



DLT Awards - South Dakota

2012 Grant Awards

Avera Health (1)

\$401,636

South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wyoming

Areas Served: Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Gregory, Grant, Hutchinson, Kingsbury, Marshall, Moody, Yankton, Emmet, Sioux, Lincoln, Marshall, Holt, and Knox, and Hot Springs Counties

Contact: Ms. Rachael Sherard

Telephone: (605) 322-4725

Congressional District: Noem, At-Large (SD); Latham, 4th Dist. (IA); King, 5th Dist. (IA); Peterson, 7th Dist. (MN); Smith, 3rd Dist. (NE); and Lummis, At-Large (WY)

Rural Development funds will be used to purchase and install telemedicine equipment for 17 participating hospitals, clinics and long term care facilities in a 63-end user telemedicine network that covers the multi-state frontier and rural territory of the Northern Great Plains. As one of two separate proposals by Avera Health, the Avera TeleCare Project provides a range of services with a breadth of scope that matches the size of the service territory, including emergency services, teleradiology, pharmacy services, intensive care, oncology, hepatology, pediatrics, endocrinology, gastroenterology, internal medicine, maternal/fetal medicine, women's health and many more specialties. Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, S.D., provides the medical specialists through its eCare Service lines, while other specialty clinics in Sioux Falls serve as specialist hub sites providing physicians for Avera's eConsult services.

Avera Health (2)

\$448,053

South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and North Dakota

Areas Served: Bon Homme, Brookings, Brule, Charles Mix, Davison, Hand, Hutchinson, Kingsbury, McPherson, Minnehaha and Yankton, Emmet, Dickinson, Osceola, Sioux, Pipestone, Lincoln, Lyon, Bottineau, McIntosh, McKenzie, and Rolette Counties

Contact: Ms. Rachael Sherard

Telephone: (605) 322-4725

Congressional District: SD: Noem, At-Large (SD); Latham, 4th Dist. (IA); King, 5th Dist. (IA); Walz, 1st Dist. (MN); Peterson, 7th Dist. (MN); and Berg, At-Large (ND)

Rural Development funds will be used to purchase and install telemedicine equipment for 20 medical facilities and 4 long term care facilities in a telemedicine network that covers the multi-state frontier and rural territory of the Northern Great Plains. As one of two separate proposals by Avera Health, the



Avera Rural Connect Project will acquire equipment such as glidescopes, telephonic stethoscopes, otoscopes, general examination cameras, ePOC blood analysis systems, teleradiology, upgrades to eICU units and video conferencing units. In the hands of rural practitioners, this equipment will connect patients to medical specialists at Avera McKennan Hospital and other specialty clinics in Sioux Falls.



2011 Grant Awards

Sanford Health

South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota

\$488,885

Areas Served: SD: Brule, Clay, Day, Duell, Gregory, Lincoln, & Tripp Counties; ND: Dickey, LaMoure, Ransom, & Traill Counties; IA: Lyon, O'Brien, & Sioux Counties; MN: Big Stone, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lyon, Mahnommen, Murray, Nobles, Otter Tail, Rock, & Traverse Counties.

Contact: Ms. Susan Berry

Telephone: (605) 328-6970

Congressional District: SD Noem, 1st; IA: King, 5th, MN: Walz, 1st, ND: Berg, 1st

USDA Rural Development funds will assist Sanford Health with assembling a large scale telemedicine system through the RUS Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program. Mobile medical carts equipped with examination cameras, digital stethoscopes, and video-teleconferencing units will be installed in 39 hospitals and clinics and linked together in a project covering the far flung, frontier reaches of four states. Over 5,000 Native Americans and other residents of this frontier will have direct access through local health care providers to specialists and other physicians at Sanford University hubs in Sioux Falls and Fargo. Hub control equipment, such as firewall transversal, video management and scheduling software will be installed to centrally manage and coordinate the video system. Sanford will match federal grant funds with \$490,845 of local funding.

