

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
AK	Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc.	\$422,521	Funds will be used to expand and upgrade its telemedicine equipment to better enable direct, real-time visual diagnosis, provider-to-patient communication and medical staff consultation.
AL	Randolph County Board of Education	\$405,799	Funds will be used to install new distance learning equipment in the six high schools of the Randolph and Clay County School District, including the new high school in Clay County. These rural counties in Eastern Alabama continue to experience high poverty and unemployment, and the school districts often have difficulty attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers, especially in areas such as foreign languages and advanced placement classes. The new system will allow students to become more competitive when applying for college or future employment, and will help the school districts meet state requirements to offer online or technology-enhanced courses in order for students to graduate.
AR	Arkansas State University - Newport	\$460,398	Funds will be used to finance video and control equipment that will allow ASU-Newport to centrally manage all of the video systems, including scheduling and content management/streaming. Arkansas State University -Newport plans to connect its main campus with two technical centers and eight local schools in an interactive partnership. This project will address the diverse needs of the Jackson County residents, help create a more skilled competitive workforce, and assist in eliminating the disparity between the rural, disadvantaged residents and those in more populated and affluent areas. Jackson County is one of the USDA Strike-Force counties.
AR	Arkansas Department of Information Systems	\$500,000	Funds will be used by Arkansas University to provide bridging equipment and other central office upgrades. Arkansas University's Distance Learning system, which averages 21,110 conference hours per month, continues to be an important part of students' education in the state. Arkansas is a Strike Force 1 state, and this project will improve distance learning capabilities throughout the State, reaching many counties that are considered persistent poverty communities.
AZ	SMMHC, Inc. dba Mountain Health and Wellness	\$211,688	Funds will be used for the Mountain Health and Wellness Telemedicine Initiative, which will provide telemedicine services to approximately 1,000 rural residents in Arizona. Each end-user site will be equipped with video conferencing equipment and accessory digital medical devices. Mountain Health and Wellness provides behavioral health services in the Apache Junction area of Arizona.

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
AZ	Mogollon Health Alliance, Inc.	\$276,793	Funds will be used for a distance learning platform for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Education. Mogollon Health Alliance, in association with four Rim Country School Districts, is providing end user video teleconferencing equipment for four school districts for the STEM program. The grant will serve four community schools in the rural, mountainous Mogollon Rim area - which includes and is surrounded by the Tonto and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest and borders Tonto Native American Reservations situated in Gila and Navajo Counties. Educational funding for these schools has been declining within this population area. The new courses and equipment will provide opportunities for every student, including programs for gifted and Advanced Placement students.
AZ	Yavapai County Education Service Agency	\$499,731	Funds will be used to purchase and install distance learning equipment that will connect 62 video end point locations and one hub/end-user site. Advanced placement courses, dual credit courses, vocational training and other educational opportunities previously unavailable to rural students will become a reality. In addition to the benefits that students will derive from taking classes through video conferencing, teachers will be able to extend their knowledge beyond their own classrooms and expand their professional opportunities with teacher development courses.
CA	Tustin Teleradiology Medical Group, Inc.	\$50,999	Funds will be used by Tustin Teleradiology to expand its diagnostic and radiological digital services in Tehama County, Northern California. The new multi-purpose ultrasonic imaging system will be able to perform a wide variety of exams, and will have the information available in digital format. The vast majority of the region is rural forest, agricultural, and timber land. A 2006 Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant upgraded some of the radiographic and telecommunication equipment, except for the ultrasound machine, which is now 30 years old. The upgrade will benefit diagnostic services for residents so their medical information can be used in a more timely and efficient manner.
CO	Northeast Colorado Board of Cooperative Educational Services	\$271,774	Funds will be used to purchase distance learning equipment to enable 12 school districts representing 3,995 full-time students in Northeastern Colorado to share classes interactively and capture, archive and stream those classes for future purposes. The grant will also place new equipment into the elementary and middle schools, thereby introducing distance learning to those grade levels for the first time. The new platform

