



DLT Awards – Alabama

2012 Grant Awards

Randolph County Board of Education

Alabama

\$405,799

Areas Served: Clay and Randolph Counties

Contact: Deborah McManus

Telephone: (256) 357-4611 x 30

Congressional District: Rogers, 3rd Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to install new distance learning equipment in the six high schools of the Randolph and Clay County School District, including the new high school in Clay County. These rural counties of Eastern Alabama continue to experience high poverty and unemployment, and the school districts are challenged in attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers especially in special areas such as foreign languages and advanced placement classes. The new system will allow students in this school district to become more competitive when applying for college or future employment, and for the school districts to meet state requirements to offer online or technology-enhanced courses in order for students to graduate.

2011 Grant Awards

Cheaha Regional Mental Health & Mental Retardation Board, Inc

\$105,040

Alabama

Areas Served: Clay, Randolph, and Talladega Counties

Contact: Cynthia L. Atkinson

Telephone: (256) 245-1340

Congressional District: Rogers, 3rd Dist.

Cheaha provides mental health services in an underserved rural, four-county region of East-Central Alabama. USDA Rural Development funds will make it possible for Cheaha to obtain videoconferencing technology which will connect their outpatient clinics and facilitate access to counseling and psychiatric practices and primary care. The new system will extend the reach and effectiveness of Cheaha's staff in mental health crisis intervention, psychiatric evaluations/consultations, and other services. The video connectivity will also allow for mental health training so that field staff can apply the latest research and treatment techniques specific to topics such as anxiety, schizophrenia-psychotic disorders and substance abuse. Desktop video conferencing systems



will be installed and managed by a video control system and firewall transversal. Cheaha will match grant funds with \$52,520 of local funding.

Southwest Alabama Behavioral Health Care Systems

\$101,440

Alabama

Areas Served: Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Coffee, Covington, Hale, Monroe, and Pike Counties

Contact: Candace Harden

Telephone: (251) 575-4203

Congressional District: Bonner, 1st Dist.; Roby, 2nd Dist.; and Sewell, 7th Dist.

USDA Rural Development funds will assist with the purchase of video conferencing equipment to connect nine new mental health care sites and a child care center to a community mental health agency network in Southwest Alabama. This will allow sites to share treatment personnel, to connect patients at one location to health care specialists at another, and to generally improve mental health services and make services available for underserved patients for some of the most impoverished and medically underserved counties in the U.S. The system will be designed to better treat patients who need services for mental illness, substance abuse, mental retardation and early intervention-by setting up direct video connections at their local mental health office to counselors, case managers, nurses, psychiatrists, and qualified mental retardation professionals in a number of regional locations. The system will also offer sustained professional development for mental health providers and assist them in gearing-up resources to handle crisis situations. Southwest Alabama will match grant funds with \$31,447 of local funding.

Bullock County Board of Education

\$342,350

Alabama

Areas Served: Bullock County

Contact: Alexis Smith

Telephone: (334) 738-2164

Congressional District: Roby, 2nd Dist.

Bullock County in Southeast Alabama faces its own unique challenges of extreme poverty and isolation. USDA Rural Development funds will assist Bullock County Schools in a distance learning project to purchase video teleconferencing equipment and peripherals for all four district school sites in a community which is more than 70 percent African American. The program that educators have designed will address the educational needs of their students, and also provide them with much-needed guidance outside the classroom. Teachers will have access to professional development opportunities. The new system will allow Bullock County to partner with resources outside of the county to address its challenges, such as the drug abuse awareness and education



program in partnership with the Drug Council, Inc., Wallace Community College, Central Alabama Community College and the University of Alabama will all assist county educators in providing new educational opportunities via the distance learning system. Advanced placement courses, dual enrollment, new electives and virtual field trips will add to the richness of offerings to the students and their families. Bullock County will match grant funds with \$139,970 of local funding.

2010 Grant Awards

Wilcox County Schools

\$426,610

Alabama

Areas Served: Greene and Wilcox Counties

Contact: Angela Parham

Telephone: 334-682-4716

Congressional Districts: Sewell, 7th Dist.

