

DLT Awards – Minnesota

2012 Grant Awards

SISU Medical Systems

\$354,041

Minnesota

Areas Served: Swift, Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Itasca, Kanebec, Koochiching, Pine, and St. Louis Counties

Contact: Jody Nelson

Telephone: (218) 529 7900

Congressional District: Peterson, 7th Dist. and Cravaack, 8th Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to purchase video-equipped medical carts, exam cameras, monitors and related equipment for SISU's network of 11 member hospitals and 10 affiliated clinics, rural hospitals, and health care facilities in Northeast Minnesota known as the Arrowhead region. More than 80,000 people are expected to be served by the initiation or expansion of telemedicine services, which will connect rural patients and practitioners with medical specialist in Moose Lake and Aitkin. The project will focus on providing improved care to the vulnerable populations in poverty, especially of the elderly and children. SISU will also work closely with the various Chippewa and Ojibwe communities to ensure that the telemedicine connections are also reaching those who need medical services among the tribal organizations.

See Altru Health System (multi-state project) under North Dakota DLT Awards

See Avera Health (1) (multi-state project) under South Dakota DLT Awards

See Avera Health (2) (multi-state project) under South Dakota DLT Awards

2011 Grant Awards

Little Crow Telemedia Network

Minnesota

\$117,820

Areas Served: Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Stearns, Swift, and Yellow Medicine Counties

Contact: Mr. Pete Paul Royer

Telephone: (320) 295-7411

Congressional District: Peterson, 7th

Little Crow is a consortium which provides a distance learning video network across nine rural counties in Central Southern Minnesota. USDA Rural Development funds will help Little Crow expand their existing network by placing mobile carts fitted with video conferencing equipment at 14 public schools and the hub site at Little Crow. The network is geared toward elementary and middle school students, parents and teachers. Interactive video courses connecting to a multitude of colleges and universities will offer the users a smorgasbord of new classes and robust learning opportunities, particularly in math, sciences, literacy and cultural programs. Teachers will be able to access professional development classes, and also to better collaborate using video conferencing arrangements such as team teaching and teacher to teacher mentoring. Adult education classes will be offered, such as finance, real estate licensing, and nursing. Little Crow will match grant funds with \$119,000 of local funding.

National Joint Powers Alliance

Minnesota

\$405,991

Areas Served: Cass, Crow Wing, Otter Tail, Todd, and Wadena Counties

Contact: Mr. Todd Lyscio

Telephone: (218) 894-5463

Congressional District: Peterson, 7th, Cravaack, 8th

NJPA is a multi-service cooperative. Their specialists are exploring and pursuing collaborative ways to save money in providing services, such as education, needed in the communities they serve. USDA Rural Development will assist NJPA in funding a distance learning and video conferencing system which will optimize teaching and learning resources in their service territory. The system will include a mixture of equipment types serving 16 sites in Central Minnesota, including the NJPA offices. Video classrooms will be the norm while client-based software running on regular laptops will be deployed in situations where classrooms aren't necessary or feasible. That will be the case with teleconferenced meetings between students, parents and the coop specialist to work out customized learning plans. Coursework of all kinds will be offered, mostly through the Central Lakes College node, which can also access the St.

Cloud and Pine Technical colleges. The video end point of Lakewood Health Systems will make health occupation courses available at all sites. NJPA will match grant funds with \$204,788 of local funding.

ITASCA Area Schools Collaborative

Minnesota

\$497,378

Areas Served: Aitkin, Cass, Itasca, and St. Louis Counties

Contact: Mr. Lora R. Mathison

Telephone: (218) 327-5887

Congressional District: Cravaack, 8th

In the first of two related projects, 10 schools will connect through video conferencing to Itasca Community College (ITC), opening up new educational horizons in North Central Minnesota, and preparing students for college and professional careers. Building on the Itasca Area Schools Collaborate, which is a nationally recognized pre-kindergarten school readiness program, local educators will use the new system, funded with the assistance of the USDA Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program, to conduct video conferences between parents, teachers and young students. Then, at the middle and high school level teachers and administrators will use new teaching resources made available by the distance learning connecting to ITC. In addition to offering core curriculum and advance placement courses, new classes will feature an Ojibway teacher, who will teach Native American language and culture to all video end-point schools. ITC will offer classes for students going into technical fields and local teachers will be offered classes for advanced degree programs. ITASCA will match grant funds with \$249,475 of local funding.

