

DLT Awards – Washington State

2008 Grant Awards

Inland Northwest Health Services

Washington

\$366,884

Areas Served: Adams, 4th & 5th Dists.; Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Klickitat, 4th Dist.; Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman, 5th Dist.

Contact: Ms. Nancy L. Vorhees

Telephone: (715) 720-2029

Congressional District: Hastings, 4th; Rodgers, 5th

Rural Development grant funding will be used by INHS to expand support services over its current Wide Area Network. INHS will offer better quality distance learning sessions with access to videoconferencing and content from other medical networks and advanced data networks throughout the world. The system will make it possible for 20 end-users to receive a variety of programs for patients, physicians, administrators, and healthcare professionals to interact and share information from a variety of resources.

2006 Grant Awards

Community Choice PHCO

Washington

\$414,847

Areas Served: Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties

Contact: Thomas M. Jones

Telephone: (509) 665-8478

Congressional District: WA-04

Rural Development funds will be used to utilize videoconferencing units for the purpose of distance learning. Along with the video-conferencing equipment, the project will utilize a SimMan training tool to provide valuable on-site medical training to the local workforce. RD funds will give the area an opportunity to provide quality medical training to local medical and emergency personnel as well as provide timely, quality medical services to the communities.

Ferry County Public Hospital District #1

Washington

\$111,722

Areas Served: Ferry, Pend Oreille, Stevens Counties

Contact: Mr. Ron O'Halloran
Telephone: 509-775-3333
Congressional District: WA-05

Rural Development funds will be used to utilize videoconferencing units for the purpose of distance learning. Along with the video-conferencing equipment, the project will utilize a SimMan training tool to provide valuable on-site medical training to the local workforce. RD funds will give the area an opportunity to provide quality medical training to local medical and emergency personnel as well as provide timely, quality medical services to the communities.

Pacific Mountain Workforce Consortium

Washington
\$75,975
Areas Served: Grays Harbor, Pacific, Thurston Counties
Contact: Mr. Michael H. Kennedy
Telephone: 360-704-3600
Congressional District: WA-03, 06, 09

Rural Development funds will be used to deliver educational programming to rural youth and community members and to teachers in rural areas. End-user sites will be equipped with videoconferencing equipment, web-access and media delivery workstations for instructor-led courses, and network accessible digital educational content that can be archived and received at each end-user site.

2005 Grant Awards

Ocean Beach Hospital

Washington
\$248,400
Areas Served: West Jefferson, Garfield, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Pacific, Lewis Counties
Contact: Camille Scott
Telephone: 360-374-6271
Congressional District: WA-03, WA-05, WA-06

This teleradiology network will provide real-time x-ray images to radiologists from eight project sites and facilitate orthopedic consultations. The network will serve approximately 66,000 residents of this extremely rural area of Washington.

Community Choice PHCO

Washington
\$461,005
Areas Served: Chelan, Okanogan, Grant Counties
Contact: Thomas M. Jones
Telephone: 509-665-8478
Congressional District: WA-04

The project will establish regional telepharmacy capabilities, introduce teleinterpretive capabilities to improve patient access to care, and expand teleradiology capabilities to new communities. The project can provide service to over 46,400 rural residents.

Colville Confederated Tribes

Washington

\$449,636

Areas Served: Ferry County

Contact: Thomas M. Jones

Telephone: 509-722-7610

Congressional District: WA-05

This is a teleradiology project with a digital radiology suite located at Inchelium and a portable x-ray unit with digital capabilities at Keller. Residents of the area will save valuable travel time to receive basic radiology services and physicians will be able to diagnose problems much faster than they can at present. Over 1,500 residents in these extremely rural communities will benefit from this project.

2004 Grant Awards

Community Choice PHCO

Washington

\$499,332

Areas Served: Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties

Contact: Thomas M. Jones

Telephone: 509-665-8478

Congressional District: WA-04

Community Choice Healthcare Network, representing a wide-ranging partnership of rural communities, hospitals, clinics, public health offices and providers has established a teleradiology services network. Community Choice will expand this network to additional hospitals in the North Central Washington region. Benefits to residents include available and affordable diagnostic radiology services, reduced patient travel time, quicker radiology test results, more timely health care interventions, and, as a result, an improved quality of life and health care for all patients. The system will serve approximately 40,000 residents in the project area.