2010 Grant Awards

Avera-Health-1

\$438,561

South Dakota / North Dakota / Iowa

Counties: SD: Brookings, Charles Mix, Hand, Kingsbury, Moody, Yankton. IA: Dickinson, Osceola, Sioux. ND: McIntosh

Contact: Ms. Rachael Sherard, (605)-322-4725

SD At Large - Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin; ND At Large - Earl Pomeroy, NE 3 - Adrian Smith; IA 5 - Steve King

Ten rural hospitals serving 10 counties in this 3-state region will be implementing a RUS-funded telemedicine and distance learning consortium, with the primary purpose of enhancing their emergency service capabilities through telecommunications technology. Equipment and instruments such as mobile video systems, telephonic stethoscopes, examination cameras, digital mammography, e-pharmacy automated dispensing units, and other equipment



will be installed and connected throughout the consortium. Medical training will be deployed to help build a larger cadre of healthcare professionals in these frontier areas.

Avera Health-2

\$447,734

South Dakota /North Dakota / Iowa

Counties: SD: Brookings, Charles Mix, Hand, Kingsbury, Yankton, and Moody.

ND: McIntosh

IA: Dickinson, Osceola, and Sioux

Contact: Ms. Rachael Sherard, (605) 322-4725

SD: Noem, 1st Dist. / ND: Berg, 1st Dist. / IA: King, 5th Dist.

RUS funds will be used by Avera Health to expand their services through telemedicine links to provide specialty consultations, tele-radiology, e-ICU, e-pharmacy, and e-emergency care to ten small rural clinics to 3 frontier-type areas of South Dakota, North Dakota and Iowa. The project will also broaden the reach of the emergency departments and access to medical resources connected to the network.

Avera Health-3

\$220,878

South Dakota / North Dakota / Minnesota / Iowa

Counties:

SD: Brookings, Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Davison, Clay, Faulk, Grant, Gregory, Hand, Hughes, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Marshall, McCook, McPherson, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Spink, Tripp, and Yankton.

IA: Brown, Dickinson, Emmett, Lyon, Osceola, and Sioux

MN: Sioux, Cottonwood, Lincoln, Nobles, Pipestone, and McIntosh.

ND: Holt

Contact: Ms. Rachael Sherard, (605)-322-4725

SD At Large - Kristi Noem; IA-4, Tom Latham; IA-5, Steve King; MN-1, Tim Walz; MN-7, Collin Peterson; NE-3, Adrian Smith; ND At Large Earl Pomeroy

RUS will fund the eConsult telemedicine project which will expand an existing system to connect 51 end-users to 20 Avera specialty clinic sites. Among the specialties that will be available to the rural end-users are oncology, pediatrics, neonatology, endocrinology and gynecology. The consultations will be conducted via the funded video-conferencing equipment. In particular, this program is extends the reach of these services to Native American communities, elderly residents, and to the more isolated rural residents typically without access to specialty care.

2009 Grant Awards

Horizon Health Care, Inc.



\$378,631

Counties Served: Aurora, Bennett, Dewey, Hamlin, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Mellette, Miner, Sanborn, Todd

Contact: Mr. John Mengenhause

Telephone: 605-772-4525

Congressional District : Stephanie Sandlin, at large

This project will use video-conferencing and telemedicine devices to connect 11 rural clinics with the applicant. The goals of the project include the ability to connect rural patients with multiple specialty providers as well as to provide medical training for clinicians and staff.

Avera Health

\$396,693

South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa

Counties Served: (SD) Minnehaha, Yankton, Brown, Edmunds, Faulk, Hutchinson, Gregory, Charles Mix, Hand, Davidson, Bon Homme; (IA) Plymouth, Osceola, Sioux (MN) Lincoln

Contact: Mr. John T. Porter

Telephone: 605-322-7060

Congressional District : Stephanie Sandlin, SD at large; Steve King, IA-5; John Kline, MN-2

This project will use video-conferencing and telemedicine devices to connect 16 rural hospitals and clinics with regional medical resources at sites in Sioux Falls, Yankton, and Aberdeen. Among the goals of the project are telehealth specialty consultation, teleradiology, and eEmergency care.

Regional Health, Inc.

\$386,549

South Dakota

Counties Served: Butte, Custer, Dewey, Fall River, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Shannon, Todd

Contact: Mr. Charles E. Hart

Telephone: 605-719-8053

Congressional District: Stephanie Sandlin, at large

This project will use video-conferencing to link 15 rural hospitals and clinics with regional medical resources at three sites in Rapid City. Among the goals of this project are specialty consultation, tele-dialysis, and tele-pharmacy as well as continuing medical education for providers.



2008 Grant Awards

Avera Health

South Dakota

\$485,807

Areas Served: Marshall, Gregory, Grant, Charles Mix, Yankton, Minnehaha, Milbank, Davidson, Bon Homme, Kingsbury, Hand

Contact: Ms. Rachael Sherard

Telephone: (605) 322-4725

Congressional District: Sandlin, At Large

Rural Development grant funds will assist Avera Health in establishing a telepharmacy project with 21 participating healthcare facilities in rural South Dakota. The ePharmacy project provides for the review and approval of medication orders for patients around the clock. Pharmacists will be available for consultation as well as assisting in updating the electronic medication administration records of patients. EPharmacy will provide much needed pharmacy support to these hospitals, thus improving quality and safety for rural residents.

Avera Health

South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa

\$490,537

Areas Served: SD: Brown, Davison, Hand, Todd, Minnehaha, Bon Homme, Moody, Charles Mix, Yankton, At Large NE: Cedar, 1st Dist.; Knox, Holt, Pierce, 3rd Dist. MN: Pipestone, 1st, Lyon, 7th, Dist. IA: Emmet, 4th, Osceola, Plymouth, Sioux, 5th District.

Contact: Ms. Rachael Sherard

Telephone: (605) 322-4725

Congressional District: SD: Johnson and Thune, NE: Hagel & Nelson, MN: Coleman & Klobuchar, IA: Grassley & Harkin

Rural Development grant funds will be used by Avera Health to initiate a telemedicine project that will include twenty-one end-user sites. Rural residents will benefit by having access to Telehealth Specialty Consults at 13 end-user sites, mobile intensive (critical) care service at 4 end-user sites, fixed intensive care services at one site, eEmergency at 4 sites, and ePharmacy at 2 end-user sites.



2007 Grant Awards

Avera Health

South Dakota, Iowa

\$99,545

Areas Served: SD – At Large: Brown, Brookings, Hutchinson, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Yankton

IA – 5 Plymouth, Sioux.

Contact: Jim Breckenridge

Telephone: 605-322-4720

Fax: 605-322-4799

Congressional District: SD – At Large Herseth; IA – 5 King

The project will enable ambulance crews to instantly transmit patient's vital data via cellular phone to the receiving facility's emergency department. When the data is received, the emergency department will have more time to study the patient's vital signs, develop a plan of action, and gather all necessary staff and resources. The project also will have a Telehome Health project which will also improve the quality and flexibility of rural medicine.

Avera Health

South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska

\$488,354

Areas Served: SD – At Large: Bon Homme, Brown, Charles Mix, Davison, Gregory, Grant, Hand, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Minnehaha, Moody, Spink, Yankton; IA-4 Emmett; IA-5 Osceola, Plymouth, Sioux; MN-1 Pipestone; MN-7 Lincoln; NE-3 Holt

Contact: Jim Breckenridge

Telephone: 605-322-4720

Fax: 605-322-4799

Congressional District: SD – At Large Herseth; IA-4 Latham; IA-5 King; MN – 1 Walz; MN-7 Peterson; NE-3 Smith

Rural Development funding for this project will improve the quality and quantity years of healthy life to frontier and rural residents by providing access to more efficient, up-to-date, quality healthcare. Twenty-one end-user sites and six hubs are involved in the project. Telehealth and distance learning equipment will provide access to Telehealth Emergency Response services, electronic critical (intensive) care, teleradiology, and additional/upgraded videoconferencing equipment.



2006 Grant Awards

Avera Health

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

\$453,469

Areas Served: Bon Homme, Brown, Charles Mix, Davison, Gregory, Hand, Holt, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Madison, Marshall, McPherson, Minnehaha, Roberts, Sioux, Spink, Walworth, Yankton

Contact: Mr. Jim Breckenridge

Telephone: 605-322-4700

Fax: 605-322-4799

Congressional Districts: SD-01; NE-03; IA-05

Rural Development funds will be used to provide access to electronic critical care using teleradiology, videoconferencing equipment for patient education and continuing education opportunities for health care professionals.

