Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

What does this program do?

DLT grants help rural communities use advanced telecommunications technology to connect to each other and the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density. We encourage you to consider projects that promote equity and economic opportunity in rural America, such as those that advance these key priorities:

- **Rebuilding our rural economy**
- **Ensuring equitable access to - and benefits from - USDA Rural Development-funded programs**
- **Addressing the climate crisis**

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

What is an eligible area?

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

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?

- Currently, this is a grant-only program. There is no DLT loan or loan-grant combination.
- Awards range from $50,000 to $1 million.
- A minimum 15 percent match is required and cannot come from another federal source.

How do we get started?

- Application windows are announced periodically. Information is available at this link: go.usa.gov/xzWYU.
- To learn more, email dltinfo@usda.gov or contact the General Field Representative that serves the state in which your proposed project is located. A list is available at this link: go.usa.gov/xhrux.

What governs this program?

7 CFR Part 1734, available at this link: go.usa.gov/xh2rE.

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

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