2003 Grant Awards

Big Bend Community College

Washington

\$500,000

Areas Served: Towns of Moses Lake, Soap Lake, Warden, and Mattawa

Contact: William C. Bonaudi

Telephone: 509 762-6290
Congressional District: 4th

Big Bend Community College will utilize broadband connectivity to deliver real time instruction, advising, and global Internet access to school district buildings in rural communities of Soap Lake, Warden, and Mattawa with a total of 3,027 students and a combined population base of almost 7,000. The RUS grant funds will equip a building in each school district to send and receive interactive video materials between each end-user and between the end-users and the college. The grant will provide the hub with equipment to connect eight college classrooms to fiber facilities and the switching equipment that acts as a switchboard to allow local control of connections between any and all end-users and the hub.

Community Choice Healthcare Network

Washington
\$414,847
Areas Served: Counties of Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan
Contact: Thomas M. Jones
Telephone: (509) 665-8478
Congressional District: 4th and 5th

The Community Choice Healthcare Network plans to utilize RUS funding to provide teleradiology services to four rural towns in north central Washington State in an effort to provide prompt diagnosis, help alleviate radiologist shortages, reduce travel time, and provide cost savings. The communities of Chelan, Brewster, Omak and Tonasket, which includes portions of the Colville Indian Reservation, will use film-less, store and forward imaging over fiber optic cables. Approximately 30,000 radiological studies per year are expected to be transmitted.

Wellpinit School District

Washington
250,000
Areas Served: Stevens County, Spokane Indian Reservation, Yakama Reservation
Contact: Dr. Reid Riedlinger
Telephone: (509) 258-4535
Congressional District: 5th

The Wellpinit School District will use RUS grant funds to provide advanced telecommunications equipment to deliver educational services to underserved residents of rural western Washington State. The hub site will be the main campus facility of the Wellpinit School District located in the heart of the Spokane Indian Reservation. A participating site is the Career Job Corps Program in Carlew, WA. Supplemented by the assistance of the Hewlett-Packard Corp. and the Gates Foundation, RUS grant funds will provide laptop computers and supervised instruction for approximately 50 students unable to participate in a traditional school setting. Two hundred (200) other rural

residents will receive assistance in completing their high school education through the facilities provided.

2002 Grant Awards

Wellpinit School District; Spokane Indian Reservation

Washington

\$475,000

Areas Served: Spokane Indian Reservation; Yakima County town of White Swan

Contact: Reid Riedlinger

Telephone: (509) 258-4535

Congressional District: Applicant: 5th / Project: 4th & 5th

The Wellpinit School District will use the RUS grant to provide technology resources for a distance learning program at two extremely rural locations with high Native American and Hispanic populations. Specifically, funds for the project will be used to upgrade existing computer network equipment, purchase new personal computers, modify curriculum materials and purchase software licenses for use on the new system. The families and children in this area have traditionally been under-served in terms of educational and economic opportunities, with their students having extremely high drop-out rates and considered to be at-risk. Wellpinit School District has already invested in state of the art technology for the hub site located on the reservation. This project will allow the technology to extend to the two rural sites located in remote parts of the reservation and the neighboring county. Curriculum materials will include K-12 course work, life skills training and college level courses from universities offering distance learning programs. The school district has worked to refurbish an old school building on the reservation to house one of the technology centers. The second site will utilize the Fort Simcoe Job Corp Training Center in one of the most rural parts of Yakima County. The project is expected to benefit 475 residents in these rural areas.

Educational Service District 105

Washington

\$470,600

Areas Served: Yakima Valley

Contact: Jane M. Gutting

Telephone: (509) 575-2885

Congressional District: 3rd, 4th 13th, 14th & 15th

Educational Services District 105 will use RUS grant funds to purchase computer and audio/video equipment to fully outfit 35 classrooms, in 21 schools, in the rural Yakima Valley for a distance learning curriculum. The project is needed to improve deficient reading and language skills in the local population, which has an extremely high dropout rate with only 39 percent of adults holding a high school diploma. For much of the local population English is a second language. The project is designed to increase reading and academic skills, reduce school drop-out rates at all levels, and provide for professional development and recertification of the district's educational staff through distance

learning. The system will utilize a network developed and run by the state and will carry data and interactive video resources over a T-1 connection. Over 10,000 students and 60 teachers and paraprofessionals will benefit from this important project.