Huron Regional Medical Center, dba DeSmet Memorial Hospital

De Smet, SD

\$95,201

Areas Served: Beadle, Kingsbury

Contact: Ms. Janet Schardin

Telephone: 605-854-3329

Fax: 605-854-3161

Congressional District: SD-At Large

Rural Development funds will be used to establish a teleradiology program through the use of computed radiography to provide telemedicine services in 9 rural counties to benefit over 18,000 rural residents.



2005 Grant Awards:

Avera Health

Sioux Falls, SD

\$500,000

Areas Served: Marshall, Spink, Walworth, Roberts, Charles Mix, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Lincoln, Brown, Davison, Yankton, Minnehaha Counties

Contact: Jim Breckenridge

Telephone: 605-322-4700

Fax: 605-322-4799

Congressional District: SD-At Large

Physicians and healthcare professionals will have remote access to computed teleradiology and distance education through videoconferencing equipment. Nine end-user hospitals and clinics will receive filmless teleradiology equipment, and two sites will receive videoconferencing equipment. Benefits to rural residents include a reduction in health care disparities due to access to radiological and other specialty healthcare. Healthcare providers will benefit from having a system available for timely and accurate diagnoses of medical conditions. The project will benefit over 16,917 patients.

South Dakota State University

Brookings, SD

\$319,517

Areas Served: Butte, Union, Perkins, Harding, Ziebach, Stanley, Potter, Hand, Fall River, Lyman, Charles Mix, Bennett, Grant, Todd, Campbell, Haakon, Shannon, Spink, Roberts Dewey, Tripp Counties

Contact: Dr. Mike Adelaine

Telephone: 605-688-5676

Fax: 605-688-5683

Congressional District: SD-At Large

An increase in videoconferencing sites and upgraded equipment will enhance education for over 51,000 students.



Northern State University

Aberdeen, SD

\$496,463

Areas Served: Charles Mix, Day, Corson, Ziebach Counties

Contact: Dr. Erika J. Tallman

Telephone: 605-626-3382

Fax: n/a

Congressional District: SD-At Large

Northern State University and five rural school districts will link together by using equipment upgraded to IP connectivity which will link. The project will provide high school core curriculum courses, quality adult education opportunities, and superior professional development for students, teachers, and community members. Approximately 1,304 students will benefit.

Catholic Chancery of Sioux Falls

Sioux Falls, SD

\$173,429

Areas Served: Brule, Charles Mix, Clay, Codington, Day, Edmunds, Grant, Hand, Hutchinson, Lake, Marshall, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Potter, Shannon, Spinks, Walworth Counties

Contact: Sr. Nathalie Meyer, OP

Telephone: 605-988-3766

Fax: 605-988-379

Congressional District: SD-At Large

The project will provide advanced placement courses, college courses, foreign languages, art and collaborative projects to rural students and residents. Technology deployed will include interactive video conferencing and a video-streaming server for digital recording capability. The project will serve over 1320 students.

Avera McKennan

Sioux Falls, SD

\$307,831

Areas Served: Minnehaha, Moody, Gregory, Grant, Bon Homme Counties in South Dakota; Pipestone, Lincoln Counties in Minnesota; Holt County in Nebraska

Contact: Michael Seda

Telephone: 605-322-7907

Fax: 605-322-7901

Congressional District: SD-At Large



Avera McKennan will improve ICU services to rural South Dakotans, while maximizing scarce specialist resources, with a remote-care ICU strategy and system. The system provides nurses' stations with videoconferencing and additional telecommunications equipment linked to the ICU facilities, patient room monitors, cameras, microphones, and a patient monitoring area at the hub site. The system will serve eight facilities and over 500 ICU patients.

2004 Grant Awards:

Horizon Health Care, Inc.

Howard, South Dakota

\$202,720

Area(s) served: Cities of Elk Point, Alcester, Highmore, Gettysburg, Murdo, Eagle Butte, Bison, McIntosh, Isabel, Faith, Mission, White River, and Martin

Contact: John Mengenhause, 605-772-4574; Fax: 605-772-4128

Congressional District(s): SD-At Large

Horizon Health Care, Inc. is a member of the Dakota Network of Community Health Centers (DNCHC). With RUS funding, they have established the Rural and Frontier Telehealth Network Project, designed to meet the needs of 13 rural and frontier South Dakota communities serving a population of approximately 29,000 residents. The focus of the distance learning project will be in the area of health disparity, recruitment and retention of health care providers, economic development, and bioterrorism. Objectives of the program include delivering training on bioterrorism attacks, providing information on biological agents, developing clinical reporting procedures, providing training to community health centers, implementation of a chronic care model, and designing and delivering a comprehensive orientation for new HDC team members.

