

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

What does this program do?

This program helps education and health care organizations serving rural communities use telecommunications technology to connect to each other and the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density.

Congress has provided \$27 million in DLT funding this fiscal year. As permitted, this funding may be combined with prior year DLT program funds and any additional fundings that may become available.

What is an eligible area?

The DLT program is meant for rural communities with populations of 20,000 or fewer.



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Who can apply?

Eligible organizations that provide education or health care services through telecommunications facilities can apply. Examples include:

- State and local governments
- Federally recognized Tribes
- Nonprofits and incorporated, for-profit businesses
- Groups of eligible entities working together

How can funds be used?

Funds can be used to purchase or support:

- Audio, video, and interactive video equipment
- Broadband facilities used for distance learning or telemedicine (up to a certain percentage)
- Computer hardware, network components, and software
- Instructional programming
- Limited technical assistance and instruction on how to use distance learning and telemedicine equipment

What are some of the grant terms?

- Grants are awarded through a nationally-competitive process.
- Awards range from \$50,000 to \$1 million.
- A minimum 15 percent match is required and cannot come from another federal source.
- This is a grant-only program. There is no DLT loan or loan-grant combination.

How do we get started?

Application windows are announced periodically by the national Rural Development office.

For more information visit the DLT website at tinyurl.com/RUSDLT

Who can answer questions

Contact the General Field Representative that serves the state in which your proposed project is located. A list is available at this link: rd.usda.gov/contact-us/telecom-gfr

What governs this program?

7 CFR Part 1734, available at this link: tinyurl.com/7CFR1734.

NOTE: Because information changes, always consult official program instructions or contact your local USDA Rural Development office for help. A list is available at this link: tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices. You will find additional RD program resources at rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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