ITASCA Area Schools Collaborative

Minnesota

\$494,767

Areas Served: Aitkin, Cass, Itasca, and St. Louis Counties

Contact: Mr. Lora R. Mathison

Telephone: (218) 327-5887

Congressional District: Cravaack, 8th

In the second of two related projects, USDA Rural Development will assist ITASCA with funding video conferencing equipment for 11 public schools to connect to Itasca Community College (ITC), opening up new educational horizons in North Central Minnesota, and preparing students for college and professional careers. Building on the Itasca Area Schools Collaborate, which is a nationally recognized pre-kindergarten school readiness program, local educators will use the new system to conduct video conferences between parents, teachers and young students. Then, at the middle and high school level teachers and administrators will use new teaching resources made available by the distance learning connecting to ITC. Gaps caused by layoffs and budget cuts

will be offset by distributing live classroom sessions out to multiple sites. Cuts in foreign language in public schools will be offset by video classes conducted by ITC teachers. Distance tutoring and remediation courses will be available for students struggling with coursework. In addition to deploying video conferencing systems in participating classrooms, the network will install a content server for recording and streaming. ITASCA will match grant funds with \$256,294 of local funding.

2010 Grant Awards

Central Minnesota Educational Telecommunications System

\$330,008

Minnesota

Counties: Stearns, Douglas, Pope, Ottertail, and Todd,

Contact: Mr. Allen W. Edwards, (320) 859-2191

Bachmann, 6th Dist. and Peterson, 7th Dist

RUS funds will be used by Central Minnesota Educational Telecommunications System to expand nine rural public school districts education through distance learning classrooms. The interactive video technology will improve academic programs with access to higher academic coursework, and promote cooperative learning to build partnerships and promote diversity. The project will bring new bring new educational tools to assist schools reach *No Child Left Behind* accountability requirements.

Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative

\$369,906

Minnesota

Counties: Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Nobles, Lincoln, Redwood, Rock

Contact: Mr. Josh Sumption, (507) 537-2265

MN 1 - Tim Walz; MN 7 - Collin Peterson

RUS funds will be used to provide distance learning to sixteen schools through video conferencing equipment placed at each school. Students from each site will share in the access to advanced and expanded course choices. Special Education students will receive specialized coursework and innovative programming. Residents of all ages will have the option to continue their education and job retraining. New educational tools through the distance learning system will help the schools address challenges they face in meeting adequate yearly progress, and in meeting academic standards

2009 Grant Awards

Northeast Service Cooperative

\$133,058

Minnesota

Counties Served: St. Louis, Carlton, Koochiching, Lake, Pine

Contact: Mr. Lyle K. MacVey

Telephone: 218-748-7623

Congressional District: Oberstar, MN-8

The project will expand and upgrade the existing distance learning network that connects fourteen schools to each other and the applicant. In addition to improving the video-conferencing system, this project will extend the video link to the desktop. The project is aligned with Minnesota's World Class Students initiative.

Southland Public Schools

\$164,357

Minnesota

Counties Served: Steele, Olmstead, Fillmore, Freeborn, Mower, Dodge

Contact: Mr. Ryan Luft

Telephone: 507-582-3568

Congressional District MN-1 Tim Walz

The project will connect ten schools in a six-county area with Riverland Community College in a videoconferencing educational network to expand course offerings for academic advancement, technical training, job retraining, and for other uses.