This project, made possible with USDA Rural Development funds, will provide distance learning technology to Wilcox and Green Counties in Alabama – an area that has had challenges in a low capital investment in education and subsequently suffers high dropout rates. This project will provide this mostly African American community with shared classes, virtual field trips, and classes for adults after school hours and on weekends. Nursing education and African American heritage will also be a main focus for the project.

Roanoke Healthcare Authority

\$221,490

Alabama

Areas Served: Randolph County

Contact: Michael David Tipsword

Telephone: 334-863-4111

Congressional District: Anniston, 3rd Dist.

Randolph Medical Center (RMC) will be installing tele-cardiology and child abuse examination telemedicine equipment to link patients with a remote specialist. Portable video conferencing robots will be installed in homes to provide care 24/7 for cardiac patients and to see trained specialists located in urban areas for child abused patients.

Glenwood, Inc./Indian River Mental Health

\$353,488

Alabama

Areas Served: Bibb, DeKalb, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa Counties

Contact: Greg Joseph Carlson



Telephone: 205-795-3322
Congressional District: Aderholt, 4th Dist.

Glenwood Inc. will be partnering with Autism and Behavioral Health Center and Indian Rivers Mental Health Center to provide telemedicine for serious mental illness, substance disorders, autism, and other intellectual disabilities at schools and health centers. Video conferencing equipment will be installed and community outreach and training for families or professionals will be available to improve communities' health.

Coosa County Board of Education

\$409,462
Alabama
Areas Served: Coosa and Marengo Counties
Contact: Dennis Sanford
Telephone: 256-377-4913
Congressional District: Rogers, 3rd Dist.

This program will bring distance learning to seven schools in rural Alabama. The area has been subject to a severe rural exodus. This initiative will seek to reverse that trend by creating more learning opportunities through shared classes that can expand advanced placement programs, dual enrollment, as well as offering drug and alcohol abuse education.

InMed Clinical Services, LLC

\$489,000
Alabama and Georgia
Areas Served: Bullock, Crenshaw, and Rabun Counties
Contact: Victoria F. Lawrenson
Telephone: 334-386-0343
Congressional District: Bright, 2nd Dist. (AL) and Broun 10th Dist. (GA)

InMed Clinical Services, LLC will be linking four community health care facilities in northern Georgia and southeastern Alabama to create a critical telehealth network to service regions that currently have health care provider shortages. The telemedicine equipment will open access to mental health and psychiatry specialists, neurology specialists, pediatric specialist, staff development, and outreach programs for residents of the community.

2009 Grant Awards

Glenwood, Inc.

\$334,067
Alabama
Areas Served: Jefferson and DeKalb Counties



Contact: Greg Carlson
Telephone: 205-795-3322
Congressional District: Bachus, 6th Dist. and Aderholt, 4th Dist.

This project will fund videoconference equipment for 6 schools covering a 2-county area creating an interactive video network that with an emphasis on services for autism and behavioral health. The resources and connectivity will enable teachers, counselors and students to better address their challenges by connecting to other linked networks and professionals.

University of Alabama

\$99,800

Alabama

Areas Served: Bibb, Monroe, Pickens, and Walker Counties

Contact: Cynthia Hope

Telephone: 205-348-5152

Congressional District: Bonner, 1st Dist.; Aderholt, 4th Dist.; and Spencer, 6th Dist.

This project will expand telemedicine from the College of Health Science's obstetrical and psychiatric services into 4 rural clinics, including clinical education for medical students in clerkship serving in these rural clinics.

2007 Grant Awards

Hale County Board of Education

\$400,402

Alabama

Areas Served: Hale County

Contact: Frank Stegall

Telephone: 334-624-8836

Congressional District: Davis, 7th Dist.

The project is designed to use web-based and interactive Distance Learning technology to enhance educational opportunities for students and community members. Benefits include shared teacher talents and abilities through course delivery, participation in a distance learning initiative sponsored by the Alabama Department of Education, provide teachers with professional development opportunities, and provide virtual field trips to students

Thomasville City Schools

\$209,047

Alabama

Areas Served: Clarke County

Contact: Ruby O'Bryant



Telephone: 334-636-9955

Congressional District: Bonner, 1st Dist. and Davis, 7th Dist.

