can reach patients.

Kuspuk School District

\$404,517

Alaska

Areas Served: Bethel

Contact: Marjorie Jane Randlett, 907-675-4250

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

This program will upgrade and expand the distance learning program for the Kuspuk School District. These improvements are necessary for the students to overcome difficult economic and educational challenges through Dual Credit, Advanced Placement courses and technical training. The project will also promote the Native American language and the preservation of their cultural heritage.

Alaska Gateway School District

\$350,232

Alaska

Areas Served: SE Fairbanks

Contact: Jason Fastenau

Telephone: 907-505-0005

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

This project will bring distance learning to eleven schools in rural villages in the interior of Alaska to expand class availability, accommodate remediation, and address other community needs. The project will include interactive videoconferencing equipment, computers, and interactive whiteboards. Vocational training and certification will also provide an important service to this mineral and resource rich area in sectors such as the mining industry, the petroleum industry, and forestry.



2009 Grant Awards

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

\$270,864

Alaska

Areas Served: Matanuska-Sustina

Contact: George Troxel

Telephone: 907-746-9255

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

This project will fund phase I of the school district's distance learning system, connecting 15 K-12 schools and the district administration in this videoconference and web-based system. Curriculum will focus on literacy, preparing young students for high school, and math and science achievement, and will link with campus and cultural resources in Fairbanks.

Eastern Aleutian Tribes

\$319,648

Alaska

Areas Served: Aleutians West, Aleutians East, Valdez-Cordova

Contact: Robin R. Gould

Telephone: 907-564-2511

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

This project will fund an expansion and upgrade of an existing video telecommunications system to enable direct visual diagnosis for urgent and specialty care, a new system so village doctors will be able through desktop video to consult at all levels, from bedside to clinic to large hospital.

AVTEC

\$312,695

Alaska

Areas Served: Anchorage, Yukon-Kuskokwim

Contact: Frederick W. Esposito

Telephone: 907-224-4400

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

This project will fund a vocational distance learning videoconferencing system with the Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center as the hub site which will provide its culinary training program to 8 high schools throughout Alaska.

Copper River School District

\$211,555

Alaska

Areas Served: Valdez-Cordova

Contact: Bob Snedigar



Congressional District: Young, At-Large

This project will fund a videoconferencing system connecting 6 schools and a child advocacy center, encompassing 23,000 square miles of extremely rural and isolated territory. In addition to shared classes, content creation and professional development, counseling and outreach services will be extended to these communities to assist children who are in abusive situations.

2008 Grant Awards

Chugachmiut

\$146,841

Alaska

Areas Served: Valdez-Cordova and Kenai Peninsula

Contact: Deborah Daisy

Telephone: 907-562-4155

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

This Rural Development grant will connect medical and behavioral health professionals at five remote sites with connectivity to six sites via telecommunications. Through telemedicine, diagnostic and telepharmacy services will be provided to remote sites that have no road access and can only be visited by boat or seaplane. The North Star Clinic in Seward, Alaska will serve as the hub site.

Cordova City School District

\$475,289

Alaska

Areas Served: Bethel Borough

Contact: Jim Nygaard

Telephone: 907-424-3265

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Rural Development grant funds will be used by Cordova City School District for interactive videoconferencing, on-line learning, laptops and IPOD devices. This combination of distance learning technology will expand educational opportunities for students and teachers and will enable the school district to develop a community of on-line teachers from other school districts throughout the area and state.

Southcentral Foundation

\$361,220

Alaska

Areas Served: Kenai Peninsula, Aleutians, Denali, Valdez-Cordova

Contact: Fred Kopacz



Telephone: (907) 729-4992
Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Rural Development grant funds will be utilized for a telemedicine/telepharmacy network to provide safe, secure, timely, and cost-effective medications with pharmacist oversight from the hub site in Anchorage, Alaska. Residents in 40 remote communities of Alaska will benefit from this project. The project also includes a collaboration of Alaska Native tribal corporations that operate end-user health clinics which will install automated dispensing units in remote sites.

Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium

\$267,885

Alaska

Areas Served: Sitka City & Borough, Haines Borough, Juneau City & Borough, Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area, and Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area

Contact: Jeannie Monk

Telephone: (907) 463-6685

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

The Rural Development grant funds will be utilized in two components of this telemedicine project. First, the project will expand telepharmacy services at four rural health clinics using PickPoint automated dispensing machines and supporting equipment. Second, behavioral health services at eight health clinics will be upgraded and strengthened through videoconferencing and ELMO document cameras. Improved health services will benefit 12,370 Alaska Natives and 6,000 non native rural residents in twelve communities within Southeast Alaska.

Southeast Island School District

\$286,009

Alaska

Areas Served: Ketchikan Gateway and Prince of Wales

Contact: Melissa Lynn Cook

Telephone: (907) 828-8254

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Rural Development funding will be used by this distance learning project to upgrade and expand distance learning capability in ten rural sites in Alaska. Each participating site will receive interactive videoconferencing equipment which will enable each site to interconnect and share content and resources. Both interactive and web-based learning resources will be utilized. Interactive videoconferencing will be IP standards based, using Alaska's ATT high speed network.



Wrangell Public Schools

\$329,681

Alaska

Areas Served: Wrangell, Haines, Bristol, Petersburg, Craig City, and Juneau

Contact: Larry Wilson

Telephone: (907) 874-2347

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Rural Development grant funds will be used by Wrangell School District on a distance learning project for videoconferencing equipment and technology, laptops, and on-line course management systems. This technology will allow students to participate in courses while traveling, have greater flexibility in scheduling classes, and allow geographically isolated students the opportunity to take virtual field trips. The system will also allow for medical consultation for students with special needs.

2007 Grant Awards

Dena' Nena' Henash (dba) Tanana Chiefs Conference

\$331,519

Alaska

Areas Served: Fairbanks North Star Borough, Southeast Fairbanks, Yukon Koyukuk, and North Slope

Contact: Shane Derendoff

Telephone: 907-452-8251

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

DLT funding will be used to place behavioral health kiosks at each of the associated sites which will provide a contained station for patient consultation. The kiosks will utilize touch-screen HP computers, multiple cameras, and voice-canceling microphones and speakers. The system will enable rural Alaskan residents to access mental health therapy, counseling, substance abuse treatment assessments, and pre-treatment and aftercare services

Yukon Koyukuk School District Alaska

\$485,117

Alaska

Areas Served: Fairbanks North Star Borough, Yakutat Borough, and Yukon Koyukuk

Contact: Kerry Boyd

Telephone: 907-374-9435

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

This distance learning project will use four new delivery systems, hosted at two hubs, and connecting to ten end-user sites located in extremely remote Native



communities in the Alaska Interior. The twelve sites will have the capacity to be interconnected with IP standards-based videoconferencing capabilities. The school district will install one new permanent delivery system, and the TCC will acquire one permanent system and two mobile systems. With IP-based videoconferencing equipment and computers, participating schools will be able to connect with each other and other sites that support standards-based IP connections. The installation of this technology will allow for educational programming and specialty coursework to rural students.

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

\$224,625

Alaska

Areas Served: Aleutians East, Anchorage, Bristol Bay, Denali, Fairbanks North Star, Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island, Lake and Peninsula, North Slope, and Northwest Arctic Boroughs

Contact: Stewart Ferguson

Telephone: 907-729-2262

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

This project will equip 119 rural and Alaskan bush communities with electronic vital sign monitoring equipment and stethoscopes to enable distant physicians to detect and treat respiratory infections, asthma, chronic pulmonary disease, heart disease and strokes. The match was reduced because one match support letter was not signed by authorized official. This reduced total match, but we increased grant request to keep project intact.

Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments

\$401,088

Alaska

Areas Served: Anchorage Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, and Yukon Koyukuk

Contact: Ben Stevens

Telephone: 907-662-2587

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

The project will address the disparity in healthcare opportunities between the seven rural Alaskan communities and more populated locations in Alaska and the lower 48 states. Interactive telemedicine equipment will be placed in the Yukon flats Health Center and six Athabascan community clinics. This equipment will allow for immediate medical consultation capabilities with the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center in Fairbanks and the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.



Lower Kuskokwim School District

\$445,639

Alaska

Areas Served: Bethel, Juneau, and Kenai Peninsula

Contact: Bill Ferguson

Telephone: 907-543-4912

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

The project will utilize RUS funding to expand the SNAP project which connects remote schools in the Lower Kuskokwim School District of Alaska. The project will enable the district to obtain and share content, provide instruction from teachers who are highly qualified, expand and enhance professional development for faculty and staff, and connect students in the remote sites to other students helping them retain their native language and culture.

