Rural Development
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Rural Development Utilities Programs
OHSU DLT Workshop
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Distance Learning/Telemedicine Programs

Three different options:

1. DLT Grant Program
2. DLT Loan/Grant Combination Program
3. DLT 100% Loan Program
   (No current Budget Authority for the DLT Loan Programs)
DLT Applicant Eligibility

• Applicant must deliver distance learning or telemedicine services to rural Americans

• Be one of the following
  – An incorporated organization or partnership
  – An Indian tribe or tribal organization
  – A state or local unit of government
  – A consortium of the above
  – Other legal entity such as a private corporation either profit or non-profit
• Applicant must
  – Operate a rural community facility
  – Deliver distance learning or telemedicine services to entities at rates that ensure that the economic value and benefits of the DLT grant and/or loan are passed on to residents of rural areas

• RD electric and telecommunications borrowers are eligible for loans only
DLT Grant Program

Available Funding FY 2009: TBD

- Application window will close March 24, 2009
- $50,000 Minimum
- $500,000 Maximum
- Matching Funds: Minimum 15%
- Awards based on scoring

For more information visit our web site: http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm
DLT Grant Program: Eligible Purposes

Purchase & Installation of:

• Interactive Video Equipment
• Telecom and Data Terminals
• Audio and Video Equipment
• Computer Hardware & Software
• Inside Wiring
• Medical Equipment Specifically for Telemedicine
• Off-the-shelf Instructional Programming
Two Types of Loan Grant Combinations
9:1 and 4:1

• Applications accepted year-round and processed in the order they are received.
• Noncompetitive application process
• No required matching contribution

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DLT Loan/Grant Combination Program

9:1 Program

✓ Offers $1 in grant for every $9 in loan funds
✓ FY 2009 Funding: (No Current Budget Authority)

4:1 Program

✓ Offers $1 in grant for every $4 in loan funds for projects that are exclusively for Electronic Medical Records (EMR)
✓ FY 2009 Funding: (No Current Budget Authority)
DLT Loan/Grant Program

Additional Eligible Purposes

✓ Providing links in within a building (“on campus’)
✓ Site Development
✓ Purchasing land, buildings or building construction
✓ Acquiring telecommunications transmission provided none exist in area
✓ Paying for medical or educational equipment including vehicles

For more information visit our web site: http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm
DLT 100% Loan Program

Available Funding FY 2009: No Current Authority

- Applications accepted year-round and processed in the order they are received.
- Noncompetitive Application Process
- No required matching contribution
- Additional eligible purposes such as two years of project operating costs and educational broadcasting for distance learning.

For more information visit our web site: http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm
DLT Grant Program

Available Application Tools:
1. FY 2009 Application Guide
2. FY 2009 Toolkit
3. Program Regulation

www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm
DLT Grant: Objective Scoring Criteria

- Rural Area (Rurality)
- Economic Need (NSLP)
- Leveraging (Matching Funds)
- Special Communities (EZ/EC)
DLT Grant: Subjective Scoring Criteria

- Additional NSLP (Addnl NSLP)
- Need for Services and Project Benefits (Need & Benefit)
- Innovativeness (Innov.)
- Cost Effectiveness (Cost Eff.)
DLT Grant: Rurality

This criterion measures how rural a project service area is. To be eligible for a grant, an application must earn a minimum score in this category based on data from the 2000 Census.

(45 Points)
General economic need of the project service area is measured by statistics from the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

(35 Points)
The DLT grant program requires a minimum match of 15%. Higher matches may receive additional points.

(35 Points)
This criterion awards points to projects with sites located in a USDA Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) or Champion Community.

(15 Points)
An applicant with an NSLP eligibility below 50% may request additional points based on a well-documented demonstration that the NSLP percentage is not an accurate indicator of the economic need of the area.

(10 Points)
This criterion measures the specific needs of the community and how the proposed project will meet those needs, not the generalized needs captured by the NSLP score.

(45 Points)
DLT Grant: Innovativeness

This criterion assesses how the objectives of the proposed project are met in new and creative ways.

(15 Points)
DLT Grant: Cost Effectiveness

Evaluates the cost effectiveness of the proposed project’s delivery of educational and medical benefits

(35 Points)
What Kind of Projects are Eligible for Grants?

- Benefits must flow to rural areas (not urban clusters over 20,000 or urbanized areas)
- Distance Learning and Telemedicine are defined for the grant program to exclude within facility (“on campus”) benefit
- Telecommunications service (the transport mechanism itself) is not eligible for grants
- Every year the emphasis from applicants changes – in recent years video conferencing for both distance learning and telemedicine is typical
DLT Grant: Application Submission

Paper Application:
Send an original and two copies to the address listed in the Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA).

Electronic Application:
www.grants.gov
Distance Learning Project Examples

- Enabling rural schools to remain viable by sharing teachers and curriculum from larger schools as well as among themselves
- Creating facilities that allow the delivery of specialized nonrecurring programs such as virtual field trips
- Offering continuing adult education and GED courses
- Delivering advanced placement college courses to high schools
- Bringing accredited continuing education courses to hospitals
Telemedicine Examples

• Providing teleradiology equipment to small clinics to transfer images of rural patients to urban centers of expertise
• Equipping visiting nurses with remote monitoring equipment for home patients
• Establishing teleconferencing links for remote medical diagnosis
• Connection to remote medical professionals for monitoring of patients in Intensive Care Units
DLT Program

For additional information

http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm