



DLT Grant and Loan Awards – Maine

2008 Grant Awards

Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine

Maine

\$373,823

Areas Served: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Cumberland, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis

Contact: Mr. Vincent Emile Vanier

Telephone: (207) 646-2918

Congressional District: Allen, 1st, Michaud, 2nd

Rural Development grant funds will be used for an educational distance learning project between Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine and partner K-12 schools in the entire state of Maine. The project will provide interactive distance learning studio equipment, equipment which will allow connectivity to the end user sites, connectivity to educational resources outside the consortium, and teacher and technician training

Franklin Memorial Hospital

Maine

\$100,000

Areas Served: Franklins County

Contact: Mr. Ralph Johnson

Telephone: (207) 779-3154

Congressional District: Michaud, 2nd

Rural Development grant funding will support the FMH Franklin Virtual ICU. The ICU will allow 24/7 electronic monitoring of patient conditions, patients will receive constant surveillance by specialists who will have access to patient information needed to intervene quickly and accurately. The Franklin Virtual ICU is a collaborative model using technology to link FMH patients with MaineHealth VitaNetwork's existing critical care team of intensivists, critical care nurses and support staff.

Maine School Administration District No. 19

Maine

\$385,165

Areas Served York and Sagadahoc, 1st Dist., Somerset, Washington, Aroostook, Piscataquis, Penobscot, 2nd Dist

Contact: Mr. Michael J. Buckley



Telephone: 207) 733-5573
Congressional District: Allen, 1st, Michaud, 2nd

Rural Development grant funds will be used to install high definition interactive IP-based video conferencing for classroom environment. The project will integrate technology throughout the curriculum to enhance instruction and enable teachers to share course content. Cultural and educational experiences for students will also be provided via videoconferencing. Twenty-one schools will participate as hub/end-user sites.

Maine School Admin. District 52

Maine
\$425,118
Areas Served: Kennebec, 1st and 2nd Dist., Androscoggin, Aroostook, Somerset, Washington, 2nd Dist
Contact: Ms. Deborah Lynn Holland
Telephone: (207) 225-3406
Congressional District: Allen, 1st, Michaud, 2nd

Rural Development grant funds will be used by MSAD 52 for a distance learning project that will utilize videoconferencing to bring enriching, horizon-expanding experiences for young children through virtual field trips, collaborative learning exercises, and other activities via this technology. The grant will fund equipment for three integrated distance learning classrooms, plus a portable unit and equipment at the NMCC campus. NMCC will provide extensive programming for adults in the 16 participating schools.

Rangley School Department

Maine
\$349,330
Areas Served: Franklin and Aroostook, 2nd Dist.
Contact: Mr. Phillip Richardson
Telephone: (207) 864-3311 ext. 130
Congressional District: Michaud, 2nd

Rural Development funds will be used by Rangley School Department in collaboration with other Maine School Administrative Districts to establish a distance learning teleconferencing system. This system will provide high quality advanced coursework as well as technical training for students and offer teachers expanded professional development options. Additionally, community programming will be enhanced, offering greater vocational and other enrichment opportunities for community members.

Regional School Unit One

Maine
\$420,548



Areas Served: Sagadahoc and York, 1st Dist., Somerset, Aroostook, Washington, Piscataquis, Penobscot, 2nd Dist.

Contact: Mr. Lawrence Bean

Telephone: (207) 443-6601

Congressional District: Allen, 1st, Michaud, 2nd

Rural Development grant funds will be used for advanced distance learning technology to achieve academic goals and improve student achievement in alignment with the State of Maine Learning Results. RSU One will facilitate the development of an environment in which students will thrive, increasing their access to the information age. Content resources will be offered in college level advanced placement, faculty development, professional and continuing education, conferencing ability, and consulting services to partner districts. There is also a provision for Supplemental Educational Services for all K-12 subjects with emphasis on math, reading and language arts.

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Spring Harbor Hospital

Maine

\$51,850

Areas Served: Cumberland and Lincoln, 1st Dist., Oxford, 2nd Dist

Contact: Ms. Gail J. Wilkerson

Telephone: (207) 761-2292

Congressional District: Allen, 1st, Michaud, 2nd

Rural Development grant funds will be used by Spring Harbor Hospital to establish a telepsychiatry project in rural Maine. The project will provide residents having a primary or secondary diagnosis of mental illness access to mental health care that is currently not



available in rural areas. Services which will be provided include a one-time, one hour evaluation by a psychiatrist or a psychiatric nurse practitioner, followed by ongoing medication management and referral to local counseling resources.

