



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

## **Community Connect Awards – Nebraska**

### **2003 Grant Awards:**

**Crawford Cultural Center, Inc.**

**Crawford, Nebraska**

**Grant Amount: \$153,338**

**Contact: Ms. Georgia M. Keightley, 308-665-2258**

**County: Dawes**

Crawford, Nebraska is a small rural community of 1107 citizens in the Nebraska panhandle. The nearest urban center is over 319 miles away. The single purpose of the project is to bring broadband service to the community. Two local businesses are facing either moving or limitation on growth, directly tied to broadband connectivity. The Community Connectivity Center will be housed in the city owned hospital building and will provide access for local citizens to use the computers. Participants in the project will include the police department, water department, a nursing and assisted care facility, the fire and rescue department, Legend Buttes Health Services, Crawford Public library and the Crawford City Schools.

### **2002 Grant Awards:**

**KDSC, Inc.**

**Loup City, Nebraska**

**Grant Amount: \$143,948**

**Contact: Jeff Kelly (308) 382-5670**

**County: Sherman**

KDSC, Inc. is a regional Internet Service Provider (ISP) providing analog and digital 56k dial-up services to many Nebraska communities. KDSC, Inc. has six years of experience as an ISP and three years of experience specifically with wireless technology. KDSC, Inc. is well suited to serve many of the Nebraska communities in need of broadband. The proposed project is needed due to the sparsely populated and remote geographic location of Loup City, and Sherman County as a whole. Most broadband options are not economically or structurally feasible. Wireless technology, however, overcomes many of the prohibiting factors of other technology choices because there is no dependence on inadequate wire or non-existent cable infrastructure, and wireless can be deployed more economically in many cases. KDSC, Inc. will use RUS grant funds for minor remodeling of an existing community center facility, staffing and supporting the community center and for the establishment of a wireless Internet infrastructure to include connections for the critical facilities. The community's limited critical facilities are within signal reach and can potentially take advantage of the high-speed access. This opens the door to many resources not currently available to these facilities, providing each of them their own unique applications for continuous improvement.