



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building 125 South State Street, Room 4311 Salt Lake City, UT 84642
Phone: (801) 525-4324 • Fax: (801) 352-4306 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ut>

USDA AWARDS MORE THAN \$22.3 MILLION FOR DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE GRANTS

Acting Agriculture Secretary Conner today announced the selection of 78 grant recipients for Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants totaling \$22.3 million in 31 states.

“These grants connect rural communities to educational programs and medical services that bridge the miles between doctors and patients and provide classroom teaching at the touch of a button,” said Conner.

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant program was created to improve access to education and medical services through the use of technology. Of the grants announced today, 38 will provide access to medical services and 40 will be used to improve educational opportunities. The grant funds will be awarded to the selected recipient’s contingent upon meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

Three new Distance Learning Tele-Medicine (DLT) grants totaling \$1,249,514 were awarded in Utah recently. Recipients include the College of Eastern Utah -San Juan Campus (CEU-SJ), a community college located in geographically isolated southeastern Utah was awarded \$314,294 to replace outdated broadcast equipment to improve and expand distance learning programming. CEU-SJ delivers distance learning, much of it in the health sciences, training nurse assistants in remote rural areas at low cost to ensure access and equity for all community members. End user sites include four extremely rural locations of the Utah Navajo Health System, and two sites in Dolores County, Colorado.

Utah Valley State College will receive \$437,162 to provide equipment needs and technical support to facilitate new educational opportunities to thirty-seven Chapter Houses within Utah’s Navajo Nation. Another \$497,058 will be granted to Utah Valley State College to help Navajo Nation students in Utah, Arizona and New Mexico with videoconferencing technology that will bring everything from computer literacy certification training to centralized health options. Bonnie Carrig, USDA Rural Development Community Programs Director stated, “All three applications ranked high in funding priorities and this is great news for Utah.” “Rural Development in Utah is very pleased to provide these three grants for projects in the southeast portion of the state. We know this funding will be useful to advance educational opportunities in the region, said Jack Cox, Utah State Director. A complete list of grant recipients is available on the USDA Rural Development web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$76.8 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

Contact – Donna Birk, Public Information Coordinator – 801-524-4324

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).