2007 Grant Awards

Penobscot Bay Medical Center

Maine

\$183,003

Areas Served: Cumberland, Knox

Contact: Dr. Dana Goldsmith

Telephone: 207-596-8207

Fax: 207-596-5287

Congressional District: ME – 1 Allen

USDA funds will be utilized to implement a system that uses telemedicine technology to connect off-site critical care specialist to ICU patients at Penobscot Bay Medical Center. The system will permit physicians and nurses to have access to qualified intensivists 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from MaineHealth in Portland, ME.

HealthReach HomeCare & Hospice

Maine

\$176,570

Areas Served: Kennebec

Contact: Ms. Rebecca Colwell

Telephone: 207-861-6200

Fax: 207-861-6297

Congressional District: ME – 01 Allen

This project will expand an existing “telehomehealth” system which monitors the condition of patients via telemedicine technology. Monitoring devices that will be placed in patient’s homes will track vital signs and some critically ill patients will receive video hook ups that will allow face-to-face consultations.

Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems

Maine, Massachusetts

\$148,519

Areas Serving: Knox, Aroostook, Hancock, Kennebec, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Norfolk

Contact: Ms. Jean Mellett

Telephone: 207-973-7443

Fax: 207-973-7849

Congressional District: ME – 01 Mikulski; ME – 02 Michaud



MA – 04 Frank

This telemedicine project will expand existing services such as tele-psychiatry, tele-trauma, tele-genetics, tele-rehabilitation and distance education to additional rural healthcare patients and providers. New telemedicine services will include a thoracic clinic, nuero-psychology services and cancer counseling.

Maine General Medical Center

Maine
\$211,476
Areas Serving: Cumberland, Kennebec
Contact: Mr. Michael Ennis
Telephone: 207-624-4393
Fax: 207-621-7206
Congressional District: ME – 01 Allen

This project will equip two small rural hospitals with the equipment needed to communicate directly with a large state-wide health network which provides specialized remote consultations for critically ill patients. The command center will provide board certified intensive care specialists to consult with local doctors to meet the emergency and critical care needs of patients.

Maine School Administrative District # 59

Maine
\$465,848
Areas Serving: Kennebec (part); Aroostook, Franklin, Kennebec (part), Somerset
Contact: Sandra MacArthur
Telephone: 207-696-3323
Fax: 207-696-5631
Congressional District: ME -1 Allen; ME-2 Michaud

The Maine Rural Education Enhancement Project is a consortium of five rural school districts. The five districts will use video-conferencing equipment to share resources and expand educational offerings, using some traditional distance learning methods such as shared live and archived classes and a new group project involving students across sites and of different ages. In addition to the students and teachers, the project will impact adults through continuing and adult education courses.

Southern Aroostook Community School District No. 9

Maine
\$393,761
Areas Serving: Aroostook, Penobscot
Contact: Mr. Terry Comeau



Telephone: 207-757-8223
Fax: 207-757-8257
Congressional District: ME-2 Michaud

Rural Development funding will place videoconferencing equipment in 15 sites which will enable the schools to connect to one another to share content, expertise, and staff to expand upon our students' learning opportunities. Additional courses and access to a wide-ranging education standard in urban areas will be offered. Students will benefit by being better prepared for state and college entrance exams, the demands of higher education, and the job market

Maine School Administration District No. 27

Maine
\$267,341
Areas Serving: Aroostook
Contact: James Grandmaison
Telephone: 207-834-3189
Fax: 207-834-3395
Congressional District: ME-2 Michaud

Aroostook County has historically been built upon the agriculture and foresting industries. Jobs in these fields do not require high levels of education and residents previously had found easy work as unskilled laborers. Telecommunications equipment would be placed in each of their sites, enabling them to expand course offerings by connecting their sites to share teachers and classes. Their schools are limited in their ability to provide large numbers of courses due to low student enrollment and limited finances. They will connect their schools to Aroostook Mental Health Center to provide improved services for our special needs students. Placing videoconferencing equipment at all sites will allow the streaming and archiving system to provide content creation and distribution and view content on demand.

Greenville School Department

Maine, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia
\$428,474
Areas Serving: ME-01 Kennebec, ME – 02 Piscataquis, Somerset, MS – 01 Chicksaw, Panola, NC – 01 Vance, SC – 03 Saluda, VT 00 (All) – Washington, VA – 08 Arlington
Contact: Ms. Heather Perry
Telephone: 207-695-3708
Fax: 207-695-3709
Congressional District: ME – 01 Allen, ME – 02 Michaud , MS – 01 Wicker, NC – 01 Butterfield, SC – 03 Barrett, VT – 00 (All) Welch, VA – 08 Moran



This multi-state project will utilize web-based and interactive video conferencing to strengthen academic achievement and provide professional development activities for students and educators in partner school districts.