Southeast Service Cooperative ISD 921

\$208,766

Minnesota

Counties Served: Fillmore, Winona, Goodhue, Houston, Wabasha, Olmsted

Contact: Ms. Suzanne Riley

Telephone: 507-281-6673

Congressional District: Tim Walz, MN-1; John Kline, MN-2

The project will use video-conferencing to connect nine schools to the applicant in a seven-county area. The focus of the project is to share academic resources, expand course offerings, and provide professional development for the teaching staff.

MacCray Public Schools

\$346,904

Minnesota

Counties Served: McLeod, Chippewa, Meeker, Stearns, Swift, Renville, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Kandiyohi, Big Stone, Yellow-Medicine

Contact: Mr. Pete P. Royer

Telephone: 320-234-0267
Congressional District: Collin C. Peterson, MN-7

The project will use video-conferencing to connect nineteen schools to the Little Crow Telemedia Network and the Minnesota Valley Education District. The project will promote resource sharing and provide access to post-secondary education. The project is designed to complement the Minnesota World Class Student Initiative.

Lakes Country Service Cooperative

\$475,803

Minnesota

Counties Served: Otter Tail, Traverse, Polk, Pennington, Isanti, Clay, Pine, Grant, Wilkin, Stevens, Koochiching, Red Lake, Kittson, Kanabec, Chisago

Contact: Mr. Jeremy N. Kovash

Telephone: 218-739-3273

Congressional District: Collin C. Peterson, MN-7; James L. Oberstar, MN-8

The project will use video-conferencing to connect twenty two schools, a technical college, and two educational service cooperatives. The goal is to share resources, provide access to new content, improve learning outcomes, reduce dropout rates, and provide professional development.

Mahnomen Health Center

\$69,573

Minnesota

Counties Served: Mahnomen

Contact: Ms. Susan Kay Klabo

Telephone: 218-935-2511

Congressional District: Collin C. Peterson, MN-7

The project establishes telemedicine equipment to connect the applicant's health center on the White Earth Indian Reservation with remote hospitals for analysis by specialists. The equipment will be used to evaluate heart disease and diabetes.

2008 Grant Awards

Northeast Service Cooperative

Minnesota

\$442,784

Areas Served: St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, 8th Dist.

Contact: Mr. Paul Brinkman

Telephone: (218) 748-7623

Congressional District: Oberstar, 8th

Rural Development grant funding will be used by Northeast Service to increase distance learning opportunities in six rural school districts and two community colleges. The project will implement the State of Minnesota World-Class Students initiative designed to create rigorous courses through the development of quality real-time, web-based distance learning and videoconferencing which will improve and supplement the existing curricula. Additional benefits include improved literacy and math instruction as well as providing professional development opportunities for teachers.

2006 Grant Awards

Mid-State Education District 6979

Minnesota

\$210,675

Areas Served: Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Nobles, Stearns, Todd, Wadena

Contact: Mr. Charles R. Diebel

Telephone: 320-360-3696

Congressional District: MN-01, 06, 07, 08

Rural Development funds will be used to enable MSET to expand distance learning and other educational services to all learners via live, two-way interactive programming in existing ITV classrooms. Students will be able to access streamed content at computer stations and participate via email or phone. Technology upgrades will enable archiving for future use.

2005 Grant Awards

Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs, Inc.

Minnesota

\$475,022

Areas Served: Becker, Beltrami, Brown, Carlton, Carver, Chippewa, Clay, Cook, Cottonwood, Filmore, Houston, Hubbard, Isanti, Itasca, Kandiyohi, Koochiching, Lac qui Parle, Lake, LeSueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Pine, Pipestone, Pope, Polk, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Sherburne, Sibley, St. Louis, Swift, Todd, Washington, Watonwan, Winona, Wright, Yellow Medicine, Benton, Stearns, Crow Wing, Morrison, Wadena, Scott Counties

Contact: Ronald C. Brand

Telephone: 651-642-1903

Congressional District: MN-01, MN-02, MN-03, MN-04, MN-05, MN-06, MN-07, MN-08

Psychiatrists, physicians, and other clinicians will provide mental health consultations to people needing those services, and also will be able to hold conferences, over a telemedicine (mental health) system. The system will expand continuing professional education, crisis services, psychological assessment, clinical supervision, and family psycho-education opportunities. 32 private, community-based, non-profit mental health organizations will participate. The program is expected to serve an estimated 125,000 children, adults and families.

