USDA Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2020 Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

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Loan Origination & Approval Division

DLT Webinar – Window 2

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

Webinar Roadmap

A. The Basics

B. Eligibility

C. Matching

D. Scoring

E. Applying

F. Assistance

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program – The Basics

Distance Learning

- Distance Learning means the **real-time, interactive** delivery of **curriculum via telecommunications** and promotes the connection of students and teachers at remote sites.

  - Provide educational programs, instruction, or information originating in one area, whether rural or not, to students and teachers who are located in rural areas; or

  - Connect teachers and students, located in one rural area with teachers and students who are located in a different rural area.

Telemedicine

- Telemedicine is a **real-time, interactive, telecommunications** link to an end user from medical professionals at separate sites in order to exchange health care information for the purpose of providing improved health care services to residents of rural areas.

  - Benefits rural residents both in reduced travel and improved access to service

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program – The Basics

Available Funding	Program Updates

Available Funding

FY2019
- **$37.9 million** available for Traditional DLT FY2019
- **$26.2 million** available for Opioid DLT FY2019 in rural areas to help address the opioid epidemic in rural America

FY2020   **Window 1 - $71.7 million available**
- **$12 million** for projects that help address opioid epidemic
- **$9.4 million** for projects that address substance use disorder
- **$50.3 million** for all eligible DLT projects

  Window 2
- **$24.25 million** for all eligible DLT projects (CARES Act funding)
- Any carryover from Window 1

- 15% Matching Requirement
- Minimum Grant amount: $50,000
- Maximum Grant Amount: $1,000,000

Program Updates

FY2019
- **181** applications received for **$58.1 million**
- **145** applications approved for **$45.4 million**:

DL	TM	Overall
67 awards	78 Awards	145 awards
27 States, 2 territories	32 states, 2 territories	**38 states, 2 territories represented**
$24.1 million	$21.3 million	$45.4 million

STEM & Opioid Special Consideration Point Projects

51 Opioid	60 STEM	34 None	145 awards
$14.7 million	$22.0 million	$8.7 million	Tot: $45.4 million

FY2020
- **FOA #1** released February 10, 2020, applications due or shipped by April 10, 2020 via Grants.gov or paper
- **274** applications received for **$155.3 million** (as of 5/1/2020)

- **FOA #2** released April 14, 2020, applications due by July 13, 2020, via **Grants.gov only**

https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program – The Basics

Changes for Window 2

- All applications must be submitted through Grants.gov.

- The Rurality scoring has been modified to reflect the statutory definition of rural area which excludes any urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town with a population greater than 50,000

- An extra item related to COVID-19 is now included in the Executive Summary.

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility

- The following entity types are eligible to apply:
  - Incorporated organization;
  - Indian tribe or tribal organization, as defined in 25 U.S.C. 5304;
  - State or local unit of government;
  - Consortium as defined in 1734.3; or
  - Other legal entity, including a private corporation organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis.
  - **Almost every entity except individuals & partnerships**

Consortium

- A consortium is a combination or group of entities formed to undertake the purposes for which the distance learning and telemedicine financial assistance is provided. A consortium can be **formal** or **informal**.

- A **formal** consortium is legally organized and can contract with the Government. It can apply under its own name.

- An **informal** consortium cannot contract; it has two options:
    1. Select a host organization which will apply on behalf of the consortium and be designated the project owner with all awardee responsibilities; or
    2. Each individual entity must contract with RUS on its own behalf.

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Eligibility

Eligible Grant Purposes *(See DLT Application Guide for details)*

- Acquiring, by lease or purchase eligible equipment.
  - If leased, the cost of the lease during the 3-year life of the grant is eligible.
  - Broadband facilities must be applicant owned & are limited to 20% of grant

- Acquiring instructional programming that is a capital asset (including the purchase or lease of instructional programming already on the market)

- Providing technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment. (category limited to 10% of grant)

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Eligibility

Examples of eligible equipment

- Computer hardware and software

- Computer network components

- Data terminal equipment

- Inside wiring

- Audio and video equipment

- Telecommunications terminal equipment

- Interactive audio/video equipment

- Broadband facilities, **if applicant-owned**

✓ The application must demonstrate that the predominant purpose (50% or more of use) of every line-item in the grant and match budget meets the DLT Grant definition of distance learning or telemedicine.

✓ All equipment must be new and non-depreciated

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Eligibility

Ineligible Grant Purposes *(See DLT Application Guide for details)*

- Medical or educational equipment not having telemedicine or distance learning as its essential function

- Electronic Medical Record Systems

- Salaries, administrative, operating, or recurring expenses (including recurring broadband connection fees)

- Application preparation costs

- Purchase of land, buildings, building construction, site development, or destruction or alteration of buildings.

- Any purpose not specifically contained in 7 CFR 1734.21

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Matching

Matching Contribution (15% of the grant amount required)

- Can either be cash (recommended) or in-kind
- Must be for a purpose that would be otherwise eligible for grant funding and must be integral to the project
- Cannot include federal funds unless there is a federal statutory exception
- Only new, non-depreciated equipment with an established value may be considered an in-kind match
- Vendor discounts or supplied equipment is not an eligible match
- Special matching provisions for American Samoa, Guam, Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands

Scoring – Maximum possible is 110 points

- **Objective Criteria (80 points)**
  - Rurality (40 points)
  - Economic Need (30 points)
  - Special Consideration (10 points)

- **Subjective Criteria (30 points)**
  - Needs and Benefits

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Scoring

Objective Criteria: Rurality (40 points max)

- Score is determined by the 2010 census population of the community in which each End-User Site is located **and adjacent urban areas** (see DLT Map at http://ruraldevelopment.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=15a73830555645ae93d2fa773ed8e971 to check if a location is non-rural).