Maine School Administrative District #54

Maine
\$486,410
Areas Serving: Aroostook, Somerset
Contact: Mr. David Person
Telephone: 207-858-5453
Fax: 207-474-8268
Congressional District: Michaud

This project will provide enhanced educational opportunities for 10 school in one of the most rural areas of Maine. The project will support interactive videoconferencing, web-based learning, streaming and archiving and development of core network infrastructure.

Maine School Administrative District 21

Maine
\$378,661
Areas Serving: Androscoggin, Franklin, Oxford, Penobscot, Somerset
Contact: Katherine Harvey
Telephone: 207-562-6075
Fax: 207-562-7059
Congressional District: ME-2 Michaud

The TEC-NET project will provide students with an expanded curriculum, enhanced foreign language instruction, and increased achievement. Participants in the project will have a minimum of T-1 connections to the Internet. Ten sites will receive interactive videoconferencing equipment and one site will receive infrastructure equipment to allow them to expand their access to video conferencing to all of the classrooms.

Maine School Administrative District No. 48

Maine
\$399,817
Areas Serving: Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset
Contact: Mr. Kelly Carter
Telephone: 207-368-5091
Fax: 207-368-2192
Congressional District: ME-2 Michaud

The project will use distance learning technologies to form a rural alliance focused on improvement of the quality of life in rural Maine communities. Twelve school campuses



and seven communities will benefit from a diverse and competitive curriculum and extended learning opportunities. Residents will have access to unlimited learning resources, an opportunity to achieve important career skills, technology to inspire higher academic achievement and test scores, and equip rural life-saving personnel with up-to-date skills that urban areas already use.

2006 Grant Awards

Central Maine Medical Center

Lewiston, Maine

\$127,900

Areas Served: Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin, Oxford

Contact: Ms. Sharon L. Kuhrt

Telephone: 207-795-2841

Fax: 207-753-7127

Congressional District: ME-01, 02

Rural Development funds will be used to expand its current distance learning program through equipment purchases for two more communities, adding sites in South Paris, at the Western Maine University and Community College Center and in Bridgeton, at Bridgeton Hospital. The project already serves two rural communities in Maine, and the expansion will double the number of students served by distance learning to a total of 24 (64 are served at the central location). Using a classic hub-and-spoke model, educational content will be disseminated by the School of Nursing from its classrooms in Lewiston via compressed video at 256 kilobits/second.

Cobscook Community Learning Center

Lubec, Maine

\$249,965

Areas Served: Cumberland, Knox, Lincoln, Penobscot, Washington

Contact: Mr. Kevin Thompson

Telephone: 207-733-2233

Fax: 207-733-2262

Congressional District: ME-01, 02

Rural Development funds will be used to bridge project sites and cultures with distance learning technologies which will include web-based education, streaming/archiving/interactive distance learning via videoconferencing, and the upgrade of network infrastructure where necessary to support the project.



Community Health and Counseling Services

Bangor, Maine

\$434,409

Areas Served: Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Washington

Contact: Ms. Helen Burlock

Telephone: 207-947-0366

Fax: 207-990-5826

Congressional District: ME-02

Rural Development funds will be used for a telehealth project that will provide monitoring and/or video encounters to homebound clients in rural Maine. Benefits will include reduced travel time, reduced emergency room visits, increased access to speech language services, and improved overall quality of life among participants. The services will be provided to 36 towns in Aroostook, Washington, Piscataquis and Northern Penobscot Counties.

Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems

Brewer, Maine

\$259,857

Areas Served: Aroostook, Hancock, Kennebec, Norfolk, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset

Contact: Mrs. Jean Mellett

Telephone: 207-973-7443

Fax: 207-973-7849

Congressional District: ME-02; MA-04

Rural Development funds will be used to provide both distance learning and telemedicine to six counties in Maine. Services will include endocrinology services, tele-rehabilitation, tele-trauma, tele-dialysis, tele-genetics, and tele-psychology. Eastern Maine Medical Center and Acadia Hospital will install new equipment for improved educational programs.

Eastern Maine Medical Center

Bangor, Maine

\$500,000

Areas Served: Aroostook, Hancock, Kennebec, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset

Contact: Mrs. Deborah Sanford

Telephone: 207-973-7903

Fax: 207-973-8267

Congressional District: ME-02

Rural Development funds will be used to establish an electronic Intensive Care Unit and INET/IVIEW System in five of EMHS affiliate hospitals in rural northern and eastern



Maine. The system will allow Intensivists in Bangor to provide specialty care to the rural hospitals 24 hours a day. The technology will allow Intensivists to view patients as well as access patient monitoring equipment and to participate in real time care of patients.