2003 Grant Awards:

Avera St. Luke's Hospital; Aberdeen, SD

\$252,875

Area(s) Served: Counties of Edmunds, Hand, Marshall, Potter, McPherson, and Spink in South Dakota; County of Dickey in North Dakota

Contact: Todd Forkel (605) 622-5071; Fax: (605) 622-5127

Congressional District(s): At Large South Dakota, At Large North Dakota

Avera St. Luke's Hospital will utilize RUS grant funds to provide teleradiology services to 4 critical access facilities, 2 non-critical facilities, and 2 clinics in exceptionally rural communities. Benefits of the teleradiology project include reduced travel costs for patients and medical providers, better management of patients, and wider delivery of services to approximately 38,000 residents of this area.



Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society; Sioux Falls, SD

\$404,080

Area(s) Served: Minnesota Counties of Cottonwood, Sibley, Jackson, Rock, Cass, Pipestone, Fillmore, Redwood, Wantonwan, Nicollet, LeSueur, Murray, Nobles, Brown, Martin, Blue Earth, Renville, McLeod, Waseca, Olmstead, Houston, Winona, Freeborn, Mower, Crow Wing, and Morrison

Contact: Tom Syverson (605) 323-3456; Fax: (605) 362-3344

Congressional District(s): Applicant At Large South Dakota, Project 1st, 2nd, 7th and 8th Minnesota

The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society will use RUS grant funds to further utilize telemedicine technology in the home health care setting. Eighty audio-video telephones and a home monitoring system with 75 home monitoring units and 3 central units will be used to better serve an aging rural population presenting high health care demands. The four Home Health Agencies within the project area will serve as the hubs, and the end user sites will include private rural homes and congregate housing settings. The population served matches the number of equipment units and monitoring systems purchased with the grant. These 155 users are spread over a rural area in need of improved access to health care. The technology to be utilized will be from both satellite communication and existing telephone line infrastructure.

Southeast Area Cooperative; Beresford, SD

\$499,996

Area(s) Served: Counties of Clay, Minnehaha, Lincoln, Turner, Hutchinson, Charles Mix, McCook, Bon Homme, Yankton, and Union

Contact: Dr. Dean Lindstrom (605) 763-5096; Fax: (605) 763-2206

Congressional District(s): At Large

Southeast Area Cooperative will utilize RUS grant funds to add two communities to a 14-member distance learning consortium and facilitate new partnerships with two colleges in Sioux Falls. The consortium currently serves 300 students with 18 classes being taught by 11 teachers. Student participation is expected to increase by 100% in the coming year and additional capacity will be made available for adult education and community supporting initiatives.

2001 Grant Awards:

Horizon Health Care, Inc.; Howard, South Dakota

\$208,739 Grant

Area(s) served: Miner, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Aurora, Jerauld, and Sanborn Counties

Contact: John Mengershausen; Phone: (605) 772-4574; FAX: (605) 772-4128

Congressional District: At-Large



Horizon Health Care, Inc. is a non-profit community health center organization located in east central South Dakota. Horizon Health Care, Inc. serves a six-county rural and frontier area. RUS funding will assist in establishing a needs-driven Horizon Tele Emergency Network (HTN) within Horizon Health Care's delivery sites. All six counties in the service area are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas. Although primary healthcare is provided within this service area, providers often face difficulties in making initial triage decisions regarding whether a patient should be immediately transported to a healthcare facility with more medical resources or whether the patient can be treated at the community health center. The ability to connect with the Sioux Valley Hospitals and Health System in Sioux Falls, through teleconference applications will provide assistance with resuscitation, trauma care, and urgent consultations by an ER specialist. This telemedicine project will provide the community the opportunity to meet the need for public transportation by bringing the health specialist to the clinic, as well as aid in emergent triage decisions. In addition, this project will also provide on-going patient education and continuing education to physicians and other health care professionals.

