



DLT Awards - Vermont

2011 Grant Awards

Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice, Inc.

Vermont

\$84,141

Areas Served: Essex and Orleans

Contact: Mrs. Nancy Warner

Telephone: (802) 334-5213

Congressional District: Welch, At Large

Serving home health patients in Vermont's Northeastern counties, the Orleans Essex VNA will expand its existing technology-upgrading the level of monitoring patients with high risk, chronic conditions, and wound care. With assistance from the USDA Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program the grant will allow the home health provider to add video conferencing capabilities into select home equipment which will establish video links to the central office for transmitting data and health assessments for real-time monitoring, immediate feedback and intervention methods. Purchasing additional in-home telemonitors will expand the service coverage in this large rural area. An upgraded electronic nurse workstation at the central agency will improve communications between personal care attendants and professional staff. Orleans Essex VNA will match federal grant funds with \$33,707 of local funding.

North Country Supervisory Union

Vermont

\$499,870

Areas Served: VT: Essex, Orleans, and Washington; ME: Aroostook

Contact: Mr. Glenn A. Hankinson

Telephone: (802) 334-5847 x 13

Congressional District: VT: Welch, At Large; ME: Michaud, 2nd Dist.

This distance learning and career development project will link public schools in the northeast corner of Vermont and Aroostook County in Maine, known as the Northeast Kingdom, with Lyndon State College. With funding from the USDA Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program 18 elementary, middle and high schools will be outfitted with mobile video conferencing carts, enabling them to connect with each other and with a multitude of educational and career development resources. Video bridging and control equipment will be installed to unite the various components into a unified network. North Country Career Center will offer vocational training and career workshops. Lyndon State College will offer dual enrollment classes and



graduate-level classes. The College will also provide, through its Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, classes on planning, financing and sustaining a small business. The distance learning project will incorporate an eLearning software platform that facilitates educators in constructing interactive online courses with collaborate features which coordinates projects, review, remediation and credit recovery. North Country will match federal grant funds with \$152,557 of local funding.

2010 Grant Awards

Windham Northeast Supervisory Union

\$163,940

Vermont

Counties: Windham

Contact: Mrs. Johnanna L. Harpster, (802) 463-9958

Welch, 1st Dist

RUS funds will be used to equip 3 school districts in Windham County with distance learning equipment including portable video conferencing systems and interactive white boards. The collaborative nature of the proposed system will facilitate the sharing of each school's faculty and other academic resources. The new connectivity it will afford will open up new worlds for the rural students, and for the 8 schools in this Green Mountain area of southwestern Vermont it will kick-start the process of overcoming problems of isolation and low enrollment.

South Burlington School District / South Burlington Distance Learning Consortium

\$319,989

Vermont and New Hampshire

Counties: VT: Franklin and Orleans. NH: Grafton.

Contact: Mr. John K. Stewart, (802) 652-7052

VT: Welch -1st Dist. NH: Bass - 2nd Dist.

RUS funds will be used by South Burlington School District to equip 13 rural schools with video teleconferencing equipment and to establish the bridging capabilities connecting South Burlington Schools to Champlain College and to the Teen Lures Prevention program. This video educational network will facilitate the expansion of academic classes, and the implementation of the District's child/teen sexual crime prevention program.

2009 Grant Awards

Orleans Essex Visiting Nurses Association & Hospice, Inc.

\$89,109



State: Vermont

Counties Served: Orleans, Essex

Contact: Mrs. Nancy Warner

Telephone: 802-334-5213

Congressional District: Peter Welch, at large

This project will fund equipment that allows visiting nurses to treating patients in the home to communicate with medical professionals elsewhere. The focus of the project is to improve the care of patients at highest risk for hospital re-admission and those with chronic illnesses.



DLT Awards - Vermont

2006 Grant Awards

Northern Counties Health Care, Inc.

St. Johnsbury, VT

\$73,000

Areas Served: Caledonia, Essex, Orleans

Contact: Mrs. Rita H. Laferriere

Telephone: 802-748-8116

Fax: 802-748-3285

Congressional District: VT – At large

Rural Development funds will be used to develop an in-home telemedicine program that will improve client care, improve client outcomes and contribute to enhanced quality and efficiency for the staff and clients. The project will utilize portable telehealth home monitoring equipment, wireless medical device videophones, electronic stethoscopes, portable ECG machines and telephone enhancements for documentation of critical assessments. Care Companion Nurse Stations will be utilized to gather and interpret data while also permitting live video interactions with clients.

2004 Grant Awards:

Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice

Rutland, Vermont

\$238,250

Area(s) served: Rutland County

Contact: Bernadette C. Robin, 802-770-1541; Fax: 802-775-2304

Congressional District(s): VT-At Large

Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice (RAVNAH) provides quality, comprehensive care to the residents of Rutland County by digitizing clinical records and providing point-of-care laptop computers to field clinicians, integrating patient care management, personnel scheduling, financial management, and physicians' access. With the establishment of a single database, patient information will be available for all disciplines. Over 70,000 residents in Rutland County will benefit from this technology.