Jay School District

Jay, Maine

\$454,079

Areas Served: Anderson, Franklin, Penobscot, Somerset

Contact: Mr. Frank Williams

Telephone: 207-897-4336

Fax: 207-897-9319

Congressional District: ME-02

Rural Development funds will be used to provide an information highway to share knowledge, expertise, and resources among twelve schools in four rural and economically distressed counties of Maine. All sites will utilize computer-based videoconferencing for collaborations between individuals and groups. Collaboration between students and staff will be available on demand. Over 48,000 residents will receive enhanced educational opportunities in these communities.

Kno-Wal-Lin Home Care and Hospice, Inc.

Rockland, Maine

\$60,000

Areas Served: Knox, Lincoln, Waldo

Contact: Ms. Donna DeBlois

Telephone: 207-594-9561

Fax: 207-594-1461

Congressional District: Me-01, 02

Rural Development funds will be used to expand a home telehealth system which will utilize tele-video units which will assist rural patients with wound care, speech therapy and hospice. In-home monitors will also be utilized to track patient's vital signs and provide other important medical information and prompts to the patient. Additional objectives are improved patient safety, improved clinical outcomes, improved utilization of resources and nursing efficiency, and increased revenues.



Millinocket School Department

East Millinocket, Maine

\$350,881

Areas Served: Aroostook, Knox, Penobscot, Washington

Contact: Ms. Sara C. Alberts

Telephone: 207-746-3500

Fax: 207-746-3516

Congressional District: ME-01, 02

Rural Development funds will be used to install interactive videoconferencing which will provide distance learning connectivity to 15 sites located in 4 counties as well as provide telemedicine opportunities to residents in the Millinocket and East Millinocket communities.

Regional Medical Center at Lubec, Inc.

Lubec, ME

\$461,369

Areas Served: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Cumberland, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset, York

Contact: Carol M. Carew

Telephone: 207-733-1090

Fax: 207-733-2847

Congressional District: ME-01, 02

Rural Development funds will be used to expand a telehealth project in Rural Maine with 14 partner agencies to provide high quality, comprehensive health services to patients and residents of rural Maine. Services provided by the project will include telepharmacy, home care patient video stations, clinical education for professional and paraprofessional staff, case management for the Department of Corrections and Grand Rounds to health care professionals from the organizations or locations of choice.



2005 Grant Awards:

Central Maine Medical Center

Lewiston, ME

\$500,000

Areas Served: Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford, Sagadahoc Counties

Contact: Charles M. Gill, Jr.

Telephone: 207-795-2711

Fax: 207-795-2606

Congressional District: ME-01, ME-02

Central Maine Medical Center, Rumford Hospital and Bridgton Hospital will undertake a teleradiology and PACS initiative will serve over 47,000 residents in a six-county area.

Northeast Health

Rockland, ME

\$107,450

Areas Served: Knox, Lincoln, Waldo Counties

Contact: Donna DeBlois

Telephone: 207-594-9561

Fax: 207-594-1461

Congressional District: ME-02

Northeast Health will deploy 35 tele-homecare units to improve clinical outcomes, nursing efficiency, and use of healthcare resources. Monitors will track patient vital signs and provide other medical information on a daily basis. This technology is fully integrated with the patient record. The program will impact residents of three rural counties in Maine.

2004 Awards:

Visiting Nurses of Aroostook

Caribou, Maine

\$264,448

Area(s) served: Aroostook, Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Kennebec, Somerset, and Waldo Counties

Contact: Sandra Scott-Adams, 207-498-2578; Fax: 207-493-3111

Congressional District(s): ME-02

The Visiting Nurses of Aroostook project will target three opportunities to improve healthcare services. The project will provide upgrades for Point of Care Health Information Technology software, provide Telehomecare equipment and sharing; and establish Teleconferencing between the project agencies. The project is a collaboration of



five home health agencies serving the northern, eastern, and central part of Maine. When fully implemented, this project will

2003 Awards:

University of Maine System; Augusta, Maine

\$296,364 Loan; \$29,636 Grant

Areas Served: University of Maine at Augusta, Brunswick, Calais, Dover Foxcroft, East Millinocket, Ellsworth, Houlton, Mexico, Saco, South Paris and Thomaston, Maine.

