



## **DLT Awards – Pennsylvania**

### ***2010 Grant Awards***

#### **Wayne Memorial Hospital**

\$351,748

Pennsylvania

Counties: Pike and Wayne

Contact: Mr. John R. Dennis, (570)-251-6533

PA 10 - Thomas Marino

RUS will fund teleradiology equipment at two end user sites, Wayne Memorial Hospital and the Wayne Memorial Pike County Health Center. This equipment will allow them to obtain readings from 6 specialist radiologist centers including remote echocardiography and ultrasound for cardiology and digital mammography. In addition, a telestroke system will be installed at Wayne Memorial Hospital that provides real-time links to specialist neurologists at the Geisinger Center in Danville.

#### **Lewistown Hospital**

\$127,543

Pennsylvania

Counties: Mifflin

Contact: Mr. Ronald Cowan, 717-242-7218

PA 5 - G.T. Thompson

RUS funds will add teleradiology equipment at the Lewistown Hospital's Belleville office so that readings can be done remotely at Lewistown. Equipment will also be added at the Lewistown site to accommodate the additional equipment at Belleville. In addition, the project will give medical professionals in Belleville remote access to current and historic case images on file in Lewistown.

#### **Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania**

\$104,033

Pennsylvania

Counties: Armstrong, Blair, Cambria, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, McKean, Potter, Somerset, Warren

Contact: Mr. Sean O'Brien, (724)-772-7284

PA 3 - Mike Kelly; PA 5 - G. T. Thompson; PA 9 - Bill Shuster; PA 12 - Mark Critz

This project will use RUS funds to establish a medical distance learning network centered at the Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania. The grant will fund hub video-conferencing equipment at the Hospital Council site to connect 15 rural hospitals and medical centers to the Hospital Council as well as to two other sources of medical distance learning in Johnstown and Pittsburgh. Among the



types of distance learning to be provided are community health education and prevention classes. They will also provide continuing medical education for medical professionals including EMS volunteers.

**University of Pittsburg Medical Center**

\$125,773

Pennsylvania

Counties: Armstrong, Blair, Clarion, Jefferson Potter, Clearfield and Fulton

Contact: Ms. Megan G. Marks, (412) 647-1660

Kelly, 3rd Dist.; Thompson, 5th Dist.; Shuster, 9th Dist.; and Critz, 12th Dist.

RUS funds will be used to enable patients at 8 rural medical facilities in north central Pennsylvania to link directly to UMPC specialists at 2 primary UMPC hubs to acquire surgical assessments and physician consultations. Rural physicians and healthcare providers at those rural facilities will be able to connect directly to specialists for consultation and to take part in medical seminars and training.

**Saint Vincent Health Center Foundation**

\$157,300

Pennsylvania and New York

Counties: PA: Erie and Union. NY: Chautauqua

Contact: Mr. Philip C. Wolford, (814) 452-5766

PA: Kelly, 3rd Dist. and Marino, 10th Dist.

NY: Higgins, 27th Dist.

RUS funds will be used to upgrade an expansion of an existing telemedicine system, extending the services to 3 more hospitals associated with Saint Vincent. The project will upgrade the system's central control equipment to build the capacity and interoperability needed to accommodate for the expansion.

***2009 Grant Awards***

**Bradford Regional Medical Center (BRMC)**

\$92,406

Pennsylvania

Counties Served: McKean

Contact: Mrs. Kathy Pascarella

Telephone: 814-362-7466

Congressman, District: Glenn Thompson, PA-5

This project will use interactive software that allows visiting nurses in the patient's home to communicate with medical providers elsewhere in order to improve care for the approximately 1100 patients they serve each year in McKean County.



## **2008 Grant Awards**

### **DuBois Regional Medical Center**

Pennsylvania

\$89,000

Areas Served: Clearfield 5<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Dists.; and Jefferson, 5<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Contact: Mr. Thomas H. Johnson

Telephone: (814) 375-3076

Congressional District: Peterson, 5<sup>th</sup> and Shuster, 9<sup>th</sup>

Rural Development grant funds will be used to improve Home Health services to residents of the DuBois Regional medical Center – Home Health service area. This area includes all of Clearfield and Jefferson Counties as well as portions of Indiana and Elk counties. The project will utilize Home Health “HomMed” monitoring units to be used by healthcare professionals in patient homes. The units will enable patients to transmit vital statistics and related healthcare data from their homes via dial-up connections to the main DRMC Home Health Agency. Retrieved information will be used to monitor patient conditions and improve overall quality of care.

