



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA ANNOUNCES APPLICATION WINDOW FOR DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE GRANTS

Morgantown, WV – January 9, 2009: State Director Rick Rice announces the Fiscal Year 2009 application window for Rural Development’s Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program, subject to the availability of funding. The maximum amount of an application for a 100% grant in Fiscal Year 2009 is \$500,000 and the minimum amount of a grant is \$50,000.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants are specifically designed to provide access to education, training and health care resources for people in rural America. The DLT Program provides financial assistance to encourage and improve telemedicine services 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.

The grants may be used to fund telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment and related advanced technologies extend educational and medical applications into rural locations. Grants are made 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 health care service.

The application deadline is March 24, 2009, for Fiscal Year 2009 funding. Application guides and materials may be obtained at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm> or by contacting the DLT program at (202) 720-0413.

Further information and application requirements can be found in *The Federal Register* at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-30759>.

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Further information on USDA Rural Development may be obtained by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. In West Virginia, call 1-800-295-8228 to be put in touch with the appropriate personnel serving your county. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202.720.2600 (voice and TDD).

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