



DLT Awards - Michigan

2012 Grant Awards

U.P. Health Care Network

\$313,626

Michigan

Areas Served: Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Houghton, Luce, Marquette, and Schoolcraft Counties

Contact: Karen Ruth Kimar

Telephone: (906) 225-7833

Congressional District: Benishek, 1st Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to purchase specialized cardio graphic electrocardiogram equipment and software to create a telemedical network among eight sites to manage the information collected by the sites and route that information to cardiologists and technicians on demand for proper treatment of patients. The majority of UP hospitals now use an outdated system which relies mainly on faxed or printed copies of ECG studies. The eight sites are located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Among those sites, the project will serve the Indian Communities of Keweenaw Bay, Hannahville, and Bay Mills and the Chippewa tribes of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe and Lac Vieux Desert Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

Carson City Hospital

\$477,711

Michigan

Areas Served: Ionia, Montcalm, Gratiot, and Oakland Counties

Contact: Matthew Thompson

Telephone: (989) 584-3917 x 111

Congressional District: Amash, 3rd Dist.; Camp, 4th Dist.; Rogers, 8th Dist.; Peters, 9th Dist.; Cotter, 11th Dist.; and Levin, 12th Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to purchase clinical examination devices to be placed at Carson City Hospital and three family care centers in nearby counties, and corresponding endpoint units for the hub hospital - in order to create an intelligent care management and consultation network for rural primary care physicians and their patients. Specialty physicians located within the St. John Providence Health System in the Detroit area will be tapped for consultation and other services, so that the rural residents of Montcalm, Gratiot, and Ionia Counties will benefit in their medical care despite their rural location.



2011 Grant Awards

Munising Memorial Hospital Association

\$92,912

Michigan

Areas Served: Alger County

Contact: Jessie Lynn Webster

Telephone: (906) 387-4110

Congressional District: Benishek, 1st Dist.

Munising Memorial Hospital is a critical access hospital in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, serving a population of 2,500 residents. Munising does not have an on-site radiologist to interpret radiological images from mammography, so they must transport images physically as developed film. This antiquated procedure prolongs precious time that could be critical in detecting and treating cancers. USDA Rural Development funds will assist Munising in acquiring a Full-Field Digital Mammography system to replace the current analog mammography unit that produces only film. After its installation, Munising will be able to link to radiologists when needed, regardless of distance, and electronically transport images for quick and accurate interpretation and diagnosis. If further evaluation is needed on a particular case or image, the electronic file can be transported just as quickly to another remote specialist. The project also serves as an important step in the hospital's initiative to eventually migrate medical records to be fully digital and electronic. Munising will match grant funds with \$139,369 of local funding.

2009 Grant Awards

Baldwin Family Health Care

\$52,400

Michigan

Areas Served: Lake Counties

Contact: Linda Shively

Telephone: (231) 745-2743

Congressional District: Hoekstra, 2nd Dist.

The DLT project connects the applicant with remote pharmacists through tele-pharmacy. Off-site pharmacists will provide prescription dispensing and patient consultation to patients at Baldwin.

Marquette General Health System

\$272,555

Michigan

Served: Lake, Baraga, Gogebic, Luce, West Iron, and Hancock Counties



Contact: Gary Muller
Telephone: (906) 225-4744
Congressional District: Stupak 1st, Dist. and Hoekstra, 2nd Dist.

The project will establish video-conferencing equipment to connect six rural hospitals and clinics to the applicant. The focus of the project is to increase the provision of specialty services, such as that of an allergist, through video-conferencing. The equipment will also be used for continuing medical education.

MidMichigan Visiting Nurses Association: Michigan Home Care

\$461,212

Michigan

Areas Served: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Saginaw Counties

Contact: Christine Chesny

Telephone: (989) 633-1401

Congressional District: Stupak 1st, Dist. and Camp, 4th Dist.

The project will fund equipment for a mobile telemedicine system that will allow home care providers to transmit and monitor the health status of 740 cardiac post surgical patients and hospice patients over a rural twelve-county area.

Van Buren Intermediate School District

\$239,445

Michigan

Areas Served: Van Buren, Allegan Counties

Contact: Jeff Mills

Telephone: (269) 674-8091

Congressional District: Upton, 6th Dist.