Copper River Native Association

\$303,605

Alaska

Areas Served: This Area Is Located Outside of An Established Borough

Contact: Leslie Bennett

Telephone: 907-822-8826

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

The project will create a videoconferencing network that will enable Native Alaskans living in their villages to receive healthcare services that is consistent with their traditional practices and cultural perspectives. The network will bring professional behavioral health treatment and training opportunities to the Copper River Basin and immediate access to emergency psychiatric consultations via the network.

2006 Grant Awards

Alaska Island Community Services

\$50,885

Alaska

Areas Served: Anchorage, Coffman Cove, Petersburg, and Wrangell

Contact: Mr. Mark Walker

Telephone: 907-874-2372

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Rural Development funds will be used to initiate a telemedicine program which will enhance behavioral and medical health services for clients in rural southeast Alaska. The program will offer three primary services that include telepharmacy, telepsychiatry, and telemedicine (primary care). The program will provide



medical professionals in Wrangell, Petersburg, and Anchorage with the means to deliver health care, via telecommunications, to rural residents in the project areas.

Lower Kuskokwim School District

\$442,827

Alaska

Areas Served: Atmautluak, Bethel, Chefornak, Eek , Juneau, Kasigluk, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Kwethluk, Kwigillingok, Newtok, Nunapitchuk, Quinhagak, Seward

Contact: Ted Berry

Telephone: 907-543-4876

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Rural Development funds will be used for a distance learning project that will provide an interesting and challenging curriculum for students as well as allow the district to obtain and share content, provide instruction from highly qualified teachers, expand and enhance professional development for faculty and staff, and connect students located at all remote sites to help them retain their native language and culture.

Skagway School District

\$490,657

Alaska

Areas Served: Anchorage, Juneau, Kenai Peninsula, Nome Census Area, Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, and Southeast Fairbanks Census Area

Contact: Kathy Pierce

Telephone: 907-983-2960

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Rural Development funds will be used to enhance the Alaska Technology Communication partnership which provides educational opportunities and adult learning to rural isolated schools. The project will incorporate interactive videoconferencing equipment and digital libraries to provide expanded course content, AP and Honors courses, and educational opportunities for adults.

Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)

\$219,255

Alaska

Areas Served: Sitka, Juneau, Haines, Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon, Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan, and Wrangell-Petersburg

Contact: Bob Cita

Telephone: 907-463-4085

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Rural Development funds will be used to develop an information technology infrastructure that allows SEARHC to effectively deliver telemedicine and



distance learning programs that result in an increase in access to health services for the 12,370 Alaska Native beneficiaries and 6,000 rural residents of twelve isolated communities within Southeast Alaska. Specifically, the project will allow replacement of routers and upgrade of a videoconferencing bridge. The project will increase telebehavioral health, clinical services, and prevention of chronic disease while reducing patient travel and meeting unmet health care needs

2005 Grant Awards

Aleutians East Borough School District

Alaska

Areas served: Aleutians East Borough,

Contact: Bill Burr

Telephone: (907) 383-5222

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Rural Development funds will be used to create a technological infrastructure capable of handling the present distance learning needs of the district. The project will establish computer labs and wireless networks at each end-user site which will provide traditional classes with distance learning courses through the installation of a Category 6 based network at each site. The six end-user sites are the only communities in the Aleutians East Borough. Over 2,500 rural residents and 288 students will be served by the project.

Norton Sound Health Corporation

\$499,646

Alaska

Areas Served: Bering Strait and Seward Peninsula

Contact: Vicki Hamilton

Telephone: 907-443-3293

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Videoconferencing equipment purchased with grant funds will improve primary and mental health care in the area. Video conferencing will enable "face-to-face" real-time visits between the doctors and patients. This capability will dramatically improve diagnosis and treatment of patients, reduce patient travel, and increase the availability of behavioral health services. The hub site in Nome will link to 15 end-user sites inhabited by approximately 5,500 residents on 2 islands 185 miles off the coast only accessible by boat or fixed wing aircraft.