### **Lewistown Hospital**

Pennsylvania

\$50,500

Areas Served: Mifflin, 5<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Dists.; and Juniata, 9<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Contact: Mr. Ronald Cowan

Telephone: (717) 242-7218

Congressional District: Peterson, 5<sup>th</sup>, Shuster, 9<sup>th</sup>

Rural Development grant funds will be used by Lewistown Hospital will use to equip their Medic 29 mobile paramedic units with laptop computers in each unit. Each laptop will have a Verizon broadband wireless card in the laptop and Verizon broadband service which will enable each until to utilize a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to connect back to the hospital and access the patient’s EMR. Each unit will also carry a mobile 12-lead EKG unit so the patient’s EKG readings can be sent via the VPN to the emergency department clinician on duty. Emergency Department personnel will be able to order patient care that will impact the health outcomes of the patient

### **SeniorCare Health, Inc.**

Pennsylvania

\$254,125



Areas Served: Armstrong, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Dists., McKean and Tioga, 5<sup>th</sup> Dist., Clearfield, 5<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Dists.; Blair, Bedford, 9<sup>th</sup> Dist., Susquehanna and Wayne, 10<sup>th</sup> Dist., Carbon, 11<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Contact: Dr. Walter Joseph McCulloch

Telephone: (814) 943-1990

Congressional District: English, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Peterson, 5<sup>th</sup>, Shuster, 9<sup>th</sup>, Carney, 10<sup>th</sup>, Kanjorski, 11<sup>th</sup>; Murtha, 12<sup>th</sup>

Rural Development grant funding will be used by SeniorCare to offer medical care to residents in nursing homes through telemedicine without transporting them to other facilities. The focus will be on heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, infectious disease, arthritis, depression, stroke, Alzheimer's and mental illnesses patients. Basic video conferencing equipment will be used at the end user sites to enable them to communicate with the primary doctors at the hub sites.

### **Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11**

Pennsylvania & Maryland

\$500,000

Areas Served: PA: Mifflin, 5<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Dists.; Juniata, Huntingdon, Fulton, 9<sup>th</sup> Dist. MD: Kent, 1<sup>st</sup> Dist.

Contact: Mr. Daniel Berger

Telephone: (814) 542-2501

Congressional District: PA: Brady, 1<sup>st</sup>, Peterson, 5<sup>th</sup>; Shuster, 9<sup>th</sup>; MD: Gilchrest, 1<sup>st</sup>

Rural Development funds will be used by the grantee to partner with Washington College's Center for Environment and Society. This partnership will create an advanced technology solution that will deliver educational content to 29 schools in rural Pennsylvania. The system will use advanced telecommunications and video/web-conferencing through the use of synchronous instructor-led courses and asynchronous web-enabled content that is tied to Pennsylvania State educational standards.

### **The Visiting Nurse Association of Indiana County**

Pennsylvania

\$182,956

Areas Served: Indiana, 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Contact: Mrs. Betsy M. DeGory

Telephone: (724) 463-6340

Congressional District: Shuster, 9<sup>th</sup>, Murtha, 12<sup>th</sup>

Rural Development grant funds will be used in the VNA point-of-care plan which connects 60 field nurses and eight nurse supervisors at the VNA offices via a secure wireless network to a database containing all information from each



clinician involved in a patient's care, including hospitals, labs, and physician's offices. Point-of-care technology, using laptop/notebook computers, will allow nurses to enter and receive patient data while at the patient's bedside, which will allow for more timely medical interventions.

### **The Hamot Medical Center of the City of Erie**

Pennsylvania & New York

\$192,406

Areas Served: PA: Erie, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dist. Elk, McKean, Potter, Clarion, 5<sup>th</sup>; Warren, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Dists.; Clearfield, 5<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Dists.

NY: Cattaraugus, 29<sup>th</sup>

Contact: Ms. Valarie K. Jackson

Telephone: (814) 598-2078

Congressional District: PA: English, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Peterson, 5<sup>th</sup>, & Shuster, 9<sup>th</sup>; NY: Kuhl, 29<sup>th</sup>

Rural Development grant funds will be used by Hamot Medical Center to partner with 13 other medical facilities to provide telemedicine through interactive videoconferencing to rural northwestern Pennsylvania. Telemedicine services will include the delivery of specialty and sub-specialty clinical consults, disease management programs, continuing medical education to rural health professionals, and telemedicine consults to prisoners.