This project will use video-conferencing equipment to connect six schools. The goals are to use the equipment to share academic resources, to connect to educational resources outside the project, to train teachers, and to benefit the community by providing job retraining.

2008 Grant Awards

Bell Memorial Hospital

\$250,473

Michigan

Areas Served: Baraga County

Contact: Debra J. Parrish

Telephone: (906) 485-2367

Congressional District: Stupak, 1st Dist.



Rural Development grant funds will be utilized to purchase telecommunications technology that will allow Bell Hospital to create electronic versions of analog mammogram images and transmit them for interpretation to a radiologist at a different site. The project will give the hospital a full range of digital imaging technology and broader access to radiologists. Additionally, the project will provide baseline technology for future implementation of an Electronic Medical Record (EMR) initiative.

Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College

\$200,000

Michigan

Areas Served: Marquette County

Contact: Gerald Messana

Telephone (906) 353-4600

Congressional District: Stupak, 1st Dist.

Rural Development funding will be used for the "Linking Tribal Communities" project to establish three digital video conferencing centers joining the two districts of the reservation. The project will also allow each of these sites to be connected to the local Regional Educational Media Consortium (REMC#1) which includes fifteen K-12 school districts in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This project will assist students in achieving a high school diploma or GED, increase employment opportunities through vocational education, increase offerings in post-secondary education, and provide professional development to Native American faculty and staff.

2007 Grant Awards

Munson Home Care

\$329,494

Michigan

Areas Served: Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Gladwin, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Ostego, Presque Isle, Benzie, Manistee, Mason, Newaygo, Oceana, Wexford, Clare, Grand Traverse, Isabella, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Mecosta, Missaukee, Montcalm, Osceola, and Roscommon Counties

Contact: Katie O'Connor

Telephone: (231) 935-9327

Congressional District: Stupack, 1st Dist.; Hoekstra, 2nd Dist.; and Camp 4th Dist.

Munson Home Care will use this Rural Development grant to expand telemedicine technologies in 32 rural counties in northern Michigan. The project will use notebook computers and Personal Desk Assistants in patient's homes to



chart vital signs, track patient medications and history, provide wound management, and prepare clinical care plans.

Hackley Lakeshore Hospital

\$343,096

Michigan

Areas Served: Muskegon and Oceana Counties

Contact: Jay Bryan

Telephone: (231) 861-3030

Congressional District: Hoekstra, 2nd Dist.

This project will provide funding for a Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) for a small local hospital. The proposed system will generate electronic radiological images and manage the sharing of those images between inpatient units, emergency departments and primary care sites. The system will also be used to train medical staff and for videoconference meetings.

Charlevoix Area Hospital

\$248,627

Michigan

Areas Served: Antrim and Charlevoix

Contact: Lyn Jenks

Telephone: (231) 547-8502

Congressional District: Stupack, 1st Dist.

This project will combine the use of Digital Imaging and Picture Archiving and Communications technologies to support synchronous telemedicine. This will aid the region's move to remote monitoring of patients in their homes.

2006 Grant Awards

Borgess Health Alliance

\$218,800

Michigan

Areas Served: Allegan, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties

Contact: Paul Noseworthy

Telephone: (269) 226-4878

Congressional District: Upton, 6th

Rural Development funds will be used to build upon the existing Virtual Intensive Care Unit service operating between Borgess Medical Center and five rural hospitals by expanding the current Regional Virtual Intensive Care Unit network and adding three additional hospitals located in rural southwest Michigan. The RVICU system will provide virtual ICU services, real-time consults and diagnostic exams as well as specialty care services through the use of videoconferencing,



digital diagnostic imaging, and remote monitoring between the hub and end-user sites.

Hackley Visiting Nurse Services, Inc.

\$159,691

Michigan

Areas Served: Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, and Oceana

Contact: Nancy T. McCarthy

Telephone: (231) 726-5025

Congressional District: Hoekstra, 2nd Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to establish a telemedicine system that will relay health information from patient's homes to the hub/end-user sites in Muskegon. The project is designed to improve access to care and to improve medical monitoring of patients by using state-of-the-art disease management protocols. The project goal is to reduce diabetic complications, reduce the rate of re-hospitalization in CHF patients and improve the healing rates of wound patients. The overall goal of the project is to improve the quality of life of county residents and reduce morbidity and mortality rates.