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
			will allow the Board to expand course offerings and professional development opportunities throughout the 12 school districts, improving curriculum, support services and professional development. Colorado is a Strike-Force 2 state.
CO	Brush School District RE -2(J)	\$285,778	Funds will be used by the North Central Colorado Distance Learning Center, a consortium of rural school districts, to purchase the technology necessary to link the schools into a distance learning network. The network will enhance learning and knowledge in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The consortium will also connect e the school districts with leading subject matter experts in fields such as green technology, medicine and energy to expose them to issues in the global economy.
GA	Clinical Services, Inc.	\$167,721	Funds will be used to purchase telemedicine equipment by Clinical Services, which will distribute five individual systems to skilled nursing facilities. The new technology will better coordinate the care of rural patients with multiple chronic conditions. Cost and time savings will benefit providers and patients, reduce medication errors, and require less staff travel. Georgia is a Strike Force 1 state.
KS	USD 270 Plainville	\$440,000	Funds will be used to purchase high-definition video equipment to enable distance learning between classrooms in 10 school districts in Northwest Kansas. Introducing high-definition and touch-screen technology to the classroom will facilitate a more rigorous learning environment. The school district will partner with Rooks County Health Center to create opportunities for high school students in Nursing, Sports Medicine, Emergency Medical Technology, Home Health Care and Pharmacy Services.
KY	Hazard Community and Technical College	\$243,836	Funds will be used to improve, upgrade and expand distance learning technology in five classrooms on five campuses. Hazard Community and Technical College hosts the University Center of the Mountains, which connects students in rural eastern Kentucky with select degree programs offered by regional four-year colleges and universities. Two of the campuses will get video conferencing equipment for the first time; the other three will update their current capabilities and interoperability.
KY	Professional Home Health Care Agency, Inc.	\$118,716	Funds will be used by the Professional Home Care Health Care Agency to purchase and install home health equipment, such as telemonitors, blood pressure cuffs, pulse oximeters (for measuring oxygen in the blood), glucose meters, and other devices. It will greatly reduce the time and costs associated with visits to the physician, and reduce patient hospitalization and emergency room visits. This will also enable home patients

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
			to review their data on their home computers. This grant expands on the Agency's existing system and adds a cardiology component to the home care. The grant also will be used to purchase new software for case management and more expedient document review by physicians.
ME	Regional School Unit 24	\$499,967	Rural Development funds will be used to purchase an assortment of distance learning equipment, including video conferencing units, cameras, monitors, bridging equipment, computers and video enabling software – for students in five counties in Maine and two counties in Vermont. Adult learners and school age children will participate in the comprehensive educational network, including medical courses for health care and non health care students. Eleven thousand rural residents of Maine's Piscataquis, Aroostook, Washington and Hancock counties, and Vermont's Winsor and Windham counties will stand to benefit from the educational and professional training opportunities with this enormous array of courses and access to live and re-broadcasted instruction.
ME	Central Maine Healthcare Corporation	\$309,619	Funds will be used by Central Maine Healthcare to purchase video conferencing and related equipment for a telemedicine project that covers five counties in Western, Central and coastal Maine. This service area has significantly high rates of chronic disease among its residents. Maine's geographical barriers and weather conditions support the need for telemedicine, and this project brings those capabilities to the rural residents of Fryeburg, Rumford, Bridgton, Farmington, and Skowhegan, where the equipment will be used to better manage and treat chronic disease. The same telemedicine system will be used to offer courses that lead to degree programs in Nursing and Radiologic Technology, and to support a Family Medicine Residency program.
MI	U. P. Health Care Network	\$313,626	Funds will be used to purchase specialized electrocardiogram equipment and software to create an eight-state telemedicine network among eight sites to manage the information collected by the sites and route it to cardiologists and technicians on demand for proper treatment of patients. The majority of Upper Peninsula hospitals now use an outdated system that relies mainly on faxed or printed copies of ECG studies. Among those sites, the project will serve the Indian Communities of Keweenaw Bay, Hannahville, and Bay Mills, the Chippewa tribes of Sault Ste. Marie and the Lac Vieux Desert Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
MI	Carson City Hospital	\$477,711	Funds will be used to purchase clinical examination devices for the Carson City Hospital and three family care centers in nearby counties, and corresponding endpoint units for the hub hospital. The hospital will to create an intelligent care management and consultation network for rural primary care physicians and their patients. Specialty physicians within the St. John Providence Health System in the Detroit area will be tapped for consultation and other services, so rural residents of Montcalm, Gratiot and Ionia Counties will benefit in their medical care despite their rural location.
MN	SISU Medical Systems	\$354,041	Funds will be used to purchase video-equipped medical carts, exam cameras, monitors and related equipment for SISU's network of 11 member hospitals and 10 affiliated clinics, rural hospitals and health care facilities in Northeast Minnesota's Arrowhead region. More than 80,000 people are expected to be served by the initiation or expansion of telemedicine services, which will connect rural patients and practitioners with medical specialists in Moose Lake and Aitkin. The project will focus on providing improved care to the vulnerable populations in poverty, especially the elderly and children. SISU will also work closely with the various Chippewa and Ojibwe communities to ensure that the telemedicine connections also reach those who need medical services among the tribal organizations.
MO	Scotland County Memorial Hospital District	\$78,344	Funds will be used by Scotland County Memorial Hospital to purchase monitors/defibrillators and supporting telemedicine equipment so ambulance crews can electronically share incoming patient data with cardiac care facilities and emergency departments. With this kind of simultaneous communications ability, the ambulance crews will be better able to determine where the ambulance needs to deliver patients. Scotland County Memorial Hospital is the only hospital in a five-county (10,000-square-mile) area in northeast Missouri. It provides essential emergency, inpatient, outpatient and post-acute care to nearly 21,000 residents.
MO	Saint Francis Medical Center	\$262,068	Funds will be used to help Saint Francis Medical Center purchase equipment for the first regional telestroke and teletrauma program in this medically-underserved region of Southeastern Missouri. Once established, the technology will facilitate expert remote consultations that will benefit the approximately 80 rural patients per year who end up in the emergency room after a trauma or stroke. The new systems will allow patients to