The project will create a distance learning partnership between three Thomasville City schools, the Central Technology Office, and Vanderbilt University Virtual School. The project will connect local schools to exceptional sources of curriculum and content using IP-based interactive videoconferencing. Benefits will include foreign language classes, access to virtual field trips, and professional development opportunities through connections with Alabama Southern Community College and Vanderbilt.

2006 Grant Awards

Houston County Board of Education

\$217,250

Alabama

Areas Served: Houston County

Contact: Bob Blalock

Telephone: 334-792-8331

Congressional District: Everett, 2nd Dist.

Rural Development funds will be utilized for web-based and interactive distance learning technology to enhance learning opportunities for students and community members in rural Alabama.

The Greater Mobile Washington County Mental Health-Mental Retardation Board, Inc.

\$72,714

Alabama

Areas Served: Bibb, Mobile, Pickens, and Washington Counties

Contact: Steve Dolan

Telephone: 251-450-5901

Congressional Districts: Bonner, 1st Dist; Bachus, 6th Dist.; and Davis, 7th Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used for interactive telecommunication technology to connect the Mobile Mental Health Center to five community mental health centers in Alabama. Services provided will include psychiatric consultation and treatment, staff education and development, outreach services, and consultation services for other care providers in the rural service areas.

2005 Grant Awards

Talladega County Schools/Talladega County Board of Education

\$488,030



Alabama

Areas Served: Talladega County

Contact: Sallie T. Chastain

Telephone: 256-315-5184

Congressional District: Rogers, 3rd

The project will establish a distance learning collaboration with 7 Talladega County Schools, the District Professional Development Center and the Central Alabama Community College. The project will use IP-based interactive videoconferencing to provide exceptional quality interactive distance learning capabilities to students and residents of Talladega County.

2004 Grant Awards

Escambia County School District

\$499,869

Alabama

Areas Served: Escambia County

Contact: Jerry L. Weeks

Telephone: 251-867-9010

Congressional District: Bonner, 1st Dist.

The Escambia County School District has sponsored this project to establish the Escambia County Educational Consortium and to convert its LAN network to a WAN network. The consortium includes the school district, hospital, community college, and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and will be connecting to 16 end user sites. The grant funds will be used to purchase hub and end user distance learning equipment to benefit over 6,800 students and staff of Escambia County. The project will provide college courses, advance placement courses, elective studies, behavioral counseling, teacher continuing education, technology training, adult education, Indian culture education, science curriculum, and employment training.

2002 Grant Awards

Choctaw County Board of Education

\$233,262

Alabama

Areas Served: Choctaw County

Contact: Charlotte Abston

Telephone: (205) 459 3031 x 238

Congressional Districts: Bachus 7th Dist.



The Choctaw County Board of Education will use RUS funds to purchase and install interactive distance learning equipment in four county schools. Choctaw County's geographic isolation combined with long distance travel over secondary, unimproved roads makes it difficult for residents to obtain the types of services and opportunities available to most people in urban areas. Additionally, due to budget constraints, the school system has had great difficulty funding staff teaching positions for essential courses such as math, science, technology, art and music. The distance learning program will allow students in these small area schools to take these basic courses as well as college preparatory courses and GED courses. It will provide teaching professionals with opportunities to meet certification and continuing education requirements. Scalable T-1 service at the hub site will enable the system to interface with other ISDN and T-1 networks. The schools will carry information over fiber optic cable to the classroom. Approximately 2,200 rural students and faculty will benefit from this project.

Conecuh County School District

\$500,000

Alabama

Areas Served: Counties of Conecuh and Wilcox

Contact: Ronnie Brogden

Telephone: (251) 578-1752

Congressional District: Everett, 2nd Dist. and Bachus, 7th Dist.

The Conecuh School District will use RUS grant funds to establish distance learning labs in seven schools and enable two school districts to network with each other through the use of distance learning technology. The project will provide: increased course offerings to students; career and post-secondary education planning; professional development courses for teaching staff; community adult education; and, teleconferencing equipment and services for local businesses. This economically depressed area suffers from high unemployment and a lack of jobs with adequate wages. High drop out rates among high school students, teen pregnancy and low test scores also have an extremely negative impact on the communities in this service area. The project will increase student achievement by providing resources never before available to them. The variety of classes available to students and the quality of the instruction will broaden their horizons and show them elements of life outside of their own geographic area. This project will serve over 2,500 students and 323 faculty in two school districts.

