

# 2022 Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

Presented by: Roger Meeks  
Loan Origination & Approval Division  
Telecommunications Program  
DLT Webinar



# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

## **Webinar Roadmap**

- A. The Basics
- B. Eligibility
- C. Matching
- D. Scoring
- E. Applying
- F. Assistance

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program – The Basics

## Hierarchy of authority for the DLT Program

1. Statute: 7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq.
2. Regulation: 7 CFR 1734, Subparts A and B
3. Funding Opportunity Announcement published **TBD**
4. DLT Application Guide, Fiscal Year 2022
5. This Webinar

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program – The Basics

## Distance Learning

- Distance Learning means a **real-time, interactive, telecommunications link** to an end-user through the use of eligible equipment for the following purposes:
  - Provide educational programs, instruction, or information originating in one area, whether rural or not, to students and teachers who are located in rural areas; or
  - Connect teachers and students, located in one rural area with teachers and students who are located in a different rural area.



# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program – The Basics

## Telemedicine

- Telemedicine is a **real-time, interactive, telecommunications link** to an end-user through the use of eligible equipment which electronically links medical professionals at separate sites in order to exchange health care information in audio, video, graphic, or other format for the purpose of providing improved health care services primarily to residents of rural areas.
  - Benefits rural residents both in reduced travel and improved access to service

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program – The Basics

Funding Type	Rural Focus	Funding Thresholds	Matching Requirement	DLT System	How to Apply	When Applications are Accepted
Grants	Primarily benefits rural areas	\$50,000 - \$1,000,000	15% of requested grant amount	Must include hub and end-user sites	Submit through the <b>Grants.gov</b>	Applications are not accepted at this time

## Available Funding

### FY2019

**\$64 million** available

### FY2020

**\$95 million** available

### FY2021

**\$57 million** available

### FY2022

**\$62.5 million** received in appropriations

## Program Updates

### FY2019

**181** applications received for **\$58.1 million**

- **144** grants approved for **\$44.8 million**

### FY2020

**FOA #1: 276** applications received for **\$155.9 million**

- **112** grants approved for **\$70 million**

**FOA #2 (obligated in FY2021): 534** applications received for **\$252.1 million**

- **86** grants approved for **\$42.1 million**

### FY2021

**274** applications received for **\$122.2 million**

- **105** grants approved for **\$49.6 million**

### FY2022

- **9** grants approved for **\$4.2 million**

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program – The Basics

## Changes for FY 2022

- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) – No longer using DUNS
- Opioid and other Substance Use Disorder Treatment will not be included for special consideration point. However, xx% of allocated funding is set aside for projects with this as their primary purpose.
- Other Changes to Special Consideration: 10 points for TBD

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Scoring

## **Opioid or other Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment**

- Eligible treatment purposes include:
  - Counseling of people with SUD
  - Treatment of people with SUD
  - Training of medical professionals, counselors or first responders in the interaction with people with SUD
  - Education programs addressing SUD
- Even if the application serves Tribal Lands, please request Opioid/SUD Treatment Special Consideration, if appropriate
- The Executive Summary should clarify if SUD treatment includes opioids



# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Eligibility

## Applicant Eligibility

- The following entity types are eligible to apply:
  - Incorporated organization (for-profit or not-for-profit)
  - Indian tribe or tribal organization, as defined in 25 U.S.C. 5304
  - State or local unit of government
  - Consortium as defined in 1734.3
  - Limited liability company or other legal entity
  - **Almost every entity except individuals & partnerships**

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Eligibility

## Consortium

- A consortium is a combination or group of entities formed to undertake the purposes for which the distance learning and telemedicine financial assistance is provided. A consortium can be **formal** or **informal**.
- A **formal** consortium is legally organized and can contract with the Government. It can apply under its own name.
- An **informal** consortium cannot contract; it has two options:
  1. Select a host organization which will apply on behalf of the consortium and be designated the project owner with all awardee responsibilities; or
  2. Each individual entity must contract with RUS on its own behalf.

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Eligibility

## **Eligible Grant Purposes** *(See DLT Application Guide for details)*

- Acquiring, by lease or purchase eligible equipment.
  - If leased, the cost of the lease during the 3-year life of the grant is eligible.
  - Broadband facilities must be applicant owned & are limited to 20% of grant
- Acquiring instructional programming that is a capital asset (including the purchase or lease of instructional programming already on the market)
- Providing technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment. (category limited to 10% of grant)

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Eligibility

## Examples of eligible equipment

- Computer hardware & software
  - Telemedical devices
  - Microphones
  - Cameras
  - Speakers
  - Monitors & other display devices
  - Inside wiring
  - Broadband facilities, **if applicant-owned**
- ✓ The application must demonstrate that the predominant purpose (50% or more of use) of every line-item in the grant and match budget meets the DLT Grant definition of distance learning or telemedicine.



# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Eligibility

## **Ineligible Grant Purposes** *(See DLT Application Guide for details)*

- Medical or educational equipment not having telemedicine or distance learning as its essential function
- Electronic Medical Record Systems
- Salaries, administrative, operating, or recurring expenses (including recurring broadband connection fees)
- Application preparation costs
- Purchase of land, buildings, building construction, site development, or destruction or alteration of buildings.
- Any purpose not specifically contained in 7 CFR 1734.21

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Matching

## **Matching Contribution (15% of the grant amount required)**

- Can either be cash (**recommended**) or in-kind
- **Must be for a purpose that would be otherwise eligible for grant funding** and must be integral to the project
- Cannot include federal funds unless there is a federal statutory exception
- Only new, non-depreciated equipment with an established value may be considered an in-kind match
- Vendor discounts or supplied equipment is not an eligible match
- Special matching provisions for American Samoa, Guam, Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Scoring 2022

## **Scoring – Maximum possible in 110 points**

- **Objective Criteria (90 points)**
  - Rurality (40 points)
  - Economic Need (30 points)
  - Special Consideration (10 points)
- **Subjective Criteria (30 points)**
  - Needs and Benefits

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Scoring

## Objective Criteria: Rurality (40 points max)

- Score is determined by **the 2010 census population** of the community in which each End-User Site is located **and adjacent urban areas** (see DLT Map at <http://ruraldevelopment.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=15a73830555645ae93d2fa773ed8e971> to check if a location is non-rural).
- An End-User Site is a facility that will be used by end-users to receive services from the project. Project equipment must be placed at a site for it to be considered an end-user site for scoring purposes.
- **Non-fixed end-user site projects** have rurality determined by Hub locations.
- Rurality scores per site are 40, 30, 20, or 0, & are averaged to determine score.
- A minimum rurality score of 20 is required for project eligibility.



# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

## Objective Criteria: Economic Need (30 points max)

- Score is determined by the Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) poverty percentage for the county in which each End-User Site is located.
- Economic Need scores **per site** will be 30, 20, 10, or 0.
- Scores for each site **are averaged** to determine the score for the application.
- **Non-fixed end-user site projects** have scores determined by Hub locations.
- The SAIPE values being used for 2022 are values for 2020 released by the Census Bureau in December 2021. They will be posted on the DLT site.
- Each End-User site located in a geographic area for which no SAIPE data exists will be determined to have a poverty percentage of 30% and a score of 30.

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Scoring

## **Objective Criteria: Special Consideration (10 points max)**

- Categories TBD
- Eligibility for points should be identified on the Special Consideration Worksheet and supported by the application
- Applicants will receive points in no more than one area, even if more than one category applies

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Scoring

## **Subjective Criteria: Needs & Benefits (30 points max)**

- 1. Need for Services:** the economic, geographic, educational, or health care challenges facing the communities in the project. Documentation should support the claims.
- 2. Benefits Derived from Services:** how the proposed project will help resolve the problems identified. Identification of benefits should include quantifiable goals (e.g. # students projected to take new courses, # patients to receive care, time saved seeking medical treatment)
- 3. Local Community Involvement:** participation in the planning and development of project by local residents and organizations. Documentation of meetings, support, including contributions.

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Applying

## Completing the Grant Application

- A. Standard Form 424
- B. Site Worksheet
- C. Executive Summary of the Project
- D. Scoring Criteria Documentation
- E. Matching Requirements
- F. Scope of Work (including Budget)
- G. Financial Information and Sustainability
- H. Statement of Experience
- I. Telecommunications System Plan
- J. Compliance with other Federal Statutes
- K. Evidence of Legal Authority and Existence
- L. Environmental Impact and Historic Preservation
- M. Consultation with USDA State Director
- N. Supplemental Information



# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Applying

## **J. Compliance with other Federal Statutes**

Application checklist available on the DLT website should be inserted under Section J signed by an authorized representative

By signing this certification, you are agreeing to the language in schedules J-1, J-2, J-3 J-4, and J-5, as shown in the application guide. If a box checked in Section J above requires an attachment, the attachment is provided with this application. If you have any questions about your application, please contact RUS prior to submitting this application and certification.

---

Print Name and Title below the line (sign on the line).

Date

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Applying

## **System for Award Management (SAM – [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov))**

- **Registration is required:** All applicants must have an active SAM registration **prior** to submitting an application. It can take up to 12-15 business days after submitting a SAM registration for it to be active. Plan accordingly.
- **Registration must be active:** The registration must remain active with current information at all times while RUS is considering an application or while a DLT grant is active.
- **Financial assistance general certifications and representations must have been made:** If you didn't make these certifications when registering or updating, edit your registration in SAM to include the certifications before applying. **Without the certifications, you are not eligible for a grant.**

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Applying

## **DLT Worksheets (will be available on website)**

- Site Worksheet
- Rurality Worksheet
- Economic Need Worksheet (averages scores for each site)
- Special Consideration Worksheet
- Matching Worksheet
- Budget Worksheet (divided into Grant/Cash Match & In-Kind sections)

\*\*\*Very