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
			receive proper treatment in a timely manner with a better chance of recovery, and help eliminate transfers so patients can remain in a hospital in their own community.
MS	University of Mississippi Medical Center	\$184,327	Funds will be used to expand an existing telemedicine system with video teleconferencing units to additional rural sites – at the hospitals in Ackerman, Hazlehurst and Choctaw, Mississippi. This will enable these hospitals to link to services that enhance their emergency departments. The grant will also enable hospitals in Morton, Newton, Poplarville and Richton to upgrade their video teleconferencing equipment so they can connect to distance learning classes for their nursing staff and other medical personnel. This expansion will extend the reach of emergency care and medical training further into rural Mississippi.
MT	Billings Clinic Foundation	\$295,117	Funds will be used for telemedicine equipment that will extend specialty medical services such as dermatology, allergy care and ear, nose and throat care to 16 rural and frontier communities in eastern Montana. The primary and specialty care, never before available in these rural communities, will enable patients to receive care and treatment closer to home.
NC	Vidant Health	\$161,047	Funds will be used to deploy video telemedicine equipment to four rural sites in northeastern North Carolina. Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation will partner with University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina to provide one-on-one physician consultation from its doctors and medical staff to patients in rural hospitals in Duplin, Hertford and Edgecombe counties. The connection also will be used to conduct medical training for rural practitioners. These communities face many challenges, including difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified medical and nursing specialists, and difficulty safely managing critically ill patients.
NC	Ocracoke Health Center, Inc.	\$358,967	Funds will be used to help purchase clinical presence systems (cart-based video conferencing units specialized for medical practice) that will allow for 12 simultaneous connections with high definition video. The project will also acquire peripheral technology such as digital stethoscopes for exams and laptops used to access and input patient records. The grant will assist the hub sites in acquiring a multipoint bridge and video communications server, which will be at the center of the video network and

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
			support all infrastructure and connection management among end points. This will create video end points at Manteo, Kitty Hawk, Frisco, Engelhard, Hatteras, Swan Quarter, and Ocracoke
ND	Altru Health System	\$266,900	Funds will be used by Altru Health System to implement digital imaging into a telemedicine network between their clinics in five rural communities in North Dakota and Minnesota. Five x-ray units will be upgraded to digital imaging, and three units that cannot be upgraded will be replaced. Installation of this equipment will modernize radiology services to nearly 20,000 people living in rural northeast North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.
ND	Garrison Memorial Hospital	\$119,833	Funds will be used to acquire automated medication-dispensing units, document cameras, and computers for audio and video contact in a telepharmacy project. The initiative will be operated from the St. Alexius Medical Center in Bismarck, and will extend the hospital's pharmacy services to patients at two rural critical access hospitals in rural McLean County. The new system will reduce the number of patients who must transfer to urban hospitals because of various complications due to the lack of medication oversight. In general it will reduce errors in medication, and reduce travel time and other costs for patients and hospital staff.
NE	Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation	\$253,345	Funds will be used by Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation to expand telemedicine services to central Nebraska and Kansas through the Midwest Telehealth Network. The additional equipment will introduce eight more locations, providing video end points for these rural clinics to connect to the telemedicine network. Patients accompanied by rural their clinicians and doctors will be able to link to Good Samaritan and other larger hospitals from their remote location and receive one-to-one consultation, medical training, and health care coordination.
NE	Educational Service Unit #17	\$180,000	Funds will be used to purchase videoconferencing equipment for 21 public schools in this four-county area of North Central Nebraska. Grant funds also will purchase the central control equipment that manages the video connections, the content capture and streaming, and video bridging. The classes held over the system will include regular high school classes, college and dual credit, agriculture and agri-business classes and seminars, and specialty classes that are conducted in conjunction with rural attendance