2001 Grant Awards

Lowndes County Board of Education

\$228,000

Alabama

Areas Served: Lowndes County



Contact: Dr. John W. Covington;
Telephone: (334) 548-2131
Congressional District: Bachus, 7th. Dist.

The proposed project will connect Alabama State University's, Auburn University at Montgomery's, and Trenholm-Patterson State Technical College's high-speed distance learning systems (all operating over T1 telecommunications systems) in Montgomery. Also, it will connect the Intercampus Interactive Telecommunications System that provides a video link between the state's major colleges and universities. This project will provide students with dual enrollment options and advanced placement courses, teacher in-service classes for professional development and continuing education, and Head Start and day care teacher training and certification classes.

North-West Shoals Community College

\$273,887

Alabama

Areas Served: Franklin County

Contact: Dr. James E. Wade

Telephone: (256) 331-6211

Congressional District: Aderholdt, 4th Dist.

The project service area is located in the economically depressed southern Appalachian region. RUS grant funds will be used to connect four schools with each other and with North-West Shoals Community College and the Internet that will provide for the transmission distance education classes such as English as a second language; adult education; continuing education; developmental math and English; health and safety training; childcare training; and business training. The community will also receive much-needed training and certification for a minimum of 8 rural fire and police departments, paramedics, nurses and others. The end-user sites will be able to provide telemedicine and social services to all of Franklin County. In addition, diagnostic health screening will be provided for all students via telemedicine software programs.

2000 Grant Awards

Northwest Alabama Health Center

\$121,578

Alabama

Areas Served: Fayette, Lamar, Marion, Walker and Winston Counties

Contact: Jerry A. Lovett

Telephone: (205) 387-0541

Congressional District: Aderholdt, 4th Dist.



The Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center is a fully certified five-County rural mental health center that provides comprehensive services for mentally ill, mentally retarded and substance abuse. This telemedicine project will demonstrate how the innovative application of merging technologies can lift rural mental health care systems to an equal footing with their urban counterparts. Medical services that would be offered by this proposed project would primarily be emergencies where the medical staff is in one part of the service area and the emergency is somewhere else. Both staffs will be able to have a patient's record faxed to them and, in turn, speak to the client and/or staff directly to make the proper decision of whether or not the client would have to be transported. Further medical benefits would involve commitment hearings to determine if a client needs to be hospitalized. A full range of professionals will be able to obtain needed continuing education without time lost for travel to distant sites, making them more available to their patients. Local hospitals and mental health professionals will have cost-effective continuing education available to their staffs, at less time and expense. The quality of care the patients receive will improve as continuing education is made available for their local medical communities. Rural communities will benefit from a more effective local hospital and health care system that is essential for economic and social stabilization.

St. Clair County Board of Education

\$99,301

Alabama

Areas Served: St. Clair

Contact: Mrs. Marie Manning

Telephone: (205) 594-7131

Congressional District: Riley, 3rd Dist.

The St. Clair County Board of Education wants to provide a distance learning system that will enable the students at three small high schools to take advanced college preparatory classes that the board of education would not be able to provide due to cost constraints without RUS assistance. The proposed project consists of installing equipment for three interactive distance learning classrooms. One distance learning classroom will be installed in the St. Clair County high schools at Ashville, Odenville and Ragland. The system hub will be located at St. Clair County High School, in Odenville. The Board will lease fiber optic lines that will form Phase I of its distance learning network (Board incurring this expense). The students will not be able to take advantage of the advanced placement classes offered by Gadsden State Community College unless the proposed network is installed. In Phase II, distance learning classrooms will be installed in the new replacement high schools that will be built in Moody and Springville that will extend the network to all five St. Clair County high schools. Located in rapidly growing western St. Clair County, these two large high schools will be able to share their advanced classes with the three small rural high schools via the new distance learning network. This will provide the Board with a



unique opportunity to share its investment in facilities and teachers with these small high schools located in the central and ea

Troy State University

\$350,000

Alabama

Areas Served: Coffee, Conecuh, Dale, and Macon Counties

Contact: Dr. Angie Roling

Telephone: (334) 670-3640

Congressional District; Everett, 2nd Dist.