- An End-User Site is a facility that will be used by end-users to receive services from the project. Project equipment must be placed at a site for it to be considered an end-user site for scoring purposes.

- **Non-fixed end-user site projects** have rurality determined by Hub locations.

- Rurality scores per site are 40, 30, 20, or 0, & are averaged to determine score.

- A minimum rurality score of 20 is required for project eligibility.

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

Objective Criteria: Economic Need (30 points max)

- Score is determined by the average of the Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) percentage for the counties in which each End-User Site is located.

- Economic Need scores will be 30, 20, 10, or 0, depending on the average of the SAIPE percentages.

- The SAIPE values being used for 2020 are values for 2018 released by the Census Bureau in December 2019. They are posted on the DLT site.

- Each End-User site located in a geographic area for which no SAIPE data exists will be determined to have a SAIPE percentage of 30%.

Objective Criteria: Special Consideration (10 points max)

- 10 points will be awarded for projects that qualify under any of the special consideration categories for 2020
    - STEM education
    - Opioid or other Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment
    - Opportunity Zone

- The purpose must be indicated on the Special Consideration Worksheet and fully explained in the Executive Summary and the Needs and Benefits sections of the application

- Only 10 points can be awarded, even if multiple categories apply

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Scoring

STEM Education

- For DLT, STEM education is defined as education in the various science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines

- STEM encompasses a wide range of academic and technical subjects

- STEM includes health care programs that train students for careers in medical and science research fields

- STEM includes career and technical education and apprenticeships in any of the STEM fields

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Scoring

Opioid or other Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment

- Special consideration has been broadened to include other SUD treatment, as well as opioid treatment

- The Executive Summary should clarify if SUD treatment includes opioids

- Eligible treatment purposes include:

  - Counseling of people with SUD

  - Treatment of people with SUD

  - Training of medical professionals, counselors or first responders in the interaction with people with SUD

  - Education programs addressing SUD

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Scoring

Opportunity Zone

- Special consideration will be given to applications that have at least one End-User Site in an Opportunity Zone

- An Opportunity Zone is an economically distressed community where new investments may be eligible for preferential tax treatment. Localities are nominated by the State and certified by the Secretary of the Treasury.

- Current Opportunity Zones can be found at https://www.cdfifund.gov/pages/opportunity-zones.aspx

- The Executive Summary should identify the End-User Sites that are located in Opportunity Zones

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Scoring

Subjective Criteria: Needs & Benefits (30 points max)

1. **Need for Services**: the economic, geographic, educational, or health care challenges facing the communities in the project. Documentation should support the claims.

2. **Benefits Derived from Services**: how the proposed project will help resolve the problems identified. Identification of benefits should include quantifiable goals (e.g. # students projected to take new courses, # patients to receive care, time saved seeking medical treatment)

3. **Local Community Involvement**: participation in the planning and development of project by local residents and organizations. Documentation of meetings, support, including contributions.

Completing the Grant Application

A. Standard Form 424 w/Site Worksheet

B. An Executive Summary of the Project

C. Scoring Criteria Documentation

D. Matching Requirements

E. Scope of Work

F. Financial Information and Sustainability

G. Statement of Experience

H. Telecommunications Systems Plan

I. Compliance with other Federal Statutes

J. Evidence of Legal Authority and Existence

K. Environmental Impact & Historic Preservation

L. Consultation w/ USDA State Director & State Strategic Plan Conformity

M. Supplemental Information

I. Compliance with other Federal Statutes
Application checklist available on the DLT website should be inserted under Section I signed by an authorized representative

By signing this checklist, you are certifying you understand by submitting the application you have enclosed the required document I-1. By signing this certification, you are agreeing to the language in schedules I-2, I-3, I-4, I-5, and I-6, as shown in the application guide. To the extent any certification requires a question to be answered, please address your answer as a narrative attachment to this checklist. (I-2 and I-3 have questions that need to be answered, please attach an explanation to this checklist as to which selections you are making). If you have any questions about your application, please contact RUS prior to submitting this application and certification.

Print Name   Title   Signature   Date

System for Award Management (SAM – www.sam.gov)

- **Registration is required**: All applicants must register in SAM <mark>prior</mark> to submitting an application. It can take up to 12-15 business days after submitting a SAM registration for it to be active. Plan accordingly.

- **Registration must be active**: The registration must remain active with current information at all times while RUS is considering an application or while a DLT grant is active.

- **Financial assistance certifications and representations must have been made**: If you didn't make these certifications when registering or updating, edit your registration in SAM to include the certifications before applying. <mark>Without the certifications, you are not eligible for a grant.</mark>

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Applying

DLT Worksheets (available on website)

- Site Worksheet
- Rurality Worksheet (Modified to reflect urbanized area restrictions)
- Economic Need Worksheet
- Matching Worksheet
- Special Consideration Worksheet
- Budget Worksheet

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Applying

Application Submission – <mark>Deadline is July 13, 2020</mark>

- Electronically via grants.gov

- <mark>Submission cutoff is 11:59pm EDT</mark>

- SAM.gov registration with grant certifications must be completed first! Allow a few weeks time to be sure you won't get shut out.

- Only form SF-424 is completed in Grants.gov. Everything else is attached.

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Assistance

Sources of Assistance

- Website: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants

- App Guide: https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/FY2020_DLT_App_Guide_Final.pdf

- General Field Representatives (GFR): Applicants may contact their GFR for technical assistance up to 15 days prior to closing date of application window. GFR listing is found at https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/telecom-gfr

- DLT Mailbox: DLTInfo@usda.gov

- RUS National Office: 202-720-0800

Questions?

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