2000 Grant Awards:

DIAL CORPORATION, Madison, South Dakota

\$303,750 Grant

Area(s) served: Dewey, Meade, and Ziebach

Contact Person: Mr. Russ Martin, (605) 256-5555; FAX: (605) 256-5174

Congressional District: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

The DIAL Campus is comprised of 22 public school districts and 11 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) school systems. The campus will provide learning and development opportunities to students, teachers and organizations, which are currently unavailable due to the barriers of time and distance. The Consortium will utilize telecommunications, Internet access and interactive video technologies for its K-12 learning environments.

MISSOURI VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK, Yankton, South Dakota

\$196,400 Grant

Area(s) served: South Dakota: Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule, Charles Mix, Davison, Douglas, Gregory, Hanson, Hutchinson, Sanborn, Tripp and Yankton; Nebraska: Boyd, Cedar, Holt and Knox

Contact Person: Ms. Gail Johnson, (605) 665-9005; FAX: (605) 665-4434

Congressional District: SD-1 and NE 1 & 3



This project involves the purchase of teleconferencing equipment and diagnostic peripherals to address the goals of improving patient treatment and enhancing staff capacity for eight hospitals located in south central and southeastern South Dakota. Each hospital has identified its individual service and technology needs, ranging from, psychiatric and dermatology consultants, pregnancy risk assessments, barium swallow studies, staff education, and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training. As a result of this project, hospitals will have a better chance to survive in their rural communities. Hospitals and clinics are not just health care providers - they are major employers and contributors to the overall quality of life. Telemedicine technology will help ensure their continued presence in areas with limited economic development.

PORCUPINE CONTRACT SCHOOL; Porcupine, South Dakota

\$338,750 Grant

Area(s) served: Shannon

Contact Person: Mr. John Brewer, (605) 867-6231; FAX: 605-867-2528

Congressional District: SD-1

RUS grant funds will be used to develop community learning centers, comprised of 7 K-12 school systems, which contribute to the long-term welfare of the Oglala Lakota Tribe and communities located throughout the Reservation. The goal of this project is to extend these linkages to other school systems (public, private and other tribal schools) throughout the State. This system will enable students and teachers to connect with each other over any distance, enable the teachers to learn and improve their instructional skills, encourage learning from resources that are not on-site and expose students to ideas and challenges from remote locations.

SIOUX VALLEY HOSPITAL & UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

\$ 88,900 Grant

Area(s) served: Brown, Brule, Clay, Codington, Day, Lincoln, Minnehaha, and Yankton

Contact Person: Dr. Joseph E. Segeleon, MD, (605) 357-7650; FAX: (605) 333-1585

Congressional District: SD-1

The goal of this project is to bridge the distance between specialist, primary care providers and rural citizens. Utilization of telemedicine services will bring the specialist into the rural community and improve the quality of life and enhance access and uniformity of health care services. The emergency medicine portion of the project attempts to bring the emergency room physician into the rural locality where they can assist with resuscitations, trauma care, urgent consultations, and evaluation of patients prior to transport.



WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, Webster, South Dakota

\$325,453 Grant

Area(s) served: Day

Contact Person: Mr. Bruce Houck, (605) 345-4653; FAX: (605) 345-4421

Congressional District: South Dakota-1

This project is designed to link the communities and school districts so that they can communicate with each other and utilize the same 'on-ramp' to the national information superhighway. RUS grant funds will purchase the equipment necessary to extend the capabilities of audio, video and data transmission to improve technology and communication capacity among the Webster, Waubay, Roslyn and Bristol School Districts. The ability to use this equipment decreases travel costs for business through the use of technology and erases other distance disadvantages. The studios, located in the schools, would be available for public use on a first come, first served basis. Approximately 6,000 citizens in a 1,000 square mile area will have access to this system.

1999 Award:

South Dakota State University; Brookings, South Dakota

\$296,900 Grant

Counties Served: Beadle, Brown, Clay, Davison, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Shannon, and Todd.