### ***2007 Grant Awards***

#### **Brookville Hospital**

Pennsylvania

\$50,000

Areas Served: Armstrong, Clarion, Clearfield, Elk, Forest, Jefferson

Contact: Ms. Julie Peer

Telephone: 814-849-1408

Fax: 814-849-4841

Congressional District: PA – 03 English; PA – 05 Peterson

This Rural Development project will deliver patient biometric data from their home to a visiting nurse agency. The project will improve the quality of care for patients by increasing the frequency of their monitoring and assessments of their medical conditions

### ***2006 Grant Awards***

#### **Elk Regional Health System**

St. Marys, Pennsylvania

\$197,927



Areas Served: Cameron, Elk, McKean  
Contact: Ms. Gwen Auman  
Telephone: 814-788-8585  
Fax: 814-788-8093  
Congressional District: PA-05

Rural Development funds will be used to expand the ERHS telemedicine system to psychiatric, diabetic, and wound care as well as personal care facilities. Telemedicine equipment will be utilized by the staff psychiatrist to monitor patients located in nursing homes, personal care facilities, and the System's in-patient geriatric psychiatric unit. The physicians will monitor patient's daily condition and the Diabetic Counselor will utilize the monitoring equipment to monitor diabetic patients.

### **Family Home Health Services, Inc.**

Monroeville, PA  
\$62,900  
Areas Served: Fayette, Greene, Westmoreland, Washington  
Contact: Mr. Kiran R. Bakshi  
Telephone: 412-856-4000  
Fax: 412-373-6877  
Congressional District: PA-09, 12, 18

Rural Development funds will be used to implement a home health care telemedicine program which will utilize telemonitors, videophones, integrated stethoscopes and digital cameras. This equipment will allow communication of medication reminders, remote health sign monitoring and visual imagery of patient wounds and problems. Data will be transmitted to a confidential website where it would be available to authorized healthcare team members in real time. The videophone capability will allow health care professionals to interact with patients who reside at home or in assisted living facilities.

### **Lewistown Hospital**

Lewistown, PA  
\$500,000  
Areas Served: Juniata, Mifflin, Snyder  
Contact: Mr. Ron Cowan  
Telephone: 717-242-7218  
Fax: 717-242-7132  
Congressional District: PA-05, 09, 10

Rural Development funds will be used to complete the implementation of a PACS system that will allow the hospital to provide clinicians with Internet access to multiple current and archived radiology and cardiovascular images and related



analytic reports. The system will also enable the hospital to access various remote imaging service locations and permit the patients' imaging results to be transmitted electronically via the Internet to the hospital for immediate interpretation by trained radiologists and cardiologists.

### **Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29**

PA

\$205,631

Areas Served: Schuylkill

Contact: Mr. David A. Zerbe

Telephone: 570-544-9131

Fax: 570-544-6916

Congressional District: PA-17

Rural Development funds will be used to purchase equipment that will enable IP based videoconferencing of courses at schools in this rural Pennsylvania county. This project will help increase student achievement and provide access to educational programming currently not available for students. A total of 25 hub and end-user sites are connecting to form a hi-speed fiber IP based network capable of utilizing various technologies including IP based video conferencing. For all schools to be able to utilize this network, the project will fund an IP based videoconferencing group system, a smart board, a video projector, and audio speakers in each location. This project will directly affect the education of nearly 18,325 students that comprise these sites.

### **Warren County School District**

North Warren, PA

\$109,940

Areas Served: Warren

Contact: Mr. Matthew J. Jones

Telephone: 814-723-6900

Fax: 814-723-5359

Congressional District: PA-03, 05

Rural Development funds will be used to install three distance learning classrooms in the rural high schools. Additionally, one high school and one middle school will receive mobile distance learning labs. These distance learning classrooms will provide Warren County students with challenging coursework as well as provide greater access for professional development activities for district faculty and staff.

### **Wayne Memorial Hospital**

Honesdale, PA



\$155,213

Areas Served: Pike, Wayne

Contact: Mr. John R. Dennis

Telephone: 570-251-6533

Fax: 570-253-8993

Congressional District: PA-10

Rural Development funds will be used to enhance a home health care system and implement bar-coding of patients and pharmaceuticals, enable automated dispensing of medications, and provide bedside telemonitoring of patients.