MidMichigan Visiting Nurse Association

\$412,722

Michigan

Areas Served: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, Montcalm, Ogemaw, Roscommon, and Saginaw

Contact: Christine M. Chesny

Telephone: (989) 633-1401

Congressional District: Camp, 4th

Rural Development funds will be used to enhance health delivery through mobile telemedicine using telemonitors, computers, and PDA's to transmit medical information on patient's health status to a central monitoring station for review by clinical staff and referral to physicians if necessary. The project will serve rural residents in 11 counties covering 4,705 square miles.

REMEC TeleHealth Network

\$106,211

Michigan

Areas Served: Alpena, Benzie, Cadillac, Charlevoix, Crawford, Cheboygan, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, and Otsego Counties

Contact: Randi Oehlers

Telephone: (231) 935-7937

Congressional District: Stupak, 1st Dist.; Hoekstra, 2nd Dist.; and Camp, 4th Dist.



Rural Development funds will be used to implement IP based videoconferencing in northern Michigan. The system will offer educational opportunities including college level classes, patient care, disaster preparedness, and other opportunities to rural residents of Michigan.

Upper Peninsula Health Care Network, Inc.

\$500,000

Michigan

Areas Served: Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Luce, and Marquette Counties

Contact: Gerald A. Messana

Telephone: (906) 225-3146

Congressional District: Stupak, 1st Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to create a digital imaging network for image management and effective patient processing. This project will use digital imaging technology for analog imaging studies, in partnership with the member hospitals in the Upper Peninsula Health Care Network, that currently do not possess this technology. Radiologists will have rapid access to images and records and patients will benefit as a result of efficient and rapid processing.

2005 Grant Awards

Alpena General Hospital

\$421,872

Michigan

Areas Served: Alpena, Alcona, Iosco, Montmorency, and Presque Isle Counties

Contact: Steven Mousseau

Telephone: (989) 356-7771

Congressional District: Stupak, 1st Dist.

The project will provide upgraded digital radiology services, a wireless network within participating clinics and installation of PACS compatible computers capable of displaying high resolution images. The project will serve over 40,000 patients in six counties covering a 3,000 square mile area.

Berrien County Intermediate School District

\$350,000

Michigan

Areas Served: Berrien and Cass Counties

Contact: Janine M. Lim

Telephone: (269) 471-7725

Congressional District: Upton, 6th Dist.



A video-over-IP conferencing system will employ existing T-1 lines connecting Berrien County ISD with the end-user sites to enhance student technology and communication skills. 35 elementary and middle schools in Berrien and Cass counties and a total of 8,870 students will benefit from this project as well as over 1,000 educators who will gain access to professional development opportunities.

Borgess Health Alliance

\$321,020

Michigan

Areas Served: Kalamazoo, Allergan, Berrien, Branch, Cass, and St. Joseph Counties

Contact: Paul Noseworthy

Telephone: (269) 226-4878

Congressional District: Upton, 6th Dist. and Schwarz, 7th Dist.

Borgess Medical Center and 5 rural hospitals will establish a regional virtual intensive care unit network, expanding the existing Southwest Michigan Telehealth Network. The system will provide patient monitoring, real-time ICU consults between attending physicians and intensivist physicians, real-time diagnostic examinations, and specialty care services through videoconferencing, digital diagnostic imaging, and remote monitoring. Approximately 32,000 residents of rural Michigan will benefit from this project.

Trinity Health Michigan

\$200,015

Michigan

Areas Served: Crawford, Oscoda, Roscommon Counties

Contact: Stephanie Riemer-Matuzak

Telephone: (989) 348-0315

Congressional District: Stupak, 1st Dist. and Camp, 4th Dist.

Healthcare providers in clinics and physicians in office environments will access patient information and provide coordinated care to patients using a Community Electronic Medical Record (EMR). The project will serve over 20,000 residents in a three county area that covers 1,644 square miles.

2004 Grant Awards

Harbor Beach Community School District

Harbor Beach, Michigan

\$466,865

Area(s) served: Huron County

Contact: Ron Kraft, 989-479-3261

Congressional District(s): MI-10



Harbor Beach Community School District will partner with six other rural school districts in Huron County Michigan to create the Huron County School Consortium. This organization will expand a distance learning program to include technology resources such as video-on-demand, and distance learning instructors. The project will obtain technology resources to enable the residents of the communities to obtain professional development, and to provide expanded learning opportunities for students. The project will serve 4,821 students in grades K-12 in Huron County.