MediSota, Inc.

Minnesota

\$102,100

Areas Served: Chippewa, Lincoln, Redwood, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Lyon, Murray, Watonwan, Meeker, Stearns, Yellow Medicine Counties

Contact: Debra Ranallo

Telephone: 320-769-2269

Congressional District: MN-07

14 rural hospitals in critically underserved areas will offer education for physicians, healthcare providers, pharmacists, hospital and nursing home administrators, and other allied health personnel. Videoconferencing will allow participating hospitals virtual face-to-face communications in recruitment of healthcare professionals, and also support patients' access to education and support groups. The project will serve 132,403 residents located in 11 counties.

Tri-County Hospital, Inc.

Minnesota

\$500,000

Areas Served: Otter Tail, Todd, Wadena Counties

Contact: Maureen D. Ideker

Telephone: 218-631-7481

Congressional District: MN-07, MN-08

This project will allow Tri-County Hospital (TCH) to provide teleradiology and emergency services to six end-user sites, and expand and upgrade an existing wide area network (WAN) to include 10 additional telemedicine sites. The expansion will initiate 5 new telemedicine services and clinical information systems applications in 8 healthcare facilities. Wadena-Deer Creek High School will also serve 7 end-user schools for school nursing and speech-pathology services. The TCH serves over 25,000 residents in 3 counties of west central Minnesota.

2004 Grant Awards

Minnesota Tele-Media

Minnesota

\$482,791

Areas Served: Cities of Adrian, Grove City, Benson, Olivia, Belgrade, Hector, Canby, Morgan, Comfrey, Dawson, Edgerton, Ellsworth, Fulda, Hills, Kerkhoven, Madison, Cottonwood, Lester Prairie, Ivanhoe, Luverne, Clara City, Brownton, Mountain Lake, Slayton, New London, Ortonville, Lambertton, Tyler, Round Lake, Sleepy Eye, Okabena, Springfield, Tracy, Westbrook, Windom, and Granite Falls

Contact: Daniel J. Baun

Telephone: 507-537-6978

Congressional District: Applicant - MN-07; Project - MN-01 and MN-07

Minnesota Tele-Media provides research, planning, funding assistance, implementation and organization of telecommunications and distance learning services for educational institutions in southwestern and west central Minnesota. With RUS grant funds, Minnesota Tele-Media will increase curriculum options for the region's K-12 students, offer more professional development opportunities for teachers and staff, and provide more access to post-secondary and adult basic education programming. These benefits will be provided by an "Electronic Learning Commons" which will enhance the region's educational services infrastructure and provide a wide array of technological tools and support needed to develop this infrastructure. A total of 11,136 enrolled students and 971 teachers at 37 schools will benefit from this project.

2003 Grant Awards

Lakewood Health System

Minnesota

\$494,115

Areas Served: Wadena, Todd, Cass, and Morrison Counties

Contact: Laurie Bach

Telephone: (218) 894-0302

Congressional District: Applicant, 7th; Project, 7th and 8th

Lakewood Health System will utilize RUS grant funds to upgrade a wide area network for distance learning and telemedicine in Staples, Minnesota and seven surrounding communities. The network includes five school districts with 4,790 students, a hospital, rural health clinics, and the local community college. The project will provide expanded K-12 and post-secondary curriculum, general college credits and health care curriculum over a distance learning network and upgrade established distance learning sites for students of all ages. Additional objectives are to collaborate with education and healthcare professionals to address healthcare workforce shortages,

decrease early out-migration of students and utilize technology to bridge time and distance for patient care.