### ***2005 Grant Awards:***

Bradford Regional Medical Center

Bradford, PA

\$110,575

Areas Served: McKean County

Contact: Kathy Pascarella

Telephone: 814-362-7466

Fax: 814-362-9803

Congressional District: PA-05

The project will install telemedicine monitoring equipment at six senior citizen centers throughout the County. User-friendly software will guide the patient by voice to collect all vital data. The data is then transmitted to a central station via modem. The equipment can track and trend patient data; and record and view nurse and physician notes. No patient demographics are recorded. The monitors will be available to over 2600 rural residents.

### **Lewistown Hospital**

Lewistown, PA

\$392,950

Areas Served: Mifflin, Juniata, Snyder Counties

Contact: Ronald Cowan

Telephone: 717-242-7218

Fax: 717-242-7770

Congressional District: PA-05, PA-09

Residents of a three-county area of Pennsylvania will have access to home health care telemedicine monitoring, allowing vital signs and other medical data to be transmitted from a patient's home to the hospital. Doctors and other clinicians can then use up-to-the-minute patient data to make medical decisions. The project will also assist in the creation of electronic medical records for each patient served.





## ***2004 Grant Awards:***

### **Lewistown Hospital**

Lewistown, Pennsylvania

\$500,000

Area(s) served: Juniata, Huntingdon, Mifflin, and Snyder Counties

Contact: Ronald Cowan, 717-242-7218 Congressional District(s): PA-05, PA-09, PA-10

With RUS funding, Lewistown Hospital will provide telemedicine service to other rural areas covering more than 800 square miles in the Juniata Valley Region within the Appalachian Mountains. Practitioners will be able to access their patients' records, test results, and monitor patients' vital statistics through the telemedicine network. Additionally, the hospital will modernize and reorganize the data gathering and storage system, including patients' clinical records. A multimedia record for each patient will be created which will integrate various clinical data repositories into a single unified system that can quickly and reliably respond to practitioner questions. The telemedicine network will serve approximately 70,000 rural residents of the Juniata Valley.

## ***2003 Grant Awards:***

### **Albert Gallatin Area School District; Uniontown, PA**

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Fayette County

Contact: Walter Vicinelly (724) 564-7190; Fax: (724) 564-7512

Congressional District(s): 12th

Albert Gallatin Area School District will utilize RUS funding to provide additional educational opportunities through distance learning labs. The project is designed to remove the disparity in educational opportunities between students in rural, low income districts, and their peers in surrounding urban counties. The project will enable nine schools in the district to network with each other through the installation of mobile distance learning labs which will benefit 4,131 students and nearly 38,000 residents in the community.

### **Laurel Highlands School District; Uniontown, PA**

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Fayette County

Contact: Carol Bubonovich (724) 437-2821; Fax: (724) 437-8929 Congressional District(s): 12th

Laurel Highlands School District will utilize RUS funding in a distance learning system to enhance educational opportunities, improve employment prospects,



and prevent population out-migration by serving 2,244 students in six elementary and middle schools. Service to over 200 faculty and community members will also be provided which will include adult education and professional development.

**Warren County School District; N. Warren, PA**

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Warren County

Contact: Penny S. Jobe (814) 723-6900; Fax: (814) 723-5359

Congressional District(s): 3rd and 5th

Warren County School District will use RUS funds to provide increased access to information, special training, and adult basic education to 2,000 students and 140 school faculty in seven exceptionally rural schools in Northwestern Pennsylvania. Geographically the school district is the second largest school district in the state. This is a reflection of how sparsely the school district is populated. The project entitled "Access Plus" is focused on increasing access to educational opportunities and resources for students and teachers. Additionally, it will provide access to the internet to provide continuing education and GED preparation for more than 13,000 other adults living in the communities around the schools. In addition to the schools, access to the system will also become available in four libraries in four of the communities involved.

***2002 Awards:***

**Brownsville Area School District; Grindstone, Pennsylvania**

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Fayette County Towns of Brownville, Grindstone, Cardale and East Millsboro

Contact: Gerry Grant (724) 785-2021; Fax: (724) 785-6988

Congressional District(s): Applicant: 20th / Project: 12th & 20th

The Brownsville Area School District will use RUS grant funds to establish an intra-district distance learning network for three (3) elementary schools that will provide educational opportunities for students, teachers, and community members. By broadening the scope of educational services, this highly rural school district intends to stem out-migration as well as improve prospects for economic development from the four (4) towns this project will serve. The multi-faceted approach to distance learning will include adult education, job readiness training, professional development, continuing education, and special events to establish the schools as a community resource rather than simply education service institutions. Distance learning technologies include an upgrade to a T-1 connection for all three (3) schools. All distance learning equipment will be connected to the Brownsville Area School District's wide area network and



provide access building-to-building as well as access to other systems and resources outside the district. The project is expected to benefit more than 1,000 students, 178 school faculty, 3,464 individuals in the immediate school communities, and more than 3,500 other adults with special training and adult basic education/GED preparation needs.