2003 Grant Awards:

Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice, Inc.

Barre, VT

\$314,000

Area(s) Served: Counties of Orange and Washington



Contact: Eileen Blake (802) 223-1878; Fax: (802) 223-2861
Congressional District(s): At Large

Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice, Inc. will use RUS grant funds to provide 25 telemedicine home monitoring units and 55 laptops and software for point of care patient records. The software will integrate all agency departments resulting in reduced paperwork and filing, and will provide caregiver up-to-date information at the patients home. The service will benefit 8,420 patients in the 23 town service area.

Dorset Nursing Association, Inc.

Dorset, VT
\$254,650

Area(s) Served: Cities of Dorset, Rupert, Danby, and Pawlet
Contact: Phyllis Tarbell (802) 867-5922; Fax: (802) 867-0115
Congressional District(s): At Large

Dorset Nursing Association will utilize RUS grant funding to install home telemonitors and point of care/electronic patient charts to respond more quickly to patient needs, ensure better flow of patient information to physicians, and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations. Using home telemonitors patients will be able to monitor their own vital signs. Efficient use of an electronic charting system will improve patient medical and social outcomes for all 150 patients and their families which will reduce hospitalizations through closer daily monitoring of patient indicators. The system will also increase access for primary physicians who will also be able to access current patient information.

2002 Award:

Visiting Nurse Alliance of Vermont and New Hampshire, Inc.

White River Junction, Vermont
\$400,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Counties of Windsor, Windham, Orange, Addison, Rutland, Bennington in Vermont; Counties of Sullivan, Grafton, Cheshire in New Hampshire
Contact: Patricia Whitney, (802) 295-2604; Fax: (802) 295-6896
Congressional District(s): VT At-Large & NH 2nd

The Visiting Nurse Alliance of Vermont and New Hampshire, Inc. will use RUS grant funds for a telemedicine project that will improve the quality of life for rural Vermont and New Hampshire patients. The project will provide point-of-care laptop or pen-based computers for all VNA and Hospice clinicians in the field and would computerize the clinical record, linking charting, scheduling, billing, payroll and reimbursement through a new software system. This "connectivity" will ensure the means for a daily record of vital signs rather than a once or twice a week assessment of a patient. This activity coupled with a telephone interview and personal visit will provide a more comprehensive picture of the patient's day-to-day condition, alerting the provider of changes that could be



missed by a once or twice weekly assessment. The project benefits include: (1) an increase of individual patient coverage; (2) nurses being enabled to monitor more patients, more effectively; (2) reduction in the amount of time currently spent on paperwork; (3) reduction in the time clinicians spend traveling; and, (4) an increase the accuracy of the reimbursement process. The number of rural residents that will benefit is approximately 165,000 people. There ninety-five (95) end-user locations throughout the six (6) Vermont Counties and three (3) New Hampshire Counties.

2000 Award:

Vermont Center For the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, Inc.

Brattleboro, Vermont

\$98,900 Grant

Area(s) served: Windham, Williston, Chittenden and Orleans Counties

Contact: Dr. Janet Dickinson, (802) 258-9521; FAX: (802) 258-9539

1st Congressional District

The goal of this program is to improve the quality of educational services provided to deaf and hard of hearing students in Vermont with the use of interactive television (ITV). The Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (Vermont Center), located in Brattleboro, Vermont, is the applicant agency and will develop and implement the program. The Vermont Center operates the Austine School for the Deaf which provides day and residential education programs for 56 deaf and hard of hearing students ages 3 to 22. Austine will serve as the hub of the program. The partnering programs (end user sites) include the Regional Day Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students at the Williston Central School and the Regional Day Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students at North Country Union High School. The services provided to students will include American Sign Language (ASL) instruction twice a week to each end user site, joint ITV lessons and activities with students at the other participating sites, and career exploration via ITV taught by the Career Center at Austine. Additionally, professional development for 130 staff members at the three sites will include participation in biweekly training sessions provided at Austine, workshops for staff at all sites provided by the School for International Training and Northwestern Connecticut Community Technical College, and mentoring meetings for the sign language interpreters at all sites.

1994 Grant Award:

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

Grand Isle County

This project is a partnership between a rural school district and the local cable company both located on an island in Lake Champlain, Northwestern Vermont. The two-way interactive analog system will be a hybrid of optic fiber-based transport and coaxial cable distribution. Teachers, courses, and computer-based educational materials will be shared



by five K-12 schools. Interest from other local organizations indicate that a wider use of the system will be developed. The system is designed to interconnect with other statewide educational video-based system and commercial CATV-based educational programming.