

Quick Reference Guide



Upcoming Deadline – June 4, 2021

USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program – FY21

Agency: USDA, Rural Utilities Service

CFDA Number: 10.855

Funding Opportunity Number: RUS-21-01-DLT

Maximum Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Estimated Total Funding: \$44,500,000

Estimated Number of Awards: 90

Matching Funds: 15%

Program Purpose: The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program provides grants to encourage and improve telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies to be used by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents.

Grants are for projects where the benefit is primarily delivered to end users that are not at the same location as the source of the education or healthcare service.

Grant funds may be used to:

- Acquire equipment and other capital assets:
 - Broadband transmission facilities
 - Audio, video licensing, and interactive video equipment **whose primary function is** interactive distance learning or telemedicine
 - Terminal and data terminal equipment
 - Computer hardware, network components, and software
 - Inside wiring and similar infrastructure that further DLT services
- Acquire instructional programming
- Acquire technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment

Special Consideration: Special Consideration. Special consideration points will be awarded for projects in the following areas. Applicants may receive **(10)** special consideration points in one of the two following areas:

- Projects having the primary purpose of providing treatment, counseling, training or educational services for 1) **opioid OR** 2) **substance use disorder (SUD)**.

Applicants may receive **(20)** special consideration points for tribal projects:

- Telemedicine or distance learning projects having at least one end-user site physically located in a federally recognized tribal area. For non-tribal applicants with projects that include a tribal location, a tribal resolution is required in order to garner the **20 points**.

Applicant Eligibility: Eligible applicants include entities that provide education or healthcare through telecommunications to rural areas, including:

- State and local government entities
- Federally-recognized tribes
- Nonprofit organizations
- For-profit businesses
- Consortia of eligible entities

Schools, Hospitals, Colleges and Universities, Clinics, State and Local offices of government (departments of health, workforce development, MMHR, transportation, etc.) , Libraries, for profits organizations (ex: for profit sleep disorder clinic; for profit college), BOCES and other educational consortia, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Clinics, Tribal organizations, etc.

Website: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>