2000 Grant Awards

Wenatchee Valley Clinic

Washington

\$200,000

Areas Served: Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan Counties

Contact: Mr. Richard Bennett

Telephone: (509) 663-8711

Congressional District: 12th

Wenatchee Valley Clinic is a specialty clinic that provides medical services to a 12,000 square mile area. High mountains and numerous rivers divide the area. Across the region, the average winter snowfall ranges from 3 to 7 feet making many roads impassable. The region has also experienced a huge migration of persons of Hispanic origin who are drawn to the area by agricultural work. This system provides tele-video equipment, Internet access and computers to connect the health care providers and hospitals throughout the region. The benefits of this connectivity are quicker test results alleviating delays in diagnosis, patient education materials in English and Spanish and professional continuing medical education offerings.

Sunnyside Community Hospital

Washington

\$252,535

Areas Served: Yakima and Grant Counties

Contact: Jon D. Smiley

Telephone: (509) 837-1500

Congressional District: 4th

Sunnyside Community Hospital, a licensed 38-bed acute care not-for-profit hospital, is the lead applicant and will be the hub site for the Sunnyside Telemedicine and Telehealth Education Consortium (STTEC). The seven other consortium members will function as end user sites and will be comprised of two rural and remote medical clinics, four small rural school districts, and a satellite campus of a community college. The consortium serves a resident population of 38,000 as well as 20,000 migrant seasonal agricultural workers within a 65-mile radius of Sunnyside Community Hospital, which lies in the Lower Yakima Valley of Washington State. The grant will provide funds for teleradiology equipment to link the two rural clinics with the hospital as well as classroom-size videoconferencing equipment to link the health training and education resources of the hospital with rural school districts. The teleradiology technology will reduce the transmission time for x-rays from the hours currently required for their physical transport over difficult rural roads to minutes, thus avoiding delays that could pose additional health risks or discomfort for patients.

1997 Grant Awards

Grays Harbor College

Washington

\$111,563 Loan/\$187,554 Grant Total: \$299,117

Areas Served: Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties

Contact Person: Mr. Dan Slaby

Telephone: 360-538-4024

Grays Harbor College (GHC) service district includes Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties located in southwest Washington. The economic history of both counties has been impacted by drastic reduction in fishing and timber related industries. These two counties are underserved areas targeted by USDA for additional outreach as a part of the Timber Initiative. With the help of RUS grant and loan funds GHC is implementing a distance learning program involving two Community Learning Centers in Pacific County, (South Bend and ILWACO), and one in Grays Harbor County, (Elma). The use of video conferencing to integrate these three locations with the College Campus will increase the number of total students enrolled in a class, reduce the number of class closures and increase the number of classes that can be offered locally. A more educated work force will help to attract new businesses and industry to the area.

Lincoln County Public Hospital District #3

Washington

\$70,212 Loan/\$149,945 Grant Total: \$220,157

Areas Served: Chelan, Lincoln, Whitman Counties

Contact: Mr. Thomas Martin

Telephone: 509-725-7101

Lincoln Hospital heads a consortium of four hospitals to link to an existing telemedicine network and provide comprehensive medical services to an economically challenged and medically underserved geographic area. These hospital centers are only able to provide the lowest level of emergency trauma care (Level IV). Presently, both the service providers and users have to travel long distances, in sometimes brutally inaccessible weather conditions, risking life and limb across mountainous terrain to provide and receive medical services. RUS grant and loan funds will provide for the purchase of telemedicine equipment at the project sites that will enable medical professionals located upstream to consult with medical personnel at these remote sites and provide sorely needed cutting edge medical services to patients. Funds will be used to purchase video conferencing equipment and digital voice and data encoding technology to allow doctors, located at remote sites, to provide every medical specialty that the equipment can handle to residents in the communities of Lincoln, Odessa, Whitman and Chelan. Since winter weather usually makes travel to the remote sites impossible and good weather still makes for long travel distances, the quality of life of both patients and medical professionals will be greatly improved.

1994 Grant Awards

Eastern Washington University

Washington

Areas Served: Stevens, Ferry and Pend Oreille Counties

This system will be for dual use (70 percent for educational and 30 percent for medical). Distance learning programming will include health sciences education, such as a degree program for licensed practical nurses, training for emergency medical personnel, consultations between hospital-based physicians and rural health care providers at clinics and outreach centers, training to providers to identify domestic abuse victims and to monitor high risk pregnant women. Other educational uses include specialized programs for teachers, such as children-at-risk and student counseling, and courses in business and public administration. Videoconferencing units and related equipment will be employed at Eastern Washington University sites,, at a private medical center and its rural outreach offices, and at several rural school district sites. A T1 link will be used to transport two-way interactive compressed video signals, with 56 Kbs (switched 56) links installed at the more remote sites on the network.