St. Joseph's Medical Center

Minnesota

\$472,239

Areas Served: Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena Counties

Contact: Dale Benson

Telephone: (218) 828-7339

Congressional District: 7th and 8th

Central Lakes College is collaborating with medical facilities and schools to connect an eight county area of Northern Minnesota with funds from this grant. The designated purpose is for distance learning, however, the medical community serving Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties will benefit as well. A total of seventeen schools with 18,134 students will receive an upgraded distance learning network and eight medical facilities will gain telemedicine links to better serve healthcare workers and rural residents of the counties. The proposed network will allow schools to share resources, and clinics to gain access to upgraded knowledge bases, while residents gain improved medical care close to home.

2002 Grant Awards

First Care Medical Services

Minnesota

\$200,000

Areas Served: Counties of Norman, Mahnommen, Marshall, Pennington, Clearwater, Polk, and Red Lake

Contact: Patricia Wangle

Telephone: (218) 435-1103

Congressional District: 2nd and 7th

The First Care Medical Services of Fosston, Minnesota will use RUS grant funds to implement a telemedicine project to enhance healthcare services to hospice and high-need, elderly, and home care patients. The Telemedicine program will provide telehealth two-way interactive audio video technology that will directly link approximately 60 patients to their physician in a clinic setting for a regular physician visit and to on-call First Care Medical Services nurses 24 hours per day, 7 days per week within minutes. Clinic physicians and First Care Medical Services nurses will be able to assess and manage pain and symptoms through a face-to-face live video display and connections that measure and transmit biometric data which can transmit temperature, blood pressure, pulse oximetry,

pulse, blood glucose, weight and stethoscope readings. The project service area is defined as a 30-mile radius of each office location, and the service area stretches 130 miles north to south and 100 miles east to west.

Mille Lacs Health System

Minnesota

\$207,720

Areas Served: Onamia, Hillman, Isle, and Ne la Shing Clinic -Mille Lacs Reservation

Contact: Randy Farrow

Telephone: (320) 532-7950

Congressional District: MN 8th

The Mille Lacs Health System will use RUS grant funds to assist in the implementation of a diagnostic inter-facility teleradiology network with picture archive and communication system (PACS) integration. The network will help ensure the basic delivery of high quality health care, improving its ability to meet the needs of over 4,000 living on the Mille Lacs Reservation and on off-reservation trust land as well as the remaining 12, 000 residents, many of whom are underserved, uninsured or underinsured. The health system also serves over 10,000 seasonal residents and 12,000 tourists. Specifically, this project is being developed exclusively for the purpose of using telemedicine to connect four (4) clinic end-user locations with the Mille Lacs Health System and with consulting radiologists in Brainerd, Minnesota, location approximately 50 miles northwest of Onamia. The new teleradiology /PACS system will allow "real time" readings of emergency department modalities such as CT which will substantially reduce clinicians' time in diagnosis and treatment of emergency conditions.

Tri-County Hospital, Inc.

Minnesota

\$500,000

Areas Served: Bertha, Henning, Menahga, Sebeka, Verndale, Wadena

Contact: Dennis C. Miley

Telephone: (218) 631-7483

Congressional District: 7th

The goal of this project is to improve the quality of rural life in the Wadena, Minnesota and eight surrounding community areas, with approximately 25,000 people, using advanced telecommunications technologies by extending scarce rural resources through telecommunications collaboration, connectivity, and networking. RUS grant funds will establish rural telecommunications networks for eight exceptionally rural communities. Specifically, the funds will be used to upgrade a continuation of a connected distance learning network involving six

schools with 4,152 students, a hospital, rural health clinics and a technical college. Funds will also be used to upgrade Tri-County Hospital's existing computer system to establish a telecommunication network between four medical clinics, a nursing home and a hospital. Two other telemedicine programs will be offered, telehome care for parish nursing and school telehealth.