Marquette General Health System

Marquette, Michigan

\$176,421

Area(s) served: Baraga, Chippewa, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Ontonagon, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft Counties

Contact: Sally Davis 906-225-3120; Fax: 906-225-7696

Congressional District(s): MI-01

Through telehealth technologies, Marquette General Health System will partner with Helen Newberry Joy Hospital, Iron County Community Hospital, and Portage Health System to increase access to medical specialties, provide patient education, and to enhance competency of healthcare staff. The partnership will maximize health status, disease self-management, and lifestyle potential for patients within three remote communities in the nine county rural area. Approximately 8,800 residents will benefit from this healthcare partnership.

MidMichigan Visiting Nurse Association

Midland, Michigan

\$215,519

Area(s) served: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Midland, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Saginaw Counties

Contact: Christine Chesny, 989-633-1401

Congressional District(s): MI-01, MI-04

MidMichigan Visiting Nurse Association will use RUS funding to enhance a mobile telemedicine system. This system will relay health information from patient's homes and from field offices, to the network hub. The project will help maintain quality of care, assuring access to care, and help reduce medical costs. The system will be available to 362,795 residents in the nine-county service area.



2003 Grant Awards:

Borgess Health Alliance, Inc.; Kalamazoo, MI

\$369,121

Area(s) Served: Counties of Cass, Van Buren, Berrien, and St. Joseph

Contact: Paul Noseworthy (269) 226-6690; Fax: (269) 226-5966

Congressional District(s): 6th

Borgess Health Alliance will utilize RUS grant funds to expand the Southwest Michigan TeleHealth Network which was established in 2002. The current project will add seven new communities to the network and provide educational benefits to 3,230 rural residents as well as 1,129 physicians, nurses, medical students, and volunteers. The project will enable the residents of the rural communities to enhance the scope and quality of healthcare services they provide, promote more efficient use of healthcare resources, meet the educational and "connectivity" needs of isolated healthcare professionals, and save their patients the costs and inconveniences related to living in a rural community.

Cybernet Medical Corporation; Ann Arbor, MI

\$496,588

Area(s) Served: Counties of Ottawa, Delaware, Craig, Marshall, Johnston, Caddo, Custer, Washita, Dewey, Blaine, Kiowa, Beckham, Alfalfa, Woods, Major, Kay, Garfield, and Noble in Oklahoma

Contact: Natalie H. Baird, (734) 668-2567; Fax: (734) 668-8780

Congressional District(s): Applicant 15th Michigan, Project 2nd, 3rd and 4th Oklahoma

Cybernet will use RUS grant funds to provide home monitoring systems to 200 patients in rural Oklahoma. The systems will remotely transmit weight, blood pressure, blood glucose, blood oxygen level, lung air volume, electrocardiogram data and two-way video to one of six rural hospitals for near real time access by physicians. The monitoring systems save travel time for routine testing and improve accuracy over self testing.

MidMichigan Health Services; Houghton Lake, MI

\$334,462

Area(s) Served: Counties of Clare and Roscommon

Contact: Darrell E. Milner (989) 422-5148; Fax: (989) 422-6838

Congressional District(s): Applicant 6th, Project 4th

MidMichigan Health Services will use RUS grant funds to link medical facilities in Houghton Lake, Roscommon and Clare to the MidMichigan Medical Center in Midvale, Michigan. This network will bring first-rate medical services to approximately 56,000 residents of the Clare and Roscommon County areas. By utilizing existing telecommunications infrastructure, new equipment purchased with grant funds will serve these sections of the MidMichigan Health Services area. Using digital imaging and technology, ultrasound images will be taken with



new equipment and viewed by medical specialists in other major medical facilities. Additional equipment to be purchased will allow interactive consultations between physicians and patients that may be in separate clinics or hospitals.

Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District; Cadillac, MI

\$354,005

Area(s) Served: Cities of Cadillac, Lake City, Manton, Marion, McBain, Mesick, Luther, Leroy, and Tustin

Contact: Karen Mlcek (231) 876-2263; Fax: (231) 876-4801

Congressional District(s): 2nd, 4th

The Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District provides service to seven small school districts located within five counties in Northwest Michigan. RUS grant funds will allow the Intermediate School District to provide a state-of-the-art IP based video system with backward compatibility with the existing serial based system at the seven small school districts. A total of 10,017 students and over 700 teachers in the seven districts will benefit from the project. In addition, the system will be available for use by the communities and to some extent three adjacent ISD's for professional development training.