**Greene County Industrial Development Authority:Waynesburg, Pennsylvania**

\$456,647 Grant

Area(s) Served: Carmichaels Borough, Village of Mapletown, Village of Rogersville, Jefferson Borough and Waynesburg Borough in Greene County

Contact: Bert Menhart, (724) 627-9259; Fax:(724) 627-6586

Congressional Districts: Applicant: 20th / Project: 18th & 20th

The Greene County Industrial Development Authority will use RUS funds as part of a collaborative effort to provide a variety of user-friendly technologies for over 40,000 rural residents to access tele-preventive medicine and telemedicine. Greene County has been classified a Health Professional Shortage Area and Medically Underserved Area by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The project will focus on motivating rural residents to improve health related behavior and support and guide them when searching for solutions to health care problems. Specifically, a private Wide Area Network (WAN) will be developed for Greene County schools, government and a hospital that will provide access to high speed fiber optic lines. The WAN will provide the flexibility to unite pre-existing software and programming, with custom-designed options for education, online information, consulting and links to health and human services agencies. Greene County residents will be able to link to a telehealth support system of health care providers, local and state health and human services agencies, software programs that can answer health questions and cover treatment options, times and location of health care teleconferences, and be flexible enough to respond to other needs as they arise.

**Home Health Services Foundation; Butler, Pennsylvania**

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Butler Township, Center Township, Summit Township in Butler County; Ford City in Armstrong County; Vandergrift in Westmorland County

Contact: Robin Kriley (724) 282-6806; Fax: (724) 282-7517

Congressional District(s): Applicant: 21st / Project: 4th, 5th, 12th, 19th, 20th, 21st

The Visiting Nurses Association, Western Pennsylvania (VNA) in partnership with Home Health Services Foundation, proposes to use RUS grant funds to provide telemonitoring systems in the homes of rural patients which will improve patient care through the frequent and consistent monitoring of vital information. The challenge and over-riding goal of the project is to implement a method of daily patient monitoring that provides the information and feedback necessary to



consistently detect impending problems. This method will result in reducing the need for emergency care while not requiring either frequent on-site visits by health professionals or travel to health care sites by the patient. The human toll on quality of life issues and the financial strain on the health care system and improved patient health outcomes are greatly reduced. The VNA project is designed to utilize existing telecommunications networks and equipment as much as possible. The HomMed TM Monitoring System (Sentry III) design allows blending of this state of the art monitoring technology with the ubiquitous communications networks currently available throughout the rural service area of the project. With the 115 units proposed for the project, approximately 345 patients could be served directly in their homes with 41,975 monitored patient days. The VNA estimates that they could impact approximately 13 percent of the estimated 2,600 deaths that occur on an annual basis due to heart disease in the rural communities they serve.

### **Wayne Memorial Hospital; Honesdale, Pennsylvania**

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Pennsylvania Counties of Lackawanna, Wayne and Pike; New York County of Sullivan

Contact: Jack Dennis (570) 253-8992; Fax: (570) 253-8993

Congressional District(s): Pennsylvania: Applicant: PA 10th / Project: PA 10th / New York: Project: NY 20th & 26th .

Wayne Memorial Hospital will use RUS funds to convert from traditional radiology services to a teleradiology system. The film based X-ray system will be upgraded to digital images using computerized radiology. Digital radiological images will be transmitted over the Internet from one of the 13 participating end user sites to one of three full service hospitals where they will be read, in real time, by a hospital radiologist. The radiologist will then transmit the report back to the rural office where treatment can begin immediately. This exceptionally rural area suffers from a lack of public transportation making it difficult for many of the residents particularly the elderly, sick and the indigent to reach qualified radiological services, which are only found outside of their service area. Due to the current shortage of radiologists and technicians in this medically underserved area it is not unusual for patients to wait six to eight weeks for X-ray results. In addition to X-rays the system will accommodate Ultrasound, CT Scans, MRI and Digital Fluoro images. The upgrade to digital technology will save valuable time when treating trauma, cardiac and pediatric cases where delays can cost lives. The upgrade will also provide higher quality images that are easier to store, retrieve and forward to clinical specialists for further diagnoses of complex issues. Approximately 120,000 rural residents will benefit from this project.