Contact Person: Cathy Ashland; (207) 621-3396 or Dr. Charles M. Lyons, Vice Chancellor (207) 621-3403; Fax No. (207) 621-3496

Congressional District: 1

The proposed system will establish interactive IP-based two-way compressed video links between the System's seven campuses and all eleven University College (UC) sites. All sites will utilize the existing DS-3 ATM circuits leased from Verizon to establish connectivity between them and the Augusta hub site. As a result, a compressed-video course-offering originating from a system will be available at the other six system campuses and at the UC's eleven center simultaneously. A Polycom Viewstation, two video monitors, a camera will be installed at the Augusta campus and will utilize the International Telecommunications Union's H.323 standard for video over IP technology. A Polycom Viewstation, two video monitors, a camera, a scan converter, a personal computer and a multipoint control unit commonly referred to as a "bridge," will be installed at each of the UC centers except Houlton and Sanford. The UC centers of Mexico, Saco, and Thomaston will undergo minor interior renovations for locating new video teleconferencing equipment.

Eastern Maine Healthcare; Bangor, ME

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Washington, Hancock, Somerset, and Waldo Counties

Contact: Devore Culver (207) 973-7058; Fax: (207) 973-5783

Congressional District(s): 2nd

Eastern Maine Healthcare will utilize RUS grant funds in a telemedicine project designed to implement a Picture Archiving Communication System (PACS) for three hospitals in the northern and central region of Maine. Digitized radiological images will be stored and transmitted between sites, providing cost savings to the hospitals, immediate access to specialist, and more timely review and diagnoses for approximately 275,000 residents in the project service area.



Regional Medical Center at Lubec, Inc.; Lubec, ME

\$221,620

Area(s) Served: Counties of Cumberland, Franklin, Oxford, Aroostook, Penobscot, and Washington

Contact: Carol Carew (207) 733-1090; Fax: (207) 733-2847

Congressional District(s): 1st and 2nd

Regional Medical Center at Lubec will utilize RUS grant funds to place teleconferencing equipment at nine hub sites and twelve end-user sites located in 10 of Maine's 16 counties. Through two major telemedicine networks, end-users will have access to almost 200 other telemedicine or videoconferencing sites in the state. Large numbers of rural residents will receive a variety of health care services and distance education opportunities through this technological strategy, most located in small communities with less than 10,000 people. Services that will be available include wound care, psychiatry, mental health treatment, genetic counseling, women's health education, public access for business seminars and other community education uses.

St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation; Bangor, ME

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Counties of Aroostook, Penobscot, Somerset and Washington, ME and Peterborough, NH

Contact: Kenneth J. Huhn (207) 262-1161; Fax: (207) 262-2307

Congressional District(s): Applicant 2nd Maine, Project 2nd Maine, 2nd and 2nd New Hampshire

The Rural New England Healthcare and Distance Learning Access Improvement Project will link four hubs and eight rural sites to the established St. Joseph Healthcare network at St. Joseph Hospital. The project will provide telemedicine to additional system sites in the project that was funded by RUS in 2000. This project will establish video conferencing systems with teleradiology equipment at the sites to make available to all connected, access to the medical care physicians, and provide continuing education for the physicians, patients and families. This project utilizes compatible equipment and software as the other networks in northern Maine.



2002 Awards:

HealthReach Network; Waterville, ME

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Counties of Somerset, Kennebec, Waldo, Lincoln, Piscataquis, Sagadahoc, Penobscot

Contact: Laurie J. Bourgoin (207) 873-1127; Fax: (207) 873- 2059

Congressional District(s): Applicant 1st and 2nd / Project 1st and 2nd

HealthReach Network will use RUS grant funds to purchase computer equipment that will be used to link rural residents with health care facilities. The project will provide registered and hospice nurses, therapists, social workers and other health care providers with laptop computers for home visits within rural and medically underserved areas of Maine. Approximately 75% of the patients served are homebound and 68% of the population is over 65 years of age. Most of these people are frail and have very little family or social support. Travel to distant health care clinics is very difficult if not impossible for many of these patients. The medical professionals will use the computer equipment to document each visit and transmit findings to their main office. The information will be downloaded to the computers in the main office nightly so that up-to-date records are available to doctors, field staff and office staff within 24 hours. Utilizing portable computers for this project will allow medical staff more time with patients by decreasing the amount of time they spend on travel and administrative work such as billing and reconciling hard copy files. This project will decrease the cost and increase the quality of health care in rural Maine. Approximately 4,000 rural residents will benefit from this project.