2002 Award:

Borgess Health Alliance, Inc.; Kalamazoo, Michigan

\$368,183 Grant

Area(s) Served: Coldwater, Dowagiac, Plainwell, Three Rivers, Watervliet, & Hillsdale

Contact: Paul Noseworthy, (616) 226-6690; Fax: (616) 226-5966

Congressional District(s): Applicant: 6th / Project: 2nd, 6th and 7th

The Borgess Health Alliance will use RUS grant funds to establish a telemedicine network in a six-county, 3,500 square mile, rural region located in Southwest Michigan. The predominant purpose of the Southwest Michigan Telehealth Network (Network) is to install and operate a distance learning network between a hub-site at Borgess Medical Center, and six (6) rural end-user locations. The project will use leased T-1 communication lines between the local hospitals located at each end-user community and the central hub-site in Kalamazoo. At each site, mobile Tandberg-6000 Video Conferencing units will enable video conferencing capabilities for distance learning application. In addition, mobile Tandberg "intern" units using both video and clinical data connections will enable the combination of distance learning with clinical teaching, patient examination, and patient diagnostic capabilities. It is expected that approximately 2,873 rural residents will benefit from the project by: (1) expanded access to, and coordination of community health and professional education programs; (2) reduced costs and inconvenience of absent local professional medical education; (3) ease in recruitment and retention problems; (4) improved use of limited rural



resources, (5) local cardiology consultations; (6) cost-savings from fewer patient transfers; and, (7) improved communications among health care professionals.

2001 Grant Awards:

Gratiot-Isabella Regional Educational Service District; Ithaca, Michigan

\$296,500 Grant

Area(s) Served: Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Montcalm, Gratiot, Ionia, Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties; Contact: Mr. Douglas W. Sasse, Jr.; (517) 975-5101, Fax: (517) 828-5619

Congressional District(s): Applicant B 4th /Project B 3rd, 4th, 7th and 8th.

Gratiot-Isabella Regional Educational Service District and its collaborating partners serve 58 traditional public school districts, 14 public school academies, 32 non-public schools, 86,568 students, 5,295 teachers, 424 administrators, and 19 health-oriented agencies. The primary purpose of this grant is to provide expanded connectivity among six rural intermediate school districts. The project will provide rural teachers and other educational and health leaders with technology skills that will enable them to use telecommunications and information technology to improve pre-kindergarten through 12th grade education. This project will provide connectivity and professional development that is needed to meet state and national curriculum standards. RUS grant funds will be used to purchase distance learning equipment including a video bridge that would allow two school districts to access simultaneously any of the educational resources and two portable digital television systems which could be delivered into a classroom, with two-way video and audio. Rural school health nurses, psychologists, counselors and others will use the system for consultations with medical experts at Lansing area hospitals and Michigan State University.

IOSCO Regional Educational Service Agency Oscoda, Michigan

\$106,362 Grant

Areas served: Iosco County

Contact: Thomas P. Cladwell, Ph.D.; (517) 739- 0300

Fax: (517) 739-0061

Congressional District(s): Applicant B 1st and 3rd /Project B 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th.

The Iosco Regional Educational Service Agency's goal is to build a two-way interactive system that is versatile and user-friendly. The purpose of the project is to enable approximately 6,000 students and 19,000 adults living in Iosco County and parts of three other counties to receive better and more diverse educational opportunity. RUS funds will be used to complete an interactive telecommunications system including Interactive Television (ITV) classrooms for distance learning in northeast lower Michigan. The project will also be available to other public schools, colleges, community groups and individuals throughout the area. This two-way interactive system will help schools in this area overcome the obstacles of poverty, isolation, and lack of variety in educational resources,



by providing access to efficient educational resource networking throughout the state, as well as nationwide and worldwide.