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

\$500,000

Alaska

Areas Served: Bethel Borough

Contact: Valerie Warzewick



Telephone: 907-543-6074
Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant funds will be bring clinical services and provider education to the residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwin Delta through video-conferencing. The project will enhance emergency care and telepsychiatry, decrease provider and patient travel, and increased access to quality health care for 47 rural end-user sites serving approximately 23,000 Native and non-native residents in a roadless area about the size of Oregon.

Eastern Aleutian Tribes

\$412,867

Alaska

Areas Served: Aleutians East Borough, Adak, St. George, Whittier

Contact: L. Chris Devlin, Mike Layne

Telephone: 907-277-1440

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

A distance education and telemedicine network, named MediPeer, will provide primary healthcare and education services to the 2,600 residents of the eastern Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. The hub site in Anchorage will communicate via satellite using IP video teleconferencing equipment with 9 remote clinics. Travel for residents of these islands is by airplane or boat. This network will ensure these residents will receive necessary healthcare services during the first year of operation. The network will also provide healthcare education to healthcare providers in the area.

Maniilaq Association

\$269,892

Alaska

Areas Served: Northwest Arctic Borough

Contact: Eugene Smith

Telephone: 907-442-7207

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Videoconferencing equipment will provide both 2-way voice and video communications, and data transmission for medical clinics. The participating clinics will use the equipment primarily for patient care and exams, diagnosis, treatment, and other clinical outreach services and emergency patient triage as well. The project will serve over 7,500 residents in an extremely remote area of Alaska.

Alaska Primary Care Association, Inc.

\$258,765

Alaska



Areas Served: Aleutians West, Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Wrangell-Petersburg, Bristol Bay Borough, Southeast Fairbanks, Valdez-Cordova, Kenai Peninsula Borough

Contact: Marilyn Kasmar

Telephone: 907-929-2725

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Grant funds will provide access to specialty healthcare providers for the patients of the non-tribal community health centers and other safety-net providers in the state of Alaska. The project will benefit approximately 75,000 residents and seasonal workers of rural Alaska.

2004 Grant Awards

Chatham School District

\$472,579

Alaska

Areas served: Angoon

Contact: Connie Newman

Telephone: 907-788-3302

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

DLT funds will help stem out migration from 4 communities, by providing enriched content from the University of Alaska and other sites. The content will include instructional information and vocational and career training, in order to provide job training and re-training. The project places special emphasis on the development skills and qualifications that can be used by residents while remaining in their home villages.

Haines Borough School District

\$499,999

Alaska

Areas served: Haines Borough, Metlakatla

Contact: Woody Wilson

Telephone: 907-766-2664

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

1163 rural residents in 4 communities will receive expanded access to distance learning, vocational and career opportunities from this project. Students will receive focused content that will help them pass mandated progress examinations and additional and enriched content that will help them prepare for entry into the job market or higher education. In addition, replacement of equipment will ensure that these students are conversant with today's technology - a critical marker of success at work or at college.



Kuspuk School District

\$411,913

Alaska

Areas served: Bethel Census Area

Contact: Dr. Kim Langton

Telephone: 907-675-4250

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

DLT funds will be utilized to allow for the provision of distance learning opportunities between eight villages in the Kuspuk School District (KSD), Kuskokwim College (KC) and the Kuskokwim Regional Health Corporation located in Bethel. Expanded course offerings for students, professional development opportunities, as well as content through virtual field trips will be made available. The KSD will serve over 5,400 residents with this project.

2003 Awards

United Utilities, Inc.

\$3,631,000 Loan

Alaska

Areas Served: Bethel and Wade Hampton

Contact: Steve Hamlen

Telephone: (907) 561-1674

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

United Utilities, Inc. is an existing RUS borrower and will use DLT loan funds to acquire and install 18 new satellite earth stations and the necessary equipment that will be leased to GCI Communications Corporation to provide services to educational facilities in the Lower Yukon and Lower Kuskokwim school districts.

Educational services to be offered to the 18 locations will include instructional video services and internet access. The Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center intends to offer vocational educational courses. Also, the SeaLife and Challenger Centers will offer science educational courses. Other courses to be offered will include advanced mathematics, science, foreign language, art, music, and courses that are not normally offered to the students within the 18 end-user sites.