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
			centers.
NE	Mid-Plains Community College	\$123,042	Funds will be used to purchase video teleconferencing equipment for a distance learning system between Mid Plains Community College and their affiliated end user campuses in this 18-county area of Western Nebraska. Equipment will be installed in campus locations at Broken Bow, Ogallala and Valentine, and video communications bridge equipment will be installed at Broken Bow. The equipment will allow the College to expand dual high school college credits and other coursework leading to a number of degrees, certification and licensing. Collaboration with various industries bonds the project to job and career training, with an immediate focus on increasing the number of qualified nursing professionals. This will address the nursing shortage in rural and frontier areas, and save students the 100- to 200-mile daily round-trip they currently travel to attend certification classes.
NE	Educational Service Unit 16	\$412,925	Funds are being used in a system-wide upgrade to outfit schools with video conferencing equipment and updating their video bridge in this vast sparsely populated area Southwest Nebraska. The modernized bridge unit is better able to leverage available bandwidth. This allows for richer content to run through the system while using less bandwidth expenses, thus saving on connection expenses. The project will provide students and others in their communities with expanded curriculum offerings, virtual travel opportunities, and career advancement.
NY	Adirondack Medical Center	\$112,860	Funds will be used to implement a telemedicine network connecting the main hospital at Saranac Lake with satellite clinics in the nearby rural areas – setting up new video end points to extend the hospital’s medical services. The network will allow rural clinicians to visually consult with medical specialists at the hospital, to synchronize patient information between sites, and to realize cost-savings at every point in the process, especially travel costs for patients. The primary and secondary service areas span over 1,200 square miles in rural, upstate New York.
NY	Finger Lakes Migrant Health Care Project, Inc.	\$215,650	Funds will be used to expand an existing telehealth network to 10 new sites, providing the equipment to bring these clinics into the larger health care network as video end points so that telemedicine can be brought into these previously underserved communities. With a special emphasis on the farm worker community, the project will connect these rural clinics with four partnering hub sites providing video consultation

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
			with physicians in areas of eye care, dental care, behavioral health consultations, occupational health, and other essential health care services. The programs also offer linguistically appropriate distance-education programs, including healthcare career opportunities with clinical mentoring and Continuing Medical Education courses.
NY	Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego Board of Cooperative Educational Services	\$338,716	Funds will be used by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services to invest in distance learning and video teleconferencing equipment that will help to interconnect local high schools and other educational facilities in 12 school districts. Each site will both originate and receive instructed courses and related educational content across the network, with a new content server located at BOCES to capture and stream the media being produced. The network will help local school districts leverage the available teaching staff to reach a wider student population, which could help to offset the severe budget cuts.
OH	Adena Health System	\$143,244	Funds will be used by Adena to purchase 12 Lead EKGs and 8 LIFEPAK15 Monitor/Defibrillators for an EMS Telemetry project, furthering delivery and quality of care for cardiac patients in south-central Ohio. EMTs will be able to record an EKG in the patient's home, and both view the information on-site, and electronically transmit it to the closest emergency health care provider or hospital. Ambulance run transit times to rural emergency health care providers in Ross County are significantly higher than state and national averages. Correspondingly, county heart disease and heart attack mortality rates are much higher than state and national rates.
OH	Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio, Inc.	\$178,583	Funds will be used to purchase the telemedicine equipment necessary to provide a direct live video link to physicians for psychiatric care to residents. Services are currently provided by Recovery Services throughout the four counties at eight fixed site locations and at patient's homes. With only three part-time service providers in the area (working out of Defiance), patients must either forego psychiatric treatment, or travel to the Defiance for care. This project will increase access to care by installing a comprehensive telemedicine system that will allow psychiatric providers to treat patients via teleconferencing between the hub location in Defiance and the remote sites throughout the four counties and patient's homes. The Department of Health and Human Services has designated the area as a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area.
OK	Choctaw Nation of	\$321,739	Funds will be used by the Choctaw Nation Health Center to expand educational