OWENDALE-GAGETOWN AREA SCHOOLS, Owendale, Michigan

\$54,000 Grant

Area(s) served: Huron County, MI

Contact: Mr. Daniel A. McKenzie, (517) 678-4261; FAX: (517) 678-4284

Congressional District(s): 5th

Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools is a public school district with a small student population and limited financial resources. In order to expand curriculum offerings and provide additional educational and professional development opportunities for students, staff, and community members, the school district will establish a distance learning classroom linked to an existing network of eight neighboring school districts. The system employs T-1 lines to support interactive television, Internet access, and data sharing. Grant funds will be used to acquire a distance learning classroom package including audio-video equipment necessary to conduct interactive video conferencing. It is expected that the system will benefit 275 students, 30 staff members, and 536 residents in the communities of Owendale and Gagetown.

2000 Awards:

ALPENA GENERAL HOSPITAL, Alpena, Michigan

\$350,000 Grant

Area(s) served: Alpena, Alcona, Iosco and Montmorency Counties and Preque Isle

Contact: Ms. Pat Yantomasi, (517) 356-8017; FAX: (517) 356-7773

1st and 5th Congressional District

This Digital Imaging Management System (DIMS) project involves the conversion of the present method of doing x-rays and all radiologic tests from film to digital images using computerized radiology. The digital images are transmitted over frame relay network where they are read by a hospital radiologist in real time while the physician in one of the eight rural health clinics has a patient in the office. Both the radiologist and the rural physician may simultaneously look at the image on their respective computer screens and discuss the diagnosis. The radiologist's report is then transmitted back to the clinic and treatment is immediately started. Transmitting the images directly to tertiary centers saves valuable time in trauma, cardiac and pediatric cases that require consultation with specialists and possible transport. Without DIMS, films are transported with the patient to tertiary centers that are a minimum of 3 hours away. With DIMS, the specialist can see the images, determine if transport is necessary, and start treatment before the patient is transported from the clinic or the hospital. In addition to saving time, the digital images are better quality than film and are easier to store, retrieve and distribute.



BALDWIN FAMILY HEALTH CARE, INC., Baldwin, Michigan

\$82,919 Grant

Area(s): Lake County

Contact: Ms. Linda Shively, (231) 745-2743, FAX: (231) 745-3690

2nd Congressional District

This project involves the addition of a 4-port cluster to an existing 12-port bridging switch as well as the installation of two interactive distance learning classrooms--one at FiveCAP, Inc.'s Child Care Center and one at Baldwin Family Health Care, Inc. (BFHC). The existing switch at West Shore Community College (WSCC) provides multi-location video conferencing and, by installing the additional 4 ports, a variety of activities may be broadcast or received at the same time. The Child Care Center will connect to WSCC and BFHC to provide a "one-stop shopping" opportunity for disadvantaged children to benefit from early detection and treatment of an array of health concerns. The connection will also provide an avenue for accessing essential training programs for the center's staff from the National Training Center in Washington, D.C., along with other state and regional programs. Similarly, rural physicians at BFHC will connect to the medical school at Michigan State University (MSU) to access seminars, conferences and meetings via two-way audio/visual conferencing capability. Moreover, BFHC is a training facility for MSU medical school student physicians and this system will connect students to professors and medical classes that cannot be presently accessed. Also, health care workers at BFHC will connect with WSCC, St. Claire Community College and Saginaw State University to access hard to reach community education courses that are necessary for medical re-certification. Another important use of the system will be to connect an existing distance learning classroom at Baldwin High School to BFHC so that students may receive BFHC's broadcast of its locally developed basic health care programs covering topics such as nutrition, child care and teen pregnancy, to name a few.

1999 Awards:

Alpena General Hospital, Alpena, Michigan

\$156,069 Grant

Counties Served: Alpena, Alcona, Iosco, Montmorency, Preque Isle

Contact Person: Pat Yantomasi, (517) 356-8017: FAX: (517) 356-7773;

A frame relay network transmitting voice and data will completely connect the hospital with eight rural health clinics. The network will enable sites to share patient records, access a digital medical library, and have instant availability of medical orders and test results across the system, which will allow quicker medical diagnoses. Additionally, it will consolidate the administrative functions of all the sites and reduce patient travel times.