Visiting Nurse Service of Southern Maine and Seacoast NH; Saco/York, ME

\$214,956 Grant

Area(s) Served: Counties of York, ME; Strafford, NH

Contact: Mia Millefogie (207) 284-4566; Fax (207) 282-4769

Congressional District(s): Applicant Maine 1st / Project Maine 1st and New Hampshire 1st

The Visiting Nurse Service (VNS) of Southern Maine and Seacoast New Hampshire will use RUS grant funds to expand access to health care, enhance the effectiveness of home health services, reduce costs associated with delivering care and expand educational opportunities. This project is an expansion of the previous grant awarded to VNS for the Southern Maine area which focused on patients with congestive heart failure and related complications. The grant will fund a new project that will expand the service area to include rural patients in New Hampshire and include other disease groups including diabetes and wound care. Large percentages of the elderly population in this service area live in the rural areas here. Many of them are extremely poor and have little physical access to health care services. These seniors are experiencing limited Medicare and



Medicaid reimbursements at the same time the programs are limiting eligibility and restricting health care coverage for the population. This project will address the availability of care for rural patients, cost efficiencies and more effective utilization of scarce medical clinics and resources. Approximately 38,759 rural residents will benefit from this project.

St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation; Bangor, ME

\$494,750 Grant

Area(s) Served: Counties of Hancock, Penobscot, Washington, Piscataquis, Aroostook

Contact: Kenneth J. Huhn (207) 262-1161; Fax: (207) 262-2307

Congressional District(s): Applicant 2nd / Project 2nd

St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation will use RUS grant funds to improve access to specialty care for under-served northern Maine patients and improve continuing medical education for rural health professionals. It will link six new rural sites to a previously established telemedicine system using a high-speed broadband connection and provide greater access to specialty care including pulmonology, radiology, neurology, endocrinology, dermatology and mental health services. The upgrade to the new system will allow physicians to: review a patient's medical/diagnostic chart, hold a distance visit with the patient in real-time while explaining a treatment plan, and use a two-way white board to illustrate points to the patient. Residents of this extremely rural area of northern Maine suffer from geographic isolation, high poverty levels and lack of health insurance. High rates of chronic disease and high mortality rates are critical issues here as well. This project will benefit the area by reducing the costs associated with wage loss and travel for patients that need to visit distant providers, increasing access to specialty care for the poor, uninsured and unemployed, and providing health care workers with the opportunity to continue medical education courses. As many as 18,000 residents of rural Maine will benefit from this project.

The Aroostook Medical Center; Presque, Maine

\$162,543 Grant

Area(s) Served: Towns of Caribou, Fort Fairfield, Fort Kent, Houlton, Limestone, Madawaska, Mars Hill, Presque Isle and Washburn

Contact: Alexander Dragatsi, M.P.H. (207) 768-4009; Fax: (207) 768-4226

Congressional Districts: Applicant & Project: 2nd

The Aroostook Medical Center (TAMC) has been awarded RUS grant funds for distance learning and telemedicine purposes. The predominant use of the system will be to deliver distance learning services. These improvements will be implemented at 12 sites including: (1) Continuing education through Husson College via interactive video; (2) Physical therapy services in partnership with Eastern Maine Medical Center; and, (3) Home health care telemedicine program service improvements provided through Aroostook Visiting Nurses. Continuing educational services will be delivered by using interactive video from the School of Health Professions located at Husson College in



Bangor, Maine. Rural health care professionals will be able to access educational programs in undergraduate and graduate nursing (BSN and MSN), physical therapy (MPT) and occupational therapy (MOT). The expected expansion of the network will also encourage the already strong interest expressed across the Aroostook community in using telemedicine technology in ways that will improve healthcare services, solve staffing problems and enhance the overall quality of life. This project's network will use interactive video modality which will significantly decrease the access barriers for at least 230 nurses, 30 physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, 64 occupational therapists and an estimated 75 to 100 physician extenders located in rural northern Maine. To date, a total of 4,421 visits were made to 535 patients. It is projected that an additional 1,872 visits to 13 new patients will be made possible with the equipment funded by RUS. With telemedicine visits as additional interventions, patients will have reduced visits to the emergency room and fewer re-hospitalizations. Patients will also require fewer in-person home care visits, there by reducing the cost of care and the amount of nursing time required to provide them with high quality care.

2001 Grant Awards:

Penquis Community Action Program, Inc.; Bangor, Maine

\$497,426 Grant

Area(s) Served: Aroostook, Washington, Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Kennebec, Androscoggin, Oxford, and Cumberland Counties

Contact: Charles Newton; (207) 973-3500, Fax: (207) 973-3699

Congressional District(s): 1st & 2nd.