Cuyuna Range Hospital District

Minnesota

\$500,000

Areas Served: Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Crow Wing, Pine Counties and Aitkin, Crosby and Moose Lake

Contact: Mr. John Schaubach

Telephone: (218) 546-2338

Congressional District: 8th

Cuyuna Range Hospital District is the lead applicant in a collaborative effort with Riverwood Health Care Center, and Mercy Hospital and Health Care Center. Cuyuna Range is a 42-bed general medical and surgical hospital with a full array of outpatient diagnostic and treatment capabilities. Riverwood, located in Aitkin, is an integrated physician clinic and 15-bed general medical and surgical hospital. Mercy is a 31-bed general medical hospital located in Moose Lake. Grant funds will be used for a telesurgery program linking the three hospitals, including equipment such as surgical cameras, a video hub, and flat panel monitors for transmitting images during surgical procedures. The technology will allow more efficient use of surgeons' time as the need for long distance travel is reduced. This will enable the rural areas to recruit specialists that are needed by the residents because of the access to a larger patient base and the capability to consult other physicians.

Paynesville Area Hospital District

Minnesota

\$264,071

Areas Served: Stearns, Kandiyohi, Meeker, and Wright Counties

Contact: Ms. Beverly Mueller

Telephone: (320) 243-7708

Congressional District: Applicant: 7th. Project: 2nd, 3rd and 7th

A district hospital and clinic system, Paynesville Area Health Care System (PAHCS) employs 10 physicians and three additional primary care staff in central Minnesota. Because medical staff members travel between clinics with varying operating hours, patients must visit multiple sites for routine care. This presents tracking challenges related to patient records. Most patients have at least two records in different physical locations. This situation slows the administration of healthcare as, for example, physicians must access medical off-site records

before prescribing medications. Grant funds are needed to establish an electronic patient records system in the form of a wireless LAN. Equipment to be purchased with RUS funds will include a computer server, notebook computers, and electronic medical records system software. Multiple access points would be placed throughout each PAHCS facility to provide physicians and nurses the capability to maintain contact with network resources while circulating through the facilities.

2000 Grant Awards

Buffalo Lake – Hector Schools, District 2159

Minnesota

\$349,313

Areas Served: Chippewa, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Stearns, and Swift

Contact: Mr. Gordon Hagert

Telephone: (320) 848-2303

Congressional District: 7th

Buffalo Lake was selected as the legal entity to apply for the grant on behalf of the Little Crow Consortium which already has a rudimentary distance learning system in place serving nine school districts. RUS grant funds will enable the expansion of the system through high bandwidth connectivity and increased channel capacity to provide video conferencing facilities, increased hours of usage, and expanded curriculum to the students in the participating school districts. The system is located in South Central Minnesota and will benefit 2,276 end users composed of 788 students, 151 teachers, 337 parents and 1,000 other community members who will have access to the system. The system also has a presence in St. Cloud State, Mankato State and Southwest State universities.

Longville Lakes Clinic

Minnesota

\$93,822

Areas Served: Cass and Crow Wing

Contact: Mr. John Schaubach

Telephone: (218) 546-2338

Congressional District: 8th

Longville Lakes Clinic is a nonprofit organization that contracts with Cuyuna Regional Medical Center (CRMC). The community of Longville does not have a pharmacy. Thus, persons who receive prescriptions at the Clinic at the time of treatment have to drive 30 miles to get prescriptions filled, or they have to wait for their mail order service, which takes a minimum of 4 to 5 days at a minimum. RUS grant funds will make a remote pharmacy service available to persons at

the Clinic at the time of service. The pharmacist at CRMC would be the dispensing pharmacist. The dispensing unit at the remote site operates through a software package running on a Pentium PC, which controls a secure automated dispensing device containing prepackaged multi-dose bottles.