West Shore Community College; Scottville, Michigan

\$291,296 Grant

Counties served: Lake, Mason, and Oceana



Contact Person: Ms. Patti Davidson, (231) 845-6211, ext 3106: Fax (231) 845-0207

The West Shore Community College (WSCC), is the lead agency in a consortium known as West Michigan Communications Network (WMCN). The overall goal of the proposed project is to install a 12-port bridging switch along with global classrooms in area high schools that will provide a linkage between the schools and the other agencies of the WMCN. The purpose of this project is to enable students within the three counties to acquire equal educational opportunities, which might otherwise be restricted by the remote rural area in which they live. It will expand opportunities for use to other public schools, colleges, community groups and individuals throughout the area. The benefits of this system will enable a wide range of educational services to the students in its service district.

1998 Awards:

Atlanta Community School District

\$54,007 Grant / \$83,646 Loan

Total: \$137,653

Location: Atlanta, Michigan

Area(s) served: Montmorency

Contact Mr. Tarry M. Deo

(517) 785-4877

Fax: (517) 785-2611

Congressional District: 1st.

The overall goal of the proposed project is to build a two-way interactive telecommunications system at Atlanta Community Schools that complies and links to the State's Michigan Consortium Technology Association system to access distance learning courses. The purpose of this project is to enable students within the district, to acquire equal educational opportunities which might otherwise be restricted by the remote rural area and the often hazardous conditions of winter travel in which they reside. It will expand opportunities for use to other public schools, colleges, community groups and individual throughout the area. Technological cooperation with other community agencies will enable Atlanta Community Schools to provide a wide range of educational services to the students in its service district.

Hills & Dales General Hospital

\$125,664 Grant / \$180,853 Loan

Total: \$306,517

Location: Cass City, Michigan

Area(s) served: Huron, Sanilac, Tuscola

Contact: Ms. Dee McKrow

Telephone Number: (517) 872-2121

Fax Number: (517) 872-5376

Congressional District: 5th.

One hospital in each of Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties will be equipped with a global classroom that will be used to provide continuing education classes for 3,000 allied health workers via Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU). These classes will allow these health workers the opportunity to obtain re-certification and re-licensure without having to drive long distances to SVSU. This will provide an incentive for badly needed rural health care workers to remain in the Thumb area. Additionally, within 6 to 9 months the project will expand so that these classrooms will enable medically pertinent conferences and seminars to include rural physicians and professional health care workers, allowing for continual up dating of medical information and the newest techniques for treatments. These classrooms will also be used to produce health-related videos to be broadcast over the local cable TV station, Thumb Area Television (TATV) to 25,000 thumb area homes and 30,000 K-12 students. The proposed health education/wellness classes and health information will promote healthy lifestyles and to encourage prevention measures to avert the higher levels of chronic disease common to rural areas. Health related videos will also be produced for patient viewing while recovering at each hospital.

Marquette General Hospital, Inc.

\$64,679 Grant / \$66,321 Loan

Total: \$131,000

Location: Marquette, Michigan

Area(s) served: Chippewa and Mackinac

Contact Ms. Sally Davis

Telephone Number: (906) 225-3120

Fax Number: (906) 225-3031

Congressional District: 1st.

The project entitled Expanding Telehealth to Isolated Communities in Michigan's Upper Peninsula proposes to address the identified health care barriers experienced by residents and professional in the target communities and throughout the region of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The grant will assist two areas of this rural, geographically isolated region to connect to video conferencing and data network already existing in the regional Mackinac Straits Hospital and Bay Mills Indian Community. Both operate their health care services at a loss, yet these services are vital to the community. The target communities are St. Ignace in Mackinac County, which is served by the Mackinac Straits Hospital, and Bay Mills Indian Community in Chippewa County whose health care needs are served by the tribal health center. These communities are particularly isolated and financially disadvantaged when it comes to providing health care to residents and visitors.

1997 Awards:

Cheboygan Area Schools

Award: \$50,659 Loan / 55,841 Grant



Total: \$106,500

Location: Cheboygan, Michigan

Area(s) Served: County of Cheboygan

Contact Person: John L. Palmer

Telephone Number: (616) 627-4436

FAX Number: (616) 627-9105

The Cheboygan Area Schools (Cheboygan) is located in an exceptionally rural portion of Michigan's lower peninsula. RUS grant funds will enable Cheboygan to utilize available technology in order to overcome the remoteness by implementing a fiber optic backbone for a wide-area network (WAN) and distance learning capabilities. Additionally, the intent is to provide the school district with access to library resources over the Internet. Expanded access to distance learning will be achieved through a "direct-connect" with Michigan Collegiate Telecommunications Association, which is an organization currently supporting over 140 distance education offerings. This connection with MiCTA will provide the school district and the community with more courses, educational opportunities, and access to over 500 distance learning sites throughout the Midwest.