Troy State University (TSU) is a state-funded university located in the city of Troy, Alabama. The city's population is approximately 15,000, and is located in Pike County in southeastern Alabama which is predominantly a rural, agrarian area of Alabama. The total population of Pike County is approximately 28,900. TSU significantly lags behind both the state and nation in critical educational and economic indicators. TSU will use the grant funds to purchase and install distance learning equipment that will include videoconferencing equipment for full-motion, fully interactive classrooms in seven public high schools and, one system on the TSU Dothan Campus to link and provide distance learning programs and services. Additionally, the grant application includes funding for the acquisition of a mobile videoconferencing system to be placed at the J.B. Taylor Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory which is operated as a regional center by the State of Alabama Department of Agriculture. In short, this project will provide students and residents in the Counties of Coffee, Conecuh, Dale, Geneva, and Macon, with equal educational opportunities that are available to students who live in more affluent and urban areas. Without such opportunities, this area will remain an area of isolation, poverty, and low educational achievement.

1999 Awards

Alabama A&M University

\$205,900

Alabama

Areas Served: Bullock, Butler, Greene, Hale, Marengo, Sumter, and Perry Counties

Contact: Dr. Taylor Byrd

Telephone: (256) 858-4968

Alabama A&M University is a land-grant University. The Distance Instruction and Adult Learning (DIAL) project establishes a high performance information technology system that extends distance learning/telemedicine and end-user internet connection services to seven of America's poorest rural counties and also brings together for the first time, the technology of Distance Learning and a Micro-Venture Incubation Center. The goal of the project is to deliver Distance



Learning, Telemedicine, on-line community empowerment consultation, and other vital community building resources, aimed towards reducing rural poverty and developing healthy educated and sustainable communities. Project DIAL end-user sites are located in the most depressed and bleak areas in the country. The proposed project will provide degree and non-degree courses and instructional programming to hundreds of students and teachers via interactive video and the Internet. The telemedicine system will enable hundreds of residents to receive health care services and hundreds of medical care workers to have access to on-line consultations and in-service training. The Micro-Venture Incubator center will focus on job creation, increasing income levels and welfare-to-work programs including cottage industry type neighborhood enterprises. The project will provide hundreds of beginning entrepreneurs with computer technology and Internet access, distance resources and opportunities to conduct business on the Internet. The project is formulated to demonstrate the impact of telecommunication in accelerating quality of life improvement, through education, research, and economic growth in poverty stricken communities.

Alabama Southern Community College

\$238,032

Alabama

Areas Served: Choctaw, Clarke

Contact Person: Dr. John A. Johnson

Telephone: (334) 575-3156 x 223

Alabama Southern Community College (ASCC) is a public, two-year college whose service area includes all the exceptionally rural areas of Southwest Alabama. ASCC is proposing to develop a distance learning partnership initiative which will bring critically needed education and training services to this rural area. Through the linking of these sites, area residents will have immediate access to educational programs and services offered by ASCC as well as programs and services offered by senior colleges and universities link with Alabama's Intercampus Interactive Telecommunication System which is linked to 30 plus Alabama colleges and universities.

Clay County Schools

\$302,760

Alabama

Areas Served: Clay, Hale, Greene, and Monroe Counties

Contact: Marcia Wade

Telephone: (256) 348-6432

Clay County School System is located in east central Alabama. Clay County is one of Alabama's five most rural counties, with a population of 13,250 and a population density of 22.4 per square mile. The county's six schools serve approximately 2,600 students, employing 161 certified employees. These schools are located in the exceptionally rural communities of Ashland, Lineville,



Mellow Valley, and Millerville. Ten schools and four school systems will participate in the pilot of ALTAIR (Alabama's Learning, Teaching, and Information Resource), which uses the World Wide Web to provide core academic courses to high school students. Clay County Schools proposes an innovative, educationally effective use of the technology that is most widely available in rural schools- computers and access to the Internet. Grant funds will allow the Clay County Schools to acquire instructional programming that will extend state allocations for instruction by sharing costs with other rural school systems. The core academic courses acquired with grant programming will fulfill Alabama Course of Study requirements and bear Alabama Department of Education approval. Like core academic courses taught in traditional classroom settings, any certified teacher on a public school payroll can teach them.