Mille Lacs Band Of Ojibwe

Minnesota, Wisconsin

\$106,305

Areas Served: Minnesota: Mille Lacs, Aitkin and Pine; Wisconsin: Burnett

Contact: Ms. Sharon Gislason

Telephone: (320) 532-4752

Congressional District: Minnesota: 8th, Wisconsin: 7th

The Mille Lacs Telepharmacy project is needed to better serve band members and other reservation clinic patients to access pharmaceuticals. Many band members and other patients live in remote areas, which are up to 30-40 miles from the nearest pharmacy while the main pharmacy is up to 85 miles away for some band members. This project will provide medications and pharmaceuticals in each district of the Ojibwe Band. This will be accomplished by providing remote controlled package and bottle dispenser equipment as well as video teleconferencing equipment to consult with and dispense medications.

South Central Service Cooperative

Minnesota

\$350,000

Areas Served: Blue Earth, LeSeur, Martin and Waseca

Contact: Mr. Glenn Morris

Telephone: (507) 389-5106

Congressional District: 1st and 2nd

The South Central Wireless Education Initiative (SCWEI) is a wireless distance learning project serving an estimated 8,000 persons annually. This project covers 8 school districts that are serving 26 end user sites. These sites will receive an internal wireless local area network (LAN) providing interactive statewide programming and Internet learning. This infrastructure will serve the entire K-12 enrollment, faculty and staff in each district, as well as community residents through public access services that the schools can provide.

KRS Computer & Business Schools, Inc.

Minnesota

\$210,400

Areas Served: Becker, Clearwater, Hubbard, and Isanti

Contact: Mr. Kenneth R. Schnitker

Telephone: (612) 938-8823

The purpose of this grant is to purchase equipment for a distance learning hub site. This equipment will enable KRS to provide essential training skills to rural Minnesota using distance learning technology that has been developed by KRS. The target population to be served is comprised of under-employed individuals working in manufacturing facilities in rural Minnesota. This region is one of the most economically depressed in the state. Also, Native Americans on the White Earth Indian Reservation, located near KRS, will have access to critical training that is essential for them to succeed in high tech jobs.

1998 Grant Awards

Leech Lake Tribal College, Inc.

Minnesota

\$246,000

Areas Served: Cass and Itasca

Contact: Larry Aitken

Telephone: (218) 335-2828

Leech Lake Tribal College, Inc., plans to provide distance learning opportunities to 7 communities serving 2,930 mostly low-income residents located in north central Minnesota. The tribal college serves an area covering 1,000 square miles. Since most of the residents are economically challenged, they are unable to find affordable and reliable transportation to and from the main campus. In addition, most of the students cannot afford childcare services that would enable them to attend the college. The winters are usually brutal with dangerously cold temperatures and heavy snowfalls that make vehicular travel very risky. Through this project, the tribal college will offer a variety of coursework that will enable future graduates to improve their standard of living while remaining in their communities. Some of the courses that will be offered include a four-year degree course in elementary education and studies in the native Anishinabe language. The distance learning sites will offer connectivity to anywhere in the outside world so that students will obtain the maximum learning benefit.

1997 Grant Awards

University of Minnesota Board of Regents of the University and Community

Minnesota

\$ 279,617

Areas Served: Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Le Sueur, and Watonwan Counties

Contact: Mr. Dale Jarvis

Telephone: 507-433-8804

The University of Minnesota's Hormel and Humphrey Institutes, in conjunction with KSMQ Public Television, plan to implement an interactive, video-streamed health care program aimed at health care providers and consumers in five rural communities in Southern Minnesota. The proposed project would involve two broadcasts (webcasts) over the Internet. The first program will involve health care professionals who will participate in webcasts led by Mayo Clinic specialists. The second program will be aimed at consumers of health care services. Citizens in five rural communities will utilize two-way video/audio/data facilities to interact with these medical specialists. After both bi-weekly programs have been webcast, they will be stored in digital format on a server for viewing on-demand. Anyone with Internet access can download free viewing software and access the library of stored programs on all types of health care topics.