Contact Person: Mr. Ralph Matz, (605) 688-5132; Fax (605) 688-6733

The South Dakota State University's Cooperative Extension Service department was established in 1914 to provide useful, current, research based agricultural, home, family and youth related information to the people of the State. South Dakota has a population of approximately 738,000. Twenty percent of the population reside in the County of Minnehaha and the remaining 56 counties have substantially lower levels of population growth and very high levels of poverty. Most of the towns are very rural and in some cases have only frontier-level educational and health services. It isn't uncommon in parts of the state to be 80 to 100 miles from the nearest hospital and even farther from higher education institutions. This distance learning and telemedicine project will reach residents throughout the State and deliver educational workshops, short courses, higher education, and enhanced health care services.

1998 Awards:

Lower Brule Community College

\$316,055 Grant



Location: Lower Brule, South Dakota
Area(s) served: Crow Creek, Lower Brule Indian Reservations, Lyman and Stanley
Contact Ms. Mary Sue Schneider
Telephone Number: (605) 473-9232
Fax Number: (605) 473-5462
Congressional District: At Large

This proposal was submitted by Lower Brule Community College on behalf of the High Plains Distance Learning Consortium. The project will establish four smart classrooms using ISDN and WAN technologies and linking them with new electronic classrooms in the six public institutions of higher education within South Dakota. The Consortium represents Crow Creek and Lower Brule Indian Reservations as well as Lyman and Stanley counties. There are three unique aspects to this proposal involving the Consortium's ability to: (1) create the first linkages in South Dakota between K-12 schools and the six new electronic classrooms; (2) establish the initial distance learning program within the State between the South Dakota Board of Regent's Centers of Excellence and K-12 schools; and (3) offer broadly-based certification training in foundation technologies to traditional and nontraditional students living within communities of the Consortium.

McKenna Hospital (McKenna Health Services)

\$205,706 Grant
Location: Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Area(s) served: Roberts, Shannon and Todd
Contact Ms. Deb Sohlt
Telephone Number: (605) 322-3488
Fax Number: (605) 322-7822
Congressional District(s): At Large.

McKenna Health Services (McKenna) is a non-profit corporation located in the southeastern corner of South Dakota. McKenna owns and operates the McKenna Hospital, a 429 bed facility, which is the second largest hospital in the city of Sioux Falls and the state of South Dakota. McKenna proposes to improve the quality and availability of obstetrical ultrasound services for citizens living in remote or rural areas of South Dakota, while reducing the cost of providing those services with the use of a three-dimensional ultrasound telemedicine system. The RUS grant award will assist with the funding for the telemedicine system known as the Medical Ultrasound Three-dimensional Portable Advanced Communication (MUSTPAC). MUSTPAC will enable rural health care providers to send ultrasound results to McKenna and receive real-time expert diagnosis. The three end user site hospitals, Pine Ridge, Sisseton and Rosebud, are all located in exceptionally rural communities and have higher than average statistical levels of infant mortality and morbidity. The MUSTPAC system will



provide equal access to tertiary care during pregnancy, eliminate the need for travel to tertiary centers for diagnostic purposes (reducing the travel cost and inconvenience for patients), and enhance peace of mind for pregnant women by knowing the status of their baby.

Missouri Valley Health Network Teleradiology Project

\$158,921 Grant / \$191,079 Loan

Total: \$350,000

Location: Yankton, South Dakota

Area(s) served: Charles Mix, Douglas, Hutchinson, Davison, Bon Homme, and Yankton

Contact Mr. Robin Berke

Telephone Number: (605) 668-8000

Fax Number: (605) 665-0303

Congressional District(s): At Large

The goal of this teleradiology system is to ensure that everyone in the service area has immediate access to quality medical care. This teleradiology system will improve healthcare in southeastern South Dakota in the following ways: (1) patients will not experience the delays that are usually involved in getting specialty consultation at a tertiary care site, (2) radiology films will not have to be sent to tertiary care centers thereby reducing delays and costs, (3) medical practitioners will have timely access to medical consultants, and (4) quality of care will be maintained or improved. Preliminary studies suggest that there is a high degree of reliability in teleradiology consultation. The Missouri Valley Health Network will implement a cost effective teleradiology backbone that supports standards-based teleradiology and will be scaleable to include a variety of current and future healthcare applications including internet/intranet and medical information systems.