Denali Borough School District

\$500,000

Alaska

Areas Served: Denali Borough

Contact: Robert Whicker

Telephone: (907) 683-2278

Congressional District: Young, At-Large



Denali Borough School District, in partnership with the North West Arctic School District and the Denali Borough of Alaska will utilize RUS grant funds for start up of the project "Moving Content, Not People." The Denali Borough covers more than 12,000 square miles of the Alaskan interior and serves students from five communities in three schools located in Healy, Anderson, and Cantwell. This project is geared to provide high quality staff development opportunities as well as equip the Tri-Valley Community Center with distance learning and interactive video conferencing equipment, computers, and other technology that will offer students and residents new educational opportunities. RUS funding will enable Denali Borough Schools to provide on-line courses, develop a "virtual school", and develop a model approach to school improvement, thus making an important contribution to small, rural schools throughout the state of Alaska and beyond.

Kake City School District

\$490,000

Alaska

Areas Served: Cities of Kake and Sitka

Contact: Eric Gebhart

Telephone: (907) 785-3741

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Kake School District will use RUS funding to implement a distance learning/telemedicine project that will benefit 500 students, 31 teachers, 710 residents of Kake, as well as 8,835 residents of Sitka. The project meets a wide variety of educational and healthcare needs by providing resources via 2-way videoconferencing. This project, through the use of technology, will provide more modern course offerings to match today's needs, as well as increase healthcare resources throughout the area served.

Pribilof School District

\$500,000

Alaska

Areas Served: Saint Paul, Saint George, Naukati, Hollis, and Hyder

Contact: Malcolm Fleming

Telephone: (907) 546-3337

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

The Pribilof School District will utilize RUS grant funds for a distance learning project that will serve 3,544 residents and the Saint George and Saint Paul schools in the isolated rural communities of Naukati, Hollis, and Hyder. A total of 684 students will benefit from expanded educational opportunities and 13 teachers will benefit from expanded professional development opportunities. Distance learning courses will be provided through the installation of interactive video conferencing system and computer equipment. This equipment will also be utilized by the community Head Start program to train teachers and support staff



and to provide exposure to sights and activities outside the immediate area to students.

Southeast Island School District

\$485,732

Alaska

Areas Served: Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska

Contact: Stan Osborne

Telephone: (907) 828-8254

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

The Southeast Island School District is an exceptionally rural area of Southeast Alaska. The Southeast Island School district will use RUS funding for a distance learning project that will include two hub/end user sites and eight end user sites within the district. Educational courses and teaching will be shared and a community center for public internet access will be established. Video conferencing equipment will also be utilized. Future plans include links to a clinic and other schools. A total of 919 students and 2,776 people will benefit from the project.

Yukon-Koyukuk School District

\$500,000

Alaska

Areas Served: Yukon-Koyukuk School District

Contact: Christopher Simon

Telephone: (907) 374-9400

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

The Yukon-Koyukuk School District will utilize RUS funds to implement a distance-learning network for the entire school district. The network will serve 1,780 students at ten extremely remote end user sites. Objectives of the distance-learning network are to provide high quality professional development to faculty and staff, improve and increase services to students with disabilities and regular high school academic subjects. The project also seeks to provide expanded educational and vocational/technical opportunities that will reduce the disparity between sites in the district as compared to more urban districts.

2002 Grant Awards

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; Anchorage, Alaska

\$500,000

Areas Served: Rural Alaska

Contact: Linda Lekness

Telephone: (907) 729-2261

Congressional District: Young, At-Large



The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, a tribal organization, will use RUS grant funds to provide direct telemedicine services to 165 rural and remote communities throughout Alaska to improve the delivery of health care. All 165 sites face economic challenges as well as travel difficulties due to severe weather and rough terrain that create barriers to accessing primary health care. In addition to live telemedicine consultations, some communities will be able to use the equipment to provide training and continuing education with a video teleconferencing option. The existing telecommunications system will be used without requiring additional network lines, servers, or connectivity. Project sites will receive additional hardware that attaches to the telemedicine carts already in use and will expand clinical capacity for telemedicine consults, especially in the areas of ear and respiratory disease. The project is expected to benefit approximately 164,000 rural Native Alaskans.

The Health TV Channel, Inc.

