

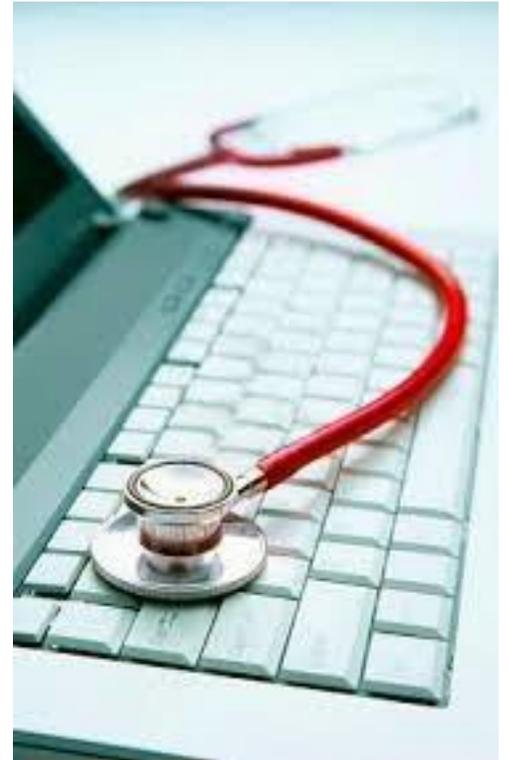


June 2015

Distance Learning & Telemedicine

USDA Rural Development is now accepting applications for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) program. The DLT program provides grant funds to help schools and medical facilities purchase equipment to develop and expand distance learning and telemedicine opportunities. Grant awards range from \$50,000 to \$500,000. Applicants are required to provide at least a 15% match. **Applications are due by July 6, 2015.**

The official announcement with additional information can be found at: https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/05/22/2015-12222/announcement-of-grant-application-deadlines?utm_campaign=subscription+mailing+list&utm_medium=email&utm_source=federalregister.gov



Community Facilities Loans & Grants

USDA Rural Development is committed to building stronger, more vibrant rural communities across the nation. Community facilities such as health care or public safety buildings are essential to the quality of life in rural communities. USDA Rural Development offers three programs that provide funding for critical capital improvements: the **Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program** which partners with other lenders, **Direct Loan Program** offers up to 30-40 yr. term and lower interest rates, and the **Grant Program**. Funding is based on need and is not in competition with other lenders. Community Facilities assistance is available for public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special purpose districts along with nonprofit corporations and Indian Tribes. Facilities must be located in rural communities with populations of 20,000 or less.

Funds may be used for clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, assisted living centers, ambulance/rescue vehicles, and equipment necessary for the operation of these facilities. If you have any questions, please contact any of the Area Office contacts listed at the third page of this newsletter.

New Assisted Living Center Breaks Ground with Help from USDA

NORWOOD YOUNG AMERICA, Minnesota, March 31, 2015 —

A major construction project for senior living facility Peace Village officially kicked off with a groundbreaking ceremony for expanded services that was attended by USDA Rural Development, local, state, and national officials.

“USDA strives to help rural communities provide aging populations with affordable, sustainable housing,” USDA Rural Development State Director Colleen Landkamer said. “The commitment to this population as well as disabled individuals is important to recognize and USDA was happy to partner with Peace Village and the City of Norwood Young America to make this project feasible.”

Peace Village senior housing currently provides 36 studio and one-bedroom catered living units. The Harbor at Peace Village catered living provides a diverse mixture of amenities, personal services, and on-site healthcare services. Additionally, The Villa at Peace Village offers 61 spacious one and two bedroom apartments to individuals age 62 and above and individuals with disabilities.

The new 36,600 square feet assisted living facility will boast over 37 beds with 25 assisted living units and 12 memory care units. The Haven at Peace Village assisted living facility will connect to The Harbor for increased and shared amenities. Once the project is complete, the new facility will provide 18 new jobs and the entire Peace Village facility will have a service range of more than 8,000 people.

In addition to the \$6,642,000 loan through USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities (CF) Direct Loan program, Peace Village received \$70,000 from the City of Norwood Young America to finance the \$6,712,000 project.

2014 DLT Grant Awarded To Essentia Health - November 24, 2014 —

USDA Rural Development State Director Colleen Landkamer announced through USDA Rural Development’s [Distance Learning and Telemedicine \(DLT\) program](#) an award of \$213,564 to Essentia Health to expand Essentia’s existing telemedicine network to 21 clinics and two hospitals. This expansion project is expected to benefit more 300,000 people across Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

"Delivering these programs to rural communities that often do not have access to quality, affordable medical and educational services has tremendous economic and social benefits," Landkamer said. "They also mean that people who live and work in rural areas will not have to travel long distances for specialized health care services."

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PROGRAM CONTACTS

Northwest Area:

Detroit Lakes: Laura Pettit

laura.pettit@mn.usda.gov

(218) 847-9392 Ext. 4

Alexandria: Jeff Scholten

jeff.scholten@mn.usda.gov

(320) 763-3191 Ext. 4

Southwest Area:

Willmar: Kevin Friesen

kevin.friesen@mn.usda.gov

(320) 235-5612 Ext 128

Marshall: Megan Gernentz

megan.gernentz@mn.usda.gov

(507)-532.3234 Ext. 132

Northeast Area:

Baxter: Tyler Ray

tyler.ray@mn.usda.gov

(218) 829-5965 Ext 4

Bemidji: Kathy Luepke

kathleen.luepke@mn.usda.gov

(218) 751-1942 Ext 4

East Central Area:

Cambridge: Brett Repulske

brett.repulske@mn.usda.gov

(763) 689-3354 Ext 4

Southeast Area:

Faribault: Laurie Balata

laurie.balata@mn.usda.gov

(507) 332-7418 Ext. 113

State Office : (St. Paul)

Terry Louwagie, Program Director, terry.louwagie@mn.usda.gov, (651) 602-7810

Darlene Mages, CP Program Spec., darlene.mages@mn.usda.gov, (651) 602-7794

Megan Gernentz, CP Program Spec., megan.gernentz@mn.usda.gov ((507)-532.3234, Ext. 132

Ulrick Jackson, CP Program Spec., ulrick.jackson@mn.usda.gov (651) 602-7811

To add or remove your name from our mailing list, please email: darlene.mages@mn.usda.gov.