## ***2001 Grant Awards:***

### **The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania**

\$364,087 Grant

Counties and Municipalities Served: Butler County-Butler, 4th & 21st Dists.; Cameron County-Emporium, (Clinton County-Mill Hall, Elk County-Ridgway, Forest County-Tionesta, Jefferson County-Brookville, Potter County-Coudersport; Tioga County-Wellsboro, Venango County-Franklin, Warren County-Youngsville, McKean County-Smethport, 5th Dist.; Clearfield County-Clearfield, 5th & 9th Dist.; Armstrong County-Kittanning, Clarion County-Shippensburg, 5th & 12th Dists.; Crawford County, 5th & 21st Dist.; Bedford County-Bedford, Franklin County-Chambersburg, Huntingdon County-Huntingdon, Juniata County-Mifflintown, Mifflin County-Lewistown, 9th Dist.; Bradford County-Towanda, Fulton County-McConnellsburg, Sullivan County-Dushore, Wayne County, Susquehanna County-Montrose, 10th Dist.; Montour County-Danville, 11th Dist.; Indiana County-Indiana, Somerset County-Somerset, 12th Dist.; Fayette County-Uniontown, 12th & 20th Dists.; Adams County-Gettysburg, 19th Dist.; Greene County-Waynesburg, 20th Dist.; (31 counties)  
Congressional Districts: Applicant 5th  
Contact: Mr. Robert Killoren (814) 865-1372, Fax: (814) 865- 2988

The Cooperative Extension and Outreach Office at Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) has been awarded a \$364,087 Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant to develop a multi-dimensional model for disseminating health messages and motivating rural residents to improve health related behavior. The Penn State Cooperative Extension will promote and support community-based health activities in conjunction with coordinated health messages developed through Penn State Public Broadcasting (television, radio, Web), World Campus, Continuing Education, and various print media. This motivational/educational outreach project promises maximum public access and engagement throughout Pennsylvania. For example, Penn State's 300 agents reach over two million people each year through programs in agriculture, family living, and 4-H/youth and community development. Program content will be delivered in multiple media formats, including documentary videos, paper publications and tool kits, and a Web site that makes it easier to access the material to transport from venue to venue.

## ***2000 Grant Award:***

### **HOME HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION, INC.; Butler, Pennsylvania**

\$350,000 Grant

Area(s) served: Armstrong, Butler and Westmoreland counties

Contact: Mr. W. Christopher Hengler, (724) 282-6806, FAX: (724) 282-7517  
4th, 12th, 20th and 21st Congressional Districts



The Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), an organization of Home Health Services Foundation, Inc., is a voluntary non-profit health care agency providing home care services throughout western Pennsylvania. This telemedicine project will provide a new clinical software system that will streamline the delivery of patient care services by allowing patient care staff to access clinical information and medical records from the patients' homes without traveling to the office. Patients and medical staff will benefit from this new system by having complete and accurate clinical records available to them during each visit. All VNA services are provided under the direction of the patient's physician. Staff efficiencies and productivity increases are estimated to result in savings of approximately \$142,000 annually.

### **1999 Award:**

#### **SUN Home Health Services, Inc.; Northumberland, Pennsylvania**

\$300,000 Grant

Counties Served: Union, Clinton, Dauphin, Northumberland, Juniata, Snyder, and Centre

Contact: Mr. Steven B. Richard, (800) 634-5232: Fax (570) 473-3070

SUN Home Health Services, Inc., a non-profit organization, will have the ability to update and review patient records live from patients' homes via the use of laptop computers. The benefits of this program include: (1) being able to update patient records and to retrieve the latest information and doctors orders for a patient; (2) including transmitting vital sign information; (3) acceleration of the development of care-process maps designed to assist in the management of patient care and the management of patient outcomes; (4) a decreased need for nurses to backtrack to medical offices in order to update records or complete patients' visit preparations; (5) and improved decision making regarding patient care. The outcome will be more efficient and responsive care for patients and overall decreased cost of care which should allow for additional services to patients throughout a large rural area in need of reduced fee services and access to home health care.

