

Distance Learning & Telemedicine

Loan and Grant Programs

Presented by

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Program Purpose

The Distance Learning Telemedicine Program is designed to encourage and improve distance learning and telemedicine services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies.

Applicant Eligibility

- **An incorporated organization that:**
 - **Operates a school, college, university, learning center, training facility, regional educational laboratory, hospital, medical center, and medical clinic; or**
 - **Provides DLT service to other entities at rates that ensure that the economic value and benefits of the DLT grant are passed on to the other entities.**

Applicant Eligibility

- **State government entity is not eligible unless it operates a rural community facility.**
- **Electric and telecommunications borrowers are eligible for loans only.**

DLT Regulation Changes

- **On March 25, 1999 RUS published a direct final rule amending 7 CFR Part 1703, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program.**
- **The direct final rule became effective on May 10, 1999.**

DLT Regulation Changes

- **The revised regulation was reorganized into distinct subparts for each program component:**
 - **Subpart E - Grant Program**
 - **Subpart F - Combination Loan and Grant Program**
 - **Subpart G - Loan Program**

DLT Regulation Changes

- **Applicants select which program they wish to apply for - the National School Lunch Program criteria was eliminated as the funding determiner.**

Fiscal Year 1999 Funding

Grants

\$7,500,000

Combination Loans and Grants

\$50,000,000/\$5,000,000

Loans

\$100,000,000

Fiscal Year 1999 Funding

Applications Received for FY 1999 Funding:

- **127 Grant applications received of which 94 were deemed eligible**
- **Requests for \$22,000,000 in financing**
- **From 36 states and 1 U.S. territory**
- **1 Loan and Grant Combination application for \$2,300,000**

Fiscal Year 1999 Funding

Projects Funded in FY 1999:

- **53 Grant applications received funding in the amount of \$13,300,000 (34 states and Puerto Rico)**
- **1 Loan and Grant Combination application received funding in the amount of \$2,200,000 (Louisiana)**

Fiscal Year 2000 Funding

Grants

\$13,000,000

Combination Loans and Grants

\$70,000,000/\$7,000,000

Loans

\$130,000,000

Grant Program

- **Annual Application Window**
 - Opened on November 8, 1999
 - Closes on March 17, 2000
- **Competitive Application Process**
- **30% Required Matching Contribution**
(42.85% of the grant)
- **\$50,000 Minimum/\$350,000 Maximum**

Grant Program

Competitive Scoring Criteria:

- **Need for Services and Benefits Derived from Services (Up to 55 Points);**
- **Comparative Rurality of the Project Service Area (Up to 45 Points);**
- **Economic Need of the Applicant's Service Area as estimated by the National School Lunch Program (Up to 35 Points);**

Grant Program

Competitive Scoring Criteria:

- **Ability to Leverage Resources (Up to 35 Points);**
- **Innovativeness (Up to 15 Points);**
- **Cost Effectiveness of the System (Up to 35 Points); and**
- **Project Participation in EZ/ECs (Up to 15 Points).**

Grant Program

Eligible Purposes:

- **Acquiring (lease or purchase) eligible equipment.**
- **Acquiring instructional programming.**
- **Providing technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment. (Limited to 10%)**

Loan/Grant Combination

- **Applications Accepted Year-Round**
- **Applications Processed on a First-Come/First-Served Basis**
- **No Matching contribution**
- **\$50,000 Minimum/\$10,000,000 Maximum**

Loan/Grant Combination

Eligible Purposes:

- **All Grant Purposes**
- **Medical or Educational equipment and facilities**
- **Links between teachers and students or medical professionals located in the same facility**
- **Site development and alteration of buildings**
- **Land, buildings, or building construction**

Loan Program

- **Applications Accepted Year-Round**
- **Applications Processed on a First-Come/First-Served Basis**
- **No Matching Contribution**
- **\$50,000 Minimum/\$10,000,000 Maximum**

Loan Program

Eligible Purposes:

- **All Loan/Grant Combination Purposes**
- **Acquiring telecommunications transmission facilities**
- **Eligible recurring or operating expenses incurred during the first 2 years of operation**
 - **Excludes salaries and administrative expenses**
- **All costs needed to provide distance learning broadcasting to rural areas**

Loan Program

Loan Characteristics:

- **Up to 10 years based on the security provided and economic life of the facilities financed**
- **Interest Rates based on Cost of Money to the US Treasury**
 - **Yields on Treasury Securities at Constant Maturity**
 - **<http://www.bog.frb.fed.us/releases/H15/update>**

Submission of Applications

Grants

- **An original and two copies must be postmarked by the filing deadline published in the Federal Register and submitted to the National Office.**

Combination and Loans

- **An original and two copies of the application may be submitted by a Telecom GFR, State Director, or an applicant directly.**

Submission of Applications

Grants

- **Reviewed, scored and awarded by the National Office.**

Combination and Loans

- **May be reviewed and a funding recommendation made by the State Director, GFR, or the National Office.**
 - **Must include GFR's concurrence if recommended by the State Director.**
 - **Final funding determination made by the National Office.**

St. Francis Medical Center

Base: Monroe, Louisiana

- \$2 MILLION Loan; \$200,000 Grant request
- Provide “Tele-Home” Health Care
- Monitoring facilities in patients homes
- Nurses administer care via telemedicine
- Dedicate hospital space for monitoring program

KEY: Treat patients “pro-actively” -
anticipate future complications through
regular monitoring

The Health TV Channel

Base: Anchorage, Alaska

- \$30 MILLION Loan request
- To broadcast, via satellite, distance learning and health care programming, nationwide
- Will provide training and education on specific skills needed by rural health care professionals.
- Focus on public health issues and continuing education credits

KEY: Use TV as inexpensive, available
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