\$500,000

Alaska

Areas Served: Alaska

Contact: Joseph Friedman

Telephone: (907) 770-6200

Congressional District(s): Applicant and Project: At Large

The Alaska Workforce Development Project was submitted by The Health TV Channel Inc., a non-profit organization. RUS funds will be used to provide distance training and learning to communities throughout rural Alaska by acquiring instructional programming and production equipment. The project will partner with the Community Health Aid Program, which has eighty-eight (88) health aides in rural villages throughout Alaska, and will provide the training to most of these extremely rural sites. The target group for this project are rural health care providers in Alaska Native Health System including seven (7) regional hospitals, five (5) physician based health centers, twenty-two (22) physician Assistant Health Centers, and 168 Rural Village Health Stations. Approximately 1,500 "learners" will be trained who will serve potentially 450,000 extremely rural and urban residents. The content material will be broadcast on a satellite transponder called Alaska Three. The specific coverage area for this project includes 57 end-user sites located in extremely isolated towns and villages that often have no roads. The technology to be used is broadcast television which will display programming content on individual television sets in an office or home.

2001 Grant Awards

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

\$361,272



Alaska

Areas Served: Glacier View Community, SuValley Community, City of Houston, City of Palmer, City of Wasilla

Contact: Dave Holmquist

Telephone: (907) 745-2158

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough covers a vast geographical area (24,693 square miles, about the size of the state of West Virginia), and while it is the fastest growing area in the state and the second fastest growing area in the nation, it is populated by a relatively small number of people. The Mat-Su Equal Access Learning Plan has been designed to be fully integrated with existing educational resources in the Borough. The Mat-Su Equal Access Learning Plan will serve seven end users at local high schools with a total student enrollment of 3,564. These seven schools are: Colony High School; Glacier View High School; Houston Junior/Senior High School; Palmer Senior High School; Susitna Valley High School; Wasilla High School; and, Valley Pathways High School. This project will allow access to educational content, provide hands-on training to improve technology skills and provide on-going workshops. A fully furnished mini-CTC center with 15 portable, wireless Internet accessed computers to be used for distance learning courses during the school day and share with the community in the evening will also be provided along with a more efficient Internet connection permitting interactive online educational materials to be delivered using audio, video and text by way of the Internet.

1999 Grant Awards

The Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.; Fairbanks, Alaska

\$259,064

Alaska

Areas Served: Yukon-Koyukuk, Southeast Fairbanks

Contact: Rebekah Hunter

Telephone: (907) 452-8251

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

The Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. (TCC) operates an Indian Health Service compact to provide medical services to tribal members and beneficiaries residing in Fairbanks and 25 tribal villages in interior Alaska. In order to improve and extend service to the tribal villages, TCC has requested funding of Telemedicine for Alaskan Interior Tribes (TAIT). TAIT will be implemented using standard phone lines, off-the-shelf computer hardware, and proven telemedicine technologies. The equipment purchased will allow the use of telemedicine applications for diagnosis, treatment, and follow up in a wide range of medical services including cardiology, dermatology, orthopedics and behavioral health at the village clinics.



Norton Sound Health Corporation; Nome, Alaska

\$313,025

Alaska

Areas Served: Nome, Bering Straits

Contact: Maurice Ninham

Telephone: (907) 443-3224

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Norton Sound Health Corporation, a tribal health care organization, has been in existence for 29 years. The project will remove access barriers to health care services in the Bering Straits Region of Alaska. Such barriers include geography (25,000 square miles), absence of a highway system, and the high cost of air travel. This project will transmit data between 15 village clinics, IRA tribal government offices and two health care providers in Nome. The project will transmit diagnosis-quality data images to specialists in Anchorage thus avoiding costly and dangerous emergency transport of patients. The population of the region is approximately 9,085. Roughly 50 percent of the population live in 15 extremely remote villages. The project will also provide greater access to vocational and adult education programs.

Aleutians East Borough; Anchorage, Alaska

\$233,767

Alaska

Areas Served: Aleutians East Borough

Contact: Robert Juettner

Telephone: (907) 274-7555

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

The "Electronic Bridge Project" will bring the technologically under-served and economically disadvantaged residents of small, isolated and rural Alaskan communities into the Information Age. This project will connect hospitals, training centers, government offices, and schools. The project will consist of a 128-Kb satellite circuit, wide area, digital Internet Protocol network that will provide health care information, training classes, and videoconferencing with hospitals in Anchorage. The high winds and fog make travel very difficult in this part of Alaska. This telemedicine project will help residents of these remote villages to gain access to medical care and other services.