### **1997 Award:**

#### **Line Mountain School District**

Award: \$137,503 Loan / \$83,697 Grant

Total: \$221,200

Location: Herndon, PA

Area(s) Served: Northumberland

Contact Person: Dale Martz

Telephone Number: (717) 758-6511

FAX Number: (717) 758-3147





An RUS grant and loan will provide funds to help deliver cost effective educational services to this sprawling rural central Pennsylvania school district. Line Mountains' "Access the Future" is a project to develop Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) infrastructure to support district telecommunications and distance learning classes. The "Access the Future" project will deploy an ATM network over a fiber backbone that will carry distance education classes, administrative network traffic, and voice phone service between distant schools. The district wide network will subsequently be connected to a regional ATM network connecting multiple school districts throughout Pennsylvania and finally to the Pennsylvania Higher Education Network that serves the state's universities. "Access the Future" will provide a variety of advanced language and science courses that would otherwise be unavailable to this rural community. Distance learning courses for business leaders, e-mail communications for idea exchanges between educators and the elimination of a duplication of their efforts are some of the immediate benefits of this project. This network will also provide Internet access to the community at large.

### ***1996 Grant Award:***

#### **Green County Vocational-Technical School**

\$336,124

Waynesburg, PA

Contact Person: Charles P. Reinbold

Phone Number: 412-499-5183

FAX: 412-499-5623

Green County Area Vocational-Technical School, in partnership with a consortium of 5 Green County School Districts and Waynesburg College, will use an RUS grant award to establish electronic communication among partners so that teachers and students located in one rural area can connect with teachers and students that are located in a different area, as well as be able to access other information gateways. The grant will also help support staff development that enables technologically-literate teachers to be "Trainers of Trainers." These instructors will provide technical training to their colleagues and eventually serve as specialists in instructional diversity and learning styles, authentic assessments and community based learning.

### ***1994 Grant Award:***

#### **University of Pittsburgh**

\$320,000

Rural Pennsylvania Telemedicine Network

Jefferson, Forrest, Potter, Elk, Cameron, McKean, Allegheny (hub site) counties

The project will interconnect 4 rural hospitals in the Northcentral region of Pennsylvania with the University of Pittsburgh. This link will provide the rural site access to medical education, teleradiology, consultation with specialists and medical information. RUS funds will equip Brookville Hospital and Punxsutawney Area Hospital in Jefferson County with interactive video equipment, X-ray scanners, digital diagnostic accessories and other computer equipment. The State of Pennsylvania will fund corresponding equipment for the other sites. With added support and communications from the medical network, the University of Pittsburgh Medical School plans to increase med student rotations and field placements in rural health, thus bolstering the project's impact with vital medical personnel and enlarging its benefits.

### ***1993 Grant Award:***

#### **Towanda School District - Northern Tier Rural Distance Learning Consortium (NTRDLS)**

Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wyoming and Tioga Counties

In 1992, six school district superintendents from northern Pennsylvania formed the Northern Tier Rural Distance Learning Consortium (NTRDLC) to identify solutions to improve the quality of education in their rural and economically disadvantaged communities. Their research revealed that small, rural school districts on average have half the money available per students than do suburban school districts.

NTRDLC believes that the answer to improving the quality of education in their schools is combining the resources of the schools and utilizing distance learning technology. In 1993, the NTRDLC applied for and was awarded a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant award for \$500,000. Common Wealth Telephone Company, a RUS borrower, lent their financial support to the project as well.

RUS funds were used to develop a two-way interactive television network that permits six rural school districts, two colleges, and the State Museum of Pennsylvania to share personnel and access resources in ways not previously possible. The project serves over 15,000 students in the six rural area school districts. The technology has also assisted the six rural school districts to enhance teacher training and improve high school curriculum. One hundred and ten students are enrolled in high school credit courses shared among the project's schools and 9 students are participating in dual enrolled high school level course work and college level courses. In the 1995-96 school year, 30 students will have earned college level credits prior to their high school graduation. Penn State, for example, plans to offer at least 25 college level courses to high school students.





Small, rural school systems across the country are facing the similar problem of being unable to deliver a quality educational program to these students because of geographic isolation, insufficient funding, limited course offerings (especially advanced courses) and shortages of qualified teachers. RUS funds assist distance learning projects such as the NTRDLC resource sharing network because new avenues of opportunity become available that help rural students prepare for their future.