1997 Award:

Fund for the Advancement of Medical Education and Research

Award: \$209,205 Grant

Location: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Area(s) Served: Counties of Brule, Dewey, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lincoln, and Pennington

Contact Person: Dr. Robert C. Talley

Telephone Number: 605-357-1300

FAX Number: 605-357-1311

The Fund for the Advancement of Medical Education and Research was set up to raise capital to construct the Wegner Health Sciences Information Center. The Wegner Center was formed by the cooperation and contributions of the South



Dakota School of Medicine, Sioux Valley Health Systems, the Veterans Administration Medical Center, South Dakota State University, Mount Marty College, and other public and private agencies. The RUS grant will fund the construction of a local area network (LAN) and a wide area network (WAN) which will allow the Wegner Center to make health information and research data available to health professionals throughout the state of South Dakota. The grant funds will be used to purchase computers, hubs, servers, and switches. The Wegner Center will build electronic access to health information and serve as a means of equalizing access to clinical information for all health professionals, clinical facilities, and the public.

1996 Grant Awards:

(1) Deubrook Area Schools 5-6

\$336,124

White, South Dakota

Contact Person: Douglas E. Nelson

Phone Number: 605-629-3211

FAX: 605-629-3701

This project will benefit the members of the East Central Interconnect Cooperative, a consortium consisting of six rural schools districts, one multi-district vocational high school, and South Dakota State University. Using RUS grant funding, this project will utilize two-way interactive audio-video technology to enable the participating districts to share classes in their elementary and secondary schools. By aggregating demand for classes sought by small numbers of students in individual districts, each school will be able to diversify the scope of course offerings. A major focus of the project will be on elementary school applications, such as art, music and science instruction, which currently are inefficiently provided either by generalists or itinerant specialists, and shared assembly programs. Breakthroughs in effective vocational and agricultural education are also planned. The capabilities of distance learning will also be used to strengthen pre-service and in service teacher education. The pre-service education, provided by South Dakota State University, is a pioneering activity that will serve as a demonstration project.

(2) SE SD Distance Learning Challenge Project

\$336,124

Irene, SD

Contact Person: Dean R. Lindstrom

Phone Number: 605-263-3301

FAX: 605-263-3995



The Challenge Project -- a consortium of twelve rural K-12 public schools districts, a rural school cooperative and the School of Education of the University of South Dakota -- have worked together to bring technology into their classrooms in spite of limited resources. South Dakota ranks extremely low in educational expenditures per student and in teacher pay. Low income, education levels, and a high proportion of both children and elderly residents make it difficult for Challenge Project schools to secure the resources necessary to prepare students for the 21st century. An RUS grant, awarded to the Challenge Project schools, will be used to purchase interactive video equipment which will enable the schools to use networking technology to connect classrooms together and provide high-speed access to the Internet. As a result of the project, the rural communities and students will benefit from : greater variety of courses and extracurricular activities; increased collaboration and sharing of resources between teachers; improved supervision of USD student teachers; and improved access to professional development and technical resources, adult education classes, and career counseling.

1995 Grant Award:

Health Education Development System

\$300,000

Fort Meade

A desktop computer-conferencing system will link 60 end-users in 5 states, including 33 rural hospitals and 27 nursing homes. It will enable rural health care providers to consult with medical specialists, communicate with government offices and access medical libraries.

1994 Grant Award:

Artesian/Letcher School District 55-5

\$430,000

Davidson, Jerauld and Sanborn Counties

A consortium of 5 small rural school districts K-12 in Eastern South Dakota will connect via a two-way interactive video link to Mitchell High School, a vocational-technical institute, a private hospital, and Dakota Wesleyan University. The grant will outfit these sites with equipment which will form the video network, thus providing expanded high school curricula and programs, adult education, school staff development, special student services, and health improvement courses for rural residents. This system, which will operate in linear broadband analog mode over fiber, has future plans to interconnect with the South Dakota Rural Development Telecommunications Network, a digital state-wide network.



Sanborn Telephone Cooperative, a RUS borrower, and Artesian/Letcher took a dual role in establishing this start-up network.

1993 Grant Award:

**Elm Valley School District - North Central Area Interconnect
Telecommunications Project**

Barnard

A partnership formed by an educational cooperative, a university, a hospital and others, will implement distance learning classrooms with educational and medical-related programming at nine school sites and Northern State University.