First Care Medical Services

Minnesota

\$39,648 Loan/ \$15,502 Grant Total: \$55,150

Areas Served: Beltrami, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Polk, and Red Lake Counties

Contact: Mr. Tim. R. Scheving

Telephone: 218-435-1133

First Care Medical Services (First Care) is a community owned, 501 C-3 nonprofit corporation licensed as a 43-bed hospital offering acute care nursing services and advanced life support ambulance service. The nearest tertiary care center is in Bemidji, Minnesota, 45 miles away. First Care plans to implement a Rural Telemedicine Program with its affiliated First Care Clinic in Oklee, Minnesota and other compatible health care facilities in Bemidji, Minnesota (North Country Medical Center) and Grand Forks, North Dakota (Altru Health Systems-Grand Forks). The goal of the program is to provide rural communities in their access area with specialized health care via an on-line consulting network, allowing primary caregivers to work closely with specialists through such means as teleradiology. RUS grant and loan funds will be used to acquire equipment and software to accomplish the program goal. The program will target service to patients in the Minnesota counties of Mahnomen, Polk, Red Lake, Beltrami, and Clearwater. The project's end user sites are located in Beltrami, Polk, and Red Lake counties, Minnesota,

1996 Grant Awards

Arlington Municipal Hospital

Minnesota

\$203,756

Areas Served: Sibley County
Contact: Lynette Froehlich
Telephone: 507-964-2271

Arlington Municipal Hospital, located in south central Minnesota, is the only remaining hospital serving the rural community of Sibley County. Rural isolation has created many barriers for health care and challenges for communities committed to providing quality health care for its residents. To help knock down these barriers, AMH, utilizing RUS grant funds, will implement a three component telemedicine plan consisting of: emergency room coverage, video conferencing for consultation and continued education, and teleradiology. Specifically, AMH will use the requested grant funds to purchase conferencing units, peripheral cameras, a laser film scanner and the installation of two dedicated phone lines.

Northwest Technical College

Minnesota, North Dakota
\$100,000
Contact: Carol Buck
Telephone: 218-773-4548

Northwest Technical College is a public institution of higher education located Minnesota and has proposed a Distance Learning Project in Licensed Practical Nursing (DL-LPN). The goal of this project is to develop instructional programming in practical nursing which will be delivered via existing telecommunication technology and systems, including Medstar and the Internet, to end-user sites in North Dakota. North Dakota needs practical nurses particularly in rural areas. The shortage in North Dakota's rural areas is result of an inability to recruit nurses into rural communities from training centers located in larger cities. An RUS grant has been awarded to NTC's project to develop instructional programming in practical nursing and will be part of an electronically complete associate degree in Practical Nursing. Rural residents in many different life situations will be able to acquire a complete nursing degree while remaining in their communities and meeting their other responsibilities. The project will provide all learners the ability to upgrade skills and acquire a degree free of time and place constraints. Additionally, rural students will have greater access to health professionals and world

1994 Grant Awards

Minnesota Tele-Media

\$360,000
Minnesota
Areas Served: Cottonwood, Kandiyohi, Lyon, Redwood, Nobles, and Jackson counties.

Telephone:

The system will modernize and extend the reach of a two-way interactive video system for distance learning from a central hub to 8 videoconferencing sites and 3 existing K-12 analog video educational networks serving an additional 23 studios. Programming will include training and graduate course work for K-12 staff, especially those working with limited English proficient students. Also available will be graduate courses for nursing staff and Continuing Medical Education for rural physicians. The grant will cover telecommunications terminal equipment, interactive video equipment, and engineering. The transmission will include a combination of TI channels and upgraded microwave facilities.

1993 Grant Awards

Independent School District #262

Minnesota

This fiber optic network will permit students, staff and community members at Barrett and other school districts located at Elbow Lake, Hoffman and Kensington to access wide variety of data and video, interactive shared classes, CD ROM-based services, and card catalogs of four libraries.