Penquis Community Action Program, Inc., is partnering with the Maine Telemedicine Services (MTS) of the Regional Medical Center at Lubec (RMCL) to provide this project. The RMCL has been very successful in increasing access to health care, mental health, social services and schools throughout Maine using interactive video conferencing technology. This project will give rural Maine residents significantly increased access to high quality medical care by placing telemedicine equipment at 39 isolated rural end user locations. RUS grant funds will be used to: (1) place telemedicine equipment on seven outer islands off the Maine coast, none of which currently have health clinics or practitioners; (2) place peripheral telemedicine devices, such as electronic otoscopes, on the 72' ship of the Maine Sea Coast Missionary Society, which serves the islands (this will enhance certain basic telemedicine equipment being installed on the boat now by MTS); (3) include a telecommunications bridge to connect all the telemedicine and many of the ITV distance education sites in Maine; and (4) allow a purchase by Sunrise County HomeCare Services of two home telemedicine units to increase the number of patients in Washington County who can be served in their homes.



St. Andrews Hospital; Boothbay Harbor, Maine

\$115,000 Grant

Area(s) served: Lincoln County, Maine;

Contact: Ms. Margaret Pinkham (207) 633-2121; FAX: (207) 633-4209

Congressional District: 1st

St. Andrews Hospital is a small, non-profit, community-centered Critical Access Hospital providing both inpatient and outpatient medical services. St. Andrews is an affiliate member of Maine Health that is comprised of a group of health care organizations working in concert under a single leadership structure. Organized to provide central and southern Maine with an integrated health care delivery system, St. Andrews will utilize its affiliate membership status in the Maine Health system to implement the use of teleradiology. RUS grant funds will be used to purchase eligible equipment and initial installation and training. The project will also allow St. Andrews to provide inpatients, outpatients and the rural communities with confirmed primary readings through the technology of digitalized, uncompressed images. Digitalized images allow for a final interpretation without an on-site radiologist in an extremely short period of time. The project will allow both physicians and patients immediate access to specialist level, primary reads which will afford the 6,633 year round residents of the Boothbay Region with timely diagnostic results.

St. Joseph Healthcare; Bangor, Maine

\$499,800 Grant

Area(s) Served: Aroostook, Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Washington Counties

Contact: Mr. Kenneth J. Huhn; (207) 262-1161, Fax (207) 262-2418

Congressional District(s): 2nd.

St. Joseph Healthcare is a secondary level hospital in Bangor, which has 100 beds as well as extensive outpatient services. This project seeks to capitalize on the previously installed base and provide a means of delivering the identified specialty services, as well as new services, to patient in their homes. It will provide a triaging system among agencies for patients throughout northern and eastern Maine and implement a computerized client point-of-service documentation and reporting system with modems as a precursor to electronic medical records. It will also put into operation a home-based telemedicine system for traditional home health as well as mental health services. St. Joseph Healthcare is a member of the Maine Health Alliance, a consortium of 12 hospitals throughout northern and eastern Maine interconnected to telemedicine through the Downeast Telemedicine Network (DETNET). These 15 health care agencies are located in America's easternmost and some of its poorest and most isolated rural counties. The DownEast Telemedicine Network will significantly help to build a real care system based on the trust involved in management of a collaborative telemedicine network.



Visiting Nurse Service of Southern Maine and Seacoast New Hampshire; Saco, Maine

\$188,702 Grant

Area(s) Served: York County

Contact: Ms. Mia Millefogle; Chief, Business Development Officer; (207) 284-4566

Fax: (207) 282-4769

Congressional District(s): 1st.

The Visiting Nurse Service (VNS) plans to implement a comprehensive telemedicine program comprised of two central components B Point of Service Technology (POS) and a Home Telehealth Project for patients who live in rural and exceptionally rural areas of Southern Maine. VNS will be the hub site for implementation of POS technology in 29 towns in Maine. This POS technology will utilize hand-held computers with custom software and hardware to integrate critical administrative and clinical processes associated with delivering home health care services. The Home Telehealth Project will incorporate remote patient monitoring with a central station, which will expand the scope of monitoring in telehealth visits. The overall goals of this project are to improve the health and quality of life for exceptionally rural patients, enhance the effectiveness of home health services and reduce costs associated with delivering care in rural areas of southern Maine. Success of this project will provide advanced accuracy and timeliness of documentation, improved workflow, more efficient use of health care resources, immediate access to information and ability to generate timely documentation. The implementation of this comprehensive telemedicine program is critical to enhancing both the quality and efficiency of home health care services.

