



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
San Juan, PR

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Miguel A. Ramírez
Phone: (787) 859-3104 ext. 118
E-mail: miguel.ramirez@pr.usda.gov

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE GRANTS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, February 2, 2009 – José Otero-García, State Director of USDA Rural Development Puerto Rico announced that USDA is accepting applications for grants through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program to provide access to education, training and healthcare resources in rural areas. Funding for the program is subject to Congressional appropriations.

“These grants will increase the range of educational opportunities available to students in rural communities and improve access to healthcare for countless number of rural Americans,” Otero-García said. “DLT program provides increase economic opportunity by expanding telecommunications, educational resources and computer networks throughout rural America.” In 2008, USDA Rural Development provided grants totaling \$28.2 million under the program to 105 recipients in 41 states.

Complete applications must be received by March 24, 2009. For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, see the December 24, 2008, Federal Register, page 79041. Materials including an application guide and full details about the program can also be obtained at www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm. In Puerto Rico you can call Ramón M. Meléndez at (787) 766-5095 x 250 or Miguel Ramírez x 232.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.

654 Plaza, Muñoz Rivera Ave., Hato Rey PR 00918
PO Box 366106 - San Juan, PR 00936-6106
Phone: (787)766-5095 • Fax: (787) 766-5844 • TDD: (787) 766-5332

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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