City of Galena, Alaska

\$186,490

Alaska

Areas Served: Yukon-Koyukuk

Contact: Mr. Marvin Yoder

Telephone (907) 656-1301

Congressional District: Young, At-Large



The applicant is a consortium consisting of the Galena Health Center, the Galena Mental Health Center, the Tanana School, the Project Education Charter School, and Galena Schools. This project will provide health services, mental health services, educational classes and lifelong learning opportunities to the extremely rural, remote and primarily Native communities of Galena and Tanana, Alaska. The system will allow video/voice/data to piggyback on existing telecommunication lines. This capability will be used in medical diagnosis and treatment, mental health counseling, staff training, collaborative student and community projects and access to regional, statewide and national medical experts. The Yukon-Koyukuk region is very rural and primarily populated by Alaska Native tribes; and has a high rate of poverty, low education levels and high incidences of "at-risk" behavior and attendant medical problems. The area has no roads and there is no medical doctor in the region. Alaska Native residents are the primary beneficiaries of this project.

1997 Grant Award

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation

\$300,000

Alaska

Areas Served: Aleknaaik, Chiginik, Chiginik Bake, Chiginik, Lagoon, Clarks Point, and Dillingham

Contact : Christine Decourtney

Telephone: 907-842-9422

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC) is a native American tribal organization and is the sole provider of comprehensive public health and primary care services to most of the residents in southwest Alaska who live in the 32 villages within the 46,000 square mile service area accessed only by airplane. Care that cannot be provided in the village or during a health care provider visit requires extensive air travel (costing between \$70 and \$6,000 per flight) depending on if it is a scheduled flight, charter flight or medical evacuation. BBAHC operates through a unique system using trained village residents who provide basic health care and emergency services to the people of the village under guidance of health care providers by telephone contact. RUS funding will help provide additional telemedicine facilities which will enable health providers at a distant location to more accurately diagnose health problems in the villages and thus reduce the need for travel by the patients in many cases. This technology will especially benefit Optometry, Dentistry, Dermatology and ENT by allowing a distant physician to actually view the symptoms and prescribe the proper treatment.



1996 Grant Award

Council of Athabascan Tribal Government

\$317,729

Alaska

Areas Served: Fort Yukon

Contact: Patricia J. Stanley

Telephone: 907-662-2587

Congressional District: Young, At-Large

The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments will coordinate with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Interior-Aleutian Campus and AT&T Alascom to implement a project using RUS grant funds to create a system to deliver critically needed educational and medical services to one of the most remote and underserved regions of the U.S. by connecting this remote area of Alaska and the world via the Internet. At the present time there is virtually no telecommunications access in the Yukon Flats region due to poor connectivity and prohibitive costs. The project is intended to be used by tribal members and villagers, village government councils and employees, community health aid providers, health professionals, rural human services/prevention workers, degree programs and adult community education university students. Reducing disparities in access and promoting the use of the national information infrastructure will encourage economic development, personal empowerment, and self-determination in these communities and will allow them access to the information resources of the larger world.

1994 Grant Award

Copper Valley Interactive Television Network.

Areas Served: The Burroughs of

Copper Valley Region of Alaska encompasses 24,663 square miles and has a population density of one person for every 8 square miles.

This project is a combination of distance learning and medical link which will interconnect 7 public schools in 6 remote communities. As a medical component, medical clinics in 4 of those communities will be interconnected and teleradiology equipment will be installed in Cross Road Medical Center and linked with a hospital in Palmer for needed radiological expertise. Prince William Sound Community College in Valdez will also be linked to the network. Educational opportunities, access to medical services/expertise and communications between these remote communities will be dramatically enhanced with video and data communications. The system will utilize two-way interactive satellite transmission combined with existing telephone lines in a TI format.



1993 Grant Award

Yukon-Kuskokwinn Health Corp., Bethel

Project Name: Distance Delivery Consortium

This telecommunications service unites five school districts, a university branch facility, a health corporation, a national guard unit and others.