2000 Awards:

AROOSTOOK HOME CARE AGENCY, INC.; Caribou, Maine

\$64,000 Grant

Area(s) served: Aroostook and Washington Counties

Contact: Ms. Sandra Scott-Adams, RN, (207) 498-2478; FAX: (207) 493-3111

2nd Congressional District

Aroostook Home Care Agency, Inc., is the parent organization of Aroostook Visiting Nurses (AVN), and has developed into the largest home health care agency in northern Maine. It currently provides services for residents of Aroostook County and northern portions of Washington and Penobscot Counties from offices in Fort Kent, Madawaska, Caribou, Presque Isle, and Houlton. It is partnered with the Regional Medical Center at Lubec on planning and implementation of the Northeast Maine Telemedicine Network. The sole purpose of this project is to enhance and expand current telemedicine services provided by the Northeast Maine Telemedicine Network. The project will expand homecare telemedicine services to provide 24-hour monitoring of home care patients by providing triage nurse availability as well as providing in-home telemedicine monitoring 24 hours per day. The applicant serves the home care needs of the Passamaquoddy Tribe



through contracts with the Pleasant Point Health Center which is located on the Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy Indian Reservation.

ST. JOSEPH HEALTHCARE, Bangor, Maine

\$69,930 Grant

Area(s) served: Hancock, Penobscot, Washington, Piscataquis and Waldo Counties

Contact: Mr. Ken Huhn, (207) 262-1809; FAX: (207) 262-2418

2nd Congressional District

St. Joseph Healthcare is a secondary level hospital in Bangor, which has 100 beds as well as extensive outpatient services. This project seeks to provide access to multiple, needed specialist services via telemedicine to an additional six rural areas; and to develop new specialist services for these proposed rural sites as well as for all the 15 current rural telemedicine sites in the DownEast Telemedicine Network (DETNET). It will also provide access through telemedicine technology to a specialist practice in Waterville, which will provide plastic surgery, vascular surgery and podiatry. These 15 health care agencies are located in America's easternmost and some of its poorest and most isolated rural Counties. St. Joseph Healthcare is partnering with the Regional Medical Center at Lubec (RMCL) to provide this project. RMCL is a non-profit agency which provides a wide range of outpatient health care services in a number of locations in the County including medical, dental, counseling, child care, home health care, telemedicine, patient education, substance abuse and many other community prevention and education programs. RMCL is developing telemedicine services and networks for Maine. It has already installed approximately 40 telemedicine sites in eastern and northern Maine and will shortly install another 30 units in schools for distance learning and in the Maine Department of Human Services. The DownEast Telemedicine Network will significantly help to build a real care system based on the trust involved in management of a collaborative telemedicine network.

1999 Awards:

Franklin Memorial Hospital, Farmington, Maine

\$342,148 Grant

Counties Served: Franklin and Androscoggin

Contact person: Betsy Kimball, (207) 779-2471; Fax (207) 779-2472

Franklin Memorial Hospital (FMH) is a community general hospital that serves approximately 40,000 individuals. Poverty is a harsh reality throughout the region. RUS funding will be used to provide a distance learning and telemedicine network that will connect west central Maine to a statewide network and offer future expandability. Educational program for health care professionals, Educational programs for the community and for patients, Videoconferencing facilities for health care providers, other non-profit organizations and the business community, Telemedicine - Franklin Memorial Hospital and Maine Medical Center will collaborate to offer the online services of a



dermatologist. The specialties of cardiology, endocrinology and oncology are expected to follow quickly behind.

Regional Medical Center at Lubec, Lubec, Maine

\$269,360 Grant

Counties Served: Washington

Contact person: Mr. Kenneth Schmidt, (207) 733-5541: Fax (207) 733-2847

Regional Medical Center is a non-profit agency founded in 1971 which is the largest and most comprehensive of the more than 30 community health centers in Maine. It has 100 employees and a budget of over four million dollars. It is applying on behalf of eight community agencies that are incorporated as the DownEast Telecommunications System (an Indian health center, a community health center, a community hospital, a countywide home health care agency with three locations, two rural health clinics, a nursing home, and a secondary care hospital). The project will provide a long-term infrastructure to telemedicine for a telemedicine network.

1998 Awards:

Regional Medical Center At Lubec, Inc.

\$108,467 Grant / \$157,533 Loan

Total: \$266,000

Location: Lubec, Maine

Area(s) served: Aroostock and Washington

Contact Mr. Kenneth Schmidt

(207) 733-5541

Fax: (207) 733-2847

Congressional District: 2nd.

The Regional Medical Center At Lubec, Inc. will use home based cameras and TVs to monitor the elderly and save needless trips to the hospital. No other home care agency in Maine has adopted telemedicine technology. Home patients will have access to a nurse who will monitor them 24 hours a day to deal with immediate health problems. This will reduce costly trips to home by nurses and reduce unnecessary trips to hospitals by patients.