Troy State University

\$350,000

Alabama

Areas Served: Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Crenshaw, Henry, and Pike Counties

Contact Person: Dr. Angela Roling

Telephone: (334) 670-3640

Troy State proposes to install distance learning equipment that will include full-motion video conferencing and fully interactive classrooms in seven public high schools in Alabama. Through the Troy State hub site, the University will provide advanced high school courses, adult education courses, business and industry courses, and EMT certification courses.

1998 Awards

Scottsboro-Jackson County Chamber of Commerce

\$113,849 Grant, \$183,001 Loan

Total: \$296,850

Alabama

Areas Served: Jackson, Jefferson and Madison Counties

Contact: Ann Kennamer

Telephone: (256) 574-6359

Congressional District: Cramer, 5th Dist.

Scottsboro-Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, a non-profit organization, plans to provide education and information to the residents and create a distance learning and telemedicine network to facilitate the exchange of voice, data and video. The project includes a hub site (Scottsboro-Jackson County Chamber of Commerce) with six end user sites. The Chamber of Commerce plans to provide teleconferencing educational services as well as consultations, diagnostic support, extended support group meetings, and other services.



Indian American Education/International American Education, Incorporated

\$143,209 Grant, \$206,102 Loan

Total: \$349,311

Alabama, California and Oregon

Areas Served: Jackson (AL), Washington, Madera, and Jackson (OR) Counties

Contact: Patricia Edwards de Ortega

Telephone: (256) 582-4595

Congressional District: Callahan, 1st Dist. (AL); Aderholdt 4th Dist. (AL);

Randonovich, 19th Dist. (CA); and Smith, 2nd Dist. (OR)

IAE, Incorporated., a non-profit public corporation, plans to use RUS funds to install teleconferencing facilities at six sites in Alabama (3), California (1), and Oregon(2). The project will serve approximately 1,328 students from isolated disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. The project will utilize the internet and connect with T-1 equipment. Each site will be able to communicate with the other 5 sites and compatible units worldwide. IAE proposes to improve these students exposure to telecommunications technology, curricula, and communications skills. IAE also proposes to host training operations and instructional programming for the classroom teachers.

Talladega County Board of Education

\$117,262 Grant / \$232,738 Loan

Total: \$350,000

Alabama

Area Served: Talladega County

Contact: Sallie Chastain

Telephone: (205) 362-6584

Congressional District: Riley, 3rd. Dist.

Talladega County Schools serve rural and small town students in seven geographic communities with rural/urban population of 76,737. Talladega will provide a fiber optic network connecting seven rural high schools with the capability of transmitting full motion video/full duplex audio. RUS funds will be used to equip each site with a complete interactive teaching/learning environment capable of receiving and originating instructional programs. Talladega anticipates adding two community hospitals to its network to enhance the resources and diagnosis/treatment options of these two facilities for the county residents.

1996 Grant Award

Carroway Methodist Health System

\$285,000



Alabama

Contact: Ken Dover

Telephone: 205-226-6138

The Carraway Methodist Health System is a not-for-profit major medical system serving the northwest corridor of Alabama. CMHS has committed to place a rural medical clinic staffed with a nurse practitioner in the town of Sulligent, Lamar County. By creating a widespread telemedicine and distance learning network, the Community Network for Education and Telemedicine (CNET), CMHS will address the most glaring of medical underservice needs of northwest Alabama. CMHS's vision is to link isolated counties using state-of-the-art medical services via telecommunications. An RUS grant award will provide CMHS with the funding to purchase the equipment necessary for this vision to come true. The function of the system is to provide for telemedicine delivery of medical services and teleconferencing for medical education. This system will be composed of the following: an interactive video-conferencing network linking rural hospitals and clinics to each other and to major medical centers and learning networks; a teleradiology network providing specialty diagnostic expertise for radiographs; and Internet and intranet access to on-line wellness community education, medical databases, pharmaceutical updates, e-mail, news groups and other information resources.

1995 Grant Award

Carrolton

Linking medical clinics in four counties, the project will provide diagnostic services, ophthalmoscopic and otoscopic exams, trauma care and pulmonary consultation. Also, it will provide teleradiology, video conferencing, and access to other networks.