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
	Oklahoma		opportunities for those in the service area seeking medical training, by providing interactive video conferencing and on-line courses. The project will provide the videoconferencing equipment necessary to accomplish two purposes – to increase the availability of care for those residents suffering with behavioral problems, and to offer training, mentoring and certification for residents who become mental health specialists. Presently, access to health care for the Choctaw is remote, and the resources necessary to pursue a career in health care are also remote.
OR	Samaritan Health Services, Inc.	\$414,942	Funds will be used by Samaritan Health Service to purchase and install videoconferencing technology that will expand its ability to deliver mental health care. The enhanced system will be based on direct video interactions between clinicians, patients and practitioners at 13 rural hospitals and clinics, and will also help to train the medical staff with interactive medical courses. With direct access to specialists at nearby hospitals, Samaritan can improve its response to emergencies and extend specialty coverage in its underserved rural communities. The service area includes three counties of Western Oregon, much of which are federally designated as Primary Medical Care Health Provider Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas.
OR	Curry Health District	\$130,452	Funds will be used to purchase and implement telemedical devices, and to provide training on how to use and integrate the equipment into Curry Health District’s healthcare delivery system. The District will use the new equipment to link to existing and emerging telehealth networks and tap into a wider array of specialists to treat patients and assist clinicians. The Curry Health Network serves the rural communities in and around Port Orford, Gold Beach, and Brookings, Oregon. Curry County’s rural population of 22,000 is spread across 3,000 square miles, primarily along the 121-mile coastline. Patients in these remote areas currently have to travel up to 300 miles to the nearest urban center for specialist consultation and care.
PA	Blast Intermediate Unit 17	\$205,968	Funds will be used to purchase and install 39 videoconferencing suites across 37 educational facilities. Blast Intermediate Unit 17 is an educational service agency operating in a four-county region in Northern Pennsylvania. Equipment provided from this grant will facilitate the project’s expansion of educational and career opportunities and professional development. The system and its implementation will be designed to increase collaborating and sharing between school districts, with a special focus on the

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
			educational needs of low-income students. Anticipated results are increased student achievement better career opportunities.
PA	Saint Vincent Health Center Foundation	\$52,541	Funds will be used by St. Vincent and its rural partner hospitals to install end user video conferencing equipment and video bridge upgrade technology. The new bridge technology capabilities will leverage maximum use and efficiency of the corresponding video end points at the participating rural hospitals. This will result in improving medical services, creating or retaining employment and providing essential services to vulnerable rural populations.
SC	Low County Health Care Network	\$322,990	Funds will be used to acquire end user equipment for a telemedicine project that places equipment in Low County's participating medical facilities, which include the rural communities of Bamberg, Blackville, Fairfax, Varnville and Hemingway. The accredited Chest Pain Center at Roper St. Francis Hospital will be extended in a partnership amongst providers that will incorporate the video and data communications equipment to connect rural patient and medical specialists in the areas of cardiology, endocrinology, nephrology, neurology, speech therapy, and pulmonology. The same system will facilitate medical training for rural practitioners.
SC	Hampton County School District 2	\$172,424	Funds will be used by Hampton County School District 2 to purchase the equipment necessary to establish a distance learning system where currently no system exists. There is a critical need for distance learning, even apparent in the hub location of this project, in the rural community of Estill. This extremely rural community has few public services, limited access to technology, is economically challenged and costly to serve. Creating the platform where teachers can extend their skills and positive influence beyond one school and where students can see possibilities beyond their immediate rural surroundings is a necessary first step to bolster a young population toward optimism, motivation and achievement
SD	Avera Health	\$401,636	Funds will be used to purchase and install telemedicine equipment for 17 participating hospitals, clinics and long term care facilities in a 63-end user telemedicine network that covers the multi-state frontier and rural territory of the Northern Great Plains. As one of two separate proposals by Avera Health, the Avera TeleCare Project provides a range of services with a breadth of scope that matches the size of the service territory, including emergency services, teleradiology, pharmacy services, intensive care, oncology,

