



DLT Awards - Florida

2011 Grant Awards

Meridan Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

Florida

\$122,894

Areas Served: Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Levy, Suwannee, & Union Counties

Contact: Mr. Richard Anderson

Telephone: (352) 374-5600 x 8232

Congressional District: Southerland, 2nd, Crenshaw, 4th, Nugent, 5th, Stearns, 6th

USDA Rural Development funds will help purchase equipment to provide a video link connecting behavioral health patients in rural North Florida to the counselors and psychiatrists of Meridan Behavioral Healthcare. Meridan's physicians currently rotate among seven rural clinics. Demand for their services outpaces the ability to meet that demand. With the Gainesville and Lake City Clinics as hubs, video conferencing equipment will be installed at the hub with corresponding equipment at seven small clinics. Patients no longer will have limited access to Meridan psychiatric care, health management and counseling services. For psychiatric emergencies involving law enforcement, the new system will facilitate the evaluation and screening process allowing for a more efficient and less stressful use of time for law enforcers. Meridan will match grant funds with \$122,980 of local funding.

2008 Grant Awards

Gulf Coast Community College

Florida

\$245,304

Areas Served: Gulf and Franklin, 2nd Dist.

Contact: Ms. Maggi C. LeClair

Telephone: (850) 913-2964

Congressional District: Boyd, 2nd

Rural Development grant funds will be used by Gulf Coast Community College to implement a telecommunications system to expand educational opportunities for residents of two rural counties in Northwest Florida. Through a videoconferencing network six sites will be connected to provide distance learning opportunities to rural schools. The project will also include the capability



for rural residents to receive one-on-one or small group instruction from tutors at the Panama City Campus via desktop video communication stations.

2004 Grant Awards

Department of Health, State of Florida

Florida

\$236,180

Areas served: Alachua, Citrus, Gilchrist, Lake, Putnam, Sumter, and Suwannee

Counties Contact: Contact: Janet H. Evans

Telephone: 850-245-4444, Ext. 2223

Congressional District: FL-02, FL-03, FL-05, FL-06

The Children's Medical Services Division of Prevention and Intervention of the Florida Department of Health will use the grant funds to upgrade their current network. The Child Protection Team (CPT) program will ensure the availability of expert medical services to outlying rural areas. The network will expedite and transmit expert medical evaluations of children suspected to be abused or neglected while maintaining confidentiality. This portion of the network currently includes a hub and 6 end user sites. These sites will be upgraded with new technology and two additional sites will be added in Lake City and Brooksville. These 8 remote sites and smaller medical facilities will be used to seek non-medical and medical expertise in child abuse and neglect cases in medically underserved rural population areas. The benefits to be derived from the project include protection for children; assurance of proper evaluations, 24-hour availability; immediate assessments, and protective services. The project has a rural population of approximately 52,000 with an approximate incident rate of 15,000 alleged child abuse cases a year. The project estimates completing over 1,000 screenings per year.

2003 Grant Awards

Accelerated Care, LLC

Michigan

\$237,975

Areas Served: Counties of Gladwin, Lake, Newaygo and Ogemaw, Michigan

Contact: Raymond Watts

Telephone: (561) 762-8333

Congressional District: Applicant 22nd Florida, 1st and 2nd Michigan

Accelerated Care will use RUS grant funds to equip mobile vans with state-of-the-art technology to bring the most advanced non-invasive diagnostic screening equipment directly to five local community clinics. Patients will be able to immediately receive an assessment from and meet with a remote physician via



video conference during a diagnostic testing visit. Accelerated Care will provide mobile telemedicine services for rural patients at three federally qualified health centers and two certified rural health clinics in central Michigan. The project has the potential to provide services to as many as 7,445 patients at the five end-user sites.

Human Services Associates, Inc

Florida

\$239,326

Areas Served: Towns of Altoona and Greenville

Contact: Frank Francisco

Phone: (407) 422-0880

Congressional District(s): Applicant 8th; Project 4th 5th, and 8th

Human Services Associates, Inc., with the assistance of RUS funding, will provide distance learning classroom equipment and classes for teaching job skills and providing training opportunities to promote self-sufficiency for foster care youth facilities in the communities of Altoona and Greenville. The project will also provide staff development training and technical training for teachers and elderly groups in the communities.

2002 Grant Awards

All Children's Hospital

\$481,410

Areas Served: Counties of Collier, Pasco, DeSoto, Hillsborough, Sarasota, Polk, Lee, Citrus

Contact: Tuya Pal

Phone: (727) 892-8491

Congressional District(s): Applicant 10th / Project 5th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th

All Children's Hospital will use RUS grant funds to develop the infrastructure needed for the delivery of telemedicine and distance learning services to rural and medically underserved areas of West Central Florida. It will provide access to pediatric specialty care for rural residents and provide ongoing distance learning opportunities for medical professionals. Currently, one-way trips of up to four are required when a child needs diagnosis of a serious illness. Due to the distance, and lack of transportation options, these doctor visits are often postponed or never scheduled sometimes exacerbating problems and creating life-threatening situations. The poverty level here is very high with most residents employed in service sector jobs and hourly wage agricultural jobs. There is also a very high seasonal, migrant population residing in this area compounding an already overloaded system. This project will provide children in this area with



access to general pediatric and specialty care by connecting the 16 end user sites with All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, the only comprehensive pediatric facility located in this part of the state. A "telemedicine exam room" will be set up at each site with a direct link to specialty care providers at the other end. It will enable doctors in the city to diagnose many types of medical conditions without the need to transport the child to the hospital and it will inform local caregivers when it is medically necessary to get a child to urgent care quickly. This project will serve over 10,000 rural residents.

1999 Grant Awards

Doctor's Memorial Hospital

Florida

\$215,606

Counties Served: Taylor and Madison

Contact: Mr. Jim McKnight, (850) 584-0886

Doctor's Memorial Hospital serves Perry County Florida. The project will allow Doctors and Madison County Memorial Hospital to provide 24 hrs. per day, 365 days per year diagnostic radiological procedures. A teleradiology network would be established using the two hospitals as hubs. Four end user sites would be served by the hubs, one at each hospital and one at each of the two participating radiologists homes. All sites would be connected using ISDN provisioned over existing networks. The equipment will comply with the standards of the American College of Radiology; this will allow additional connections to be made at a later date.

1994 Grant Awards

Lake City Community College

Florida

Gilchrist and Dixie Counties

This project covers a two-county area in Northeastern Florida which is the most remote and disadvantaged area of the college's service area. An existing microwave delivery system, which currently broadcasts educational programming one way, will be enhanced to a two-way interactive system by incorporating return transmitters, receivers and other equipment necessary for the conversion. Two high schools in Gilchrist County and one high school in Dixie County will connect to the college's educational and instructional programming system for needed programs, such as advanced placement courses for high school students, G.E.D. coursework, adult education and worker re-training. Through



the college's Allied Health Program, emergency medical training and re-certification, geriatric care, pre-natal care, nutrition, occupational safety and other health-related programs will be offered.