Scheurer Hospital

Award: \$99,864 Loan / 52,820 Grant

Total: \$152,684

Location: Pigeon, Michigan

Area(s) Served: County of Huron

Contact Person: Dwight Gascho

Telephone Number: (517) 453-3223

FAX Number: (517) 453-2411

Scheurer Hospital is a private non-profit hospital. The hospital as well as the Scheurer Family Medical clinic is located in Pigeon (population 1,207). Scheurer's additional three clinics are located in Sebewaing (population 1,923), Caseville (population 857) and Elkton (population 958). Thus all five sites for the project are Exceptionally Rural Areas. The proposed Telemedicine project, Project InterLink, will furnish each clinic, as well as each patient's room in the clinic, with computers which will transmit, via tower, patient data to both the emergency room in the hospital as well as to each in-house clinic, making instant access to records histories, treatments and vital statistics to all physicians and staff. The plan calls for erecting three 100-foot high towers at out-county rural clinics which will transmit information and data to each other as well as to the hospital. By providing 15 computers in clinics, the emergency room, and each consultation room, immediate access to all patient data as well as digital imaging of sigmoidoscope examinations, EKGs and CAT scans will be available to 40 physicians and specialists, who are provided the access code, at any time, anywhere.



1996 Grant Awards:

MidMichigan Regional Health System, Inc.

\$336,124

Midland, Michigan

Contact Person: Harlan Goodrich

Phone Number: 517-839-3345

FAX: 517-839-1399

An RUS grant will be used for the project proposed by MidMichigan Regional Health System to develop a telemedicine network connecting the computer systems of end-user sites and hubs in the service area for the purpose of transmitting and speeding communication of patient related information. By utilizing advanced telecommunications telemedicine technologies, additional benefits include remote patient assessments, patient education sessions, and continuing staff education. The overall goal is to improve the quality, access efficiency, and cost effectiveness of delivering patient care. RUS grant funds will be used to acquire the equipment necessary to create this system.

Upper Peninsula Health Care Network

\$327,224

Marquette, Michigan

Contact Person: Sally Davis

Phone Number: 906-225-3470

FAX: 906-225-3037

The Upper Peninsula Health Care Network is a consortium that includes a regional medical center, 13 community hospitals, and a Medicaid management plan. The focus of the group is to serve the 314,000 residents of Michigan's Upper Peninsula through the promotion of managed care networks, cooperative hospital services, availability of education, access to health care, and assurance of high professional standards. The remoteness, sparse population and severe weather of this area has made access to medical services and medical education a serious problem. Helping to solve the problem, UPHCN will use RUS grant funds to expand the existing network to five unconnected and isolated health care facilities. Specifically, funds for the project will assist in the purchase of five video conference room end-sites, a multi-point control unit, technical assistance, and instructional design. The goals of this project are to reduce the isolation of health care providers in the Upper Peninsula through the expansion and enhancement of the video conference network that provides educational and clinical consultative services and to increase access to medical consultative services and health care education programs for rural population of the fifteen counties of the Upper Peninsula.

1995 Grant Award:

Delta School Craft Intermediate School District

\$325,000



Escanaba

Delta Schoolcraft Intermediate School District, Escanaba. The project will allow nine high schools and two community colleges in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northern Wisconsin to share teachers and resources. It will enable them to offer previously unavailable courses in mathematics, science, foreign languages, pre-vocational and career technical training.

1994 Grant Award:

Baldwin Family Health Care, Inc

\$250,000

Lake and Osceola Counties

Established as one of the first community health centers in the U.S., this rural-based institution will deliver a medical link cardiovascular program directly to patients' homes using "smart phone" units (a hybrid of telephone and computer) in conjunction with other home medical devices. Patients, primary care physicians and rural clinics in this remote two-county area will be connected to enhance cardiovascular rehabilitation services through clinical case management and health education. "Smart" phone information between patients and physicians is transmitted through regular phone lines with the use of modems and advanced software inherent in the "smart" phone system.

1993 Grant Award:

Upper Great Lakes Educational Technologies, Inc.

Marquette

A dual technology system planned by a consortium of hospitals, universities and schools, with emphasis on medical uses.