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
			hepatology, pediatrics, endocrinology, gastroenterology, internal medicine, maternal/fetal medicine, women's health and many more specialties. Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, S.D., provides the medical specialists through its eCare Service lines, while other specialty clinics in Sioux Falls serve as specialist hub sites providing physicians for Avera's eConsult services.
SD	Avera Health	\$448,053	Funds will be used to purchase and install telemedicine equipment for 20 medical facilities and 4 long term care facilities in a telemedicine network that covers the multi-state frontier and rural territory of the Northern Great Plains. As one of two separate proposals by Avera Health, the Avera Rural Connect Project will acquire equipment such as glidescopes, telephonic stethoscopes, otoscopes, general examination cameras, ePOC blood analysis systems, teleradiology, upgrades to eICU units and video conferencing units. In the hands of rural practitioners, this equipment will connect patients to medical specialists at Avera McKennan Hospital and other specialty clinics in Sioux Falls.
TX	Ranger College	\$322,504	Funds will be used by Ranger College to purchase a distance learning system that will address the educational and economic needs for area high school students. Over 6,500 students in the 4-county area of Central Texas face a lack of educational and economic opportunities. With this new system Ranger College will work directly with high school sites to deliver dual credit courses, and other courses and degrees that are currently unavailable. Ranger College will extend its teachers and other resources into the high school classrooms via distance learning connections. The learning environment will be shared and collaborative - with mentoring, workforce development and professional development for high school teachers.
UT	San Juan Health Services District	\$248,003	Funds will be used by San Juan Health Services District to adapt its mammography services to digital, and to facilitate transport of radiographic images and data to centers where patient information can be read, interpreted and appropriate action taken. The grant will fund the various telemedical units and support equipment and training that will stand-up the new system so that residents in San Juan County can receive timely and accurate radiological services for its hospital's mammography patients.
UT	University of Utah College of Social Work	\$140,460	Funds will be used to upgrade and expand distance learning equipment that will facilitate the advancement of Apache and Navajo students who are taking career-oriented courses in health sciences from their remote locations. The partnership, with

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
			the University of Utah College of Social Work, and the Northland Pioneer and Dine Colleges in Arizona and New Mexico, will use the improved distance learning system to increase the number of trained and credentialed Native American faculty and graduate-level practitioners, and increase the number of local mental health service professionals serving the Native American population in this region.
VA	Appalachian College of Pharmacy	\$149,094	Funds will be used to acquire comprehensive telemedicine equipment needed to improve chronic disease management, specifically targeting diabetes and primary health care needs in this Southwest corner of the Virginian Appalachian Mountains. All telemedicine capabilities will allow patients to interact with knowledgeable providers to manage their symptoms. The College of Pharmacy will team up with Johnston Memorial Hospital Diabetes Center in Abingdon, Rite Aid Pharmacy and Buchanan Health Center in Grundy, and Rite Aid Pharmacy in Lebanon – all of which will serve as both end user and hub sites. The result will be a more efficient, consistent, and reliable delivery of healthcare for patients with chronic conditions.
VA	Project HOPE-People-to-People Health Foundation, Inc.	\$205,465	Funds will be used by Project Hope, a Virginia-based Company, to install a state-of-the-art critical care patient monitoring system in five target sites in the Mississippi Delta. Partnering with the University of Mississippi Health Center, Delta Health Alliance, and five rural hospitals, Project HOPE's sponsorship of the grant has arranged for a pool of specialty physicians at the urban institutions to facilitate consultation between medical specialists, rural practitioners, and patients using the monitoring system as a communications platform. Of the five target sites, four are Critical Access Hospitals and all serve Health Professional Shortage Areas.
WI	Dean Health Systems, Inc.	\$446,735	Funds will be used to establish a comprehensive telemedicine system serving 12 end user sites connected to 4 hub sites in Dean's 7-county service area of rural, south-central Wisconsin. Residents in these rural communities will benefit from quick access to the critical specialty care they need, including telestroke services and cardiology, pharmacy services, dermatology, and more. The new equipment will also put into place a video communications system to better coordinate disaster response in case of emergency or natural catastrophe. The project will save an estimated 12,750 hours of travel time and \$302,940 in travel costs during the first year of implementation. It is expected to save patients \$448,272 in lost wages for those who have to take a day off to seek specialty

2012 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

June 6, 2012

State	Recipient	Grant	Description
			care because of time and distance.
WI	Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative	\$91,881	Funds will purchase the video conferencing and related equipment that will enable the Cooperative to extend its training services and coordinate a program of shared medical services among its membership of 35 rural hospitals throughout Wisconsin. The headquarters and training center is located in Sauk City, where equipment will be installed to manage and coordinate the array of medical resources that will soon become available in many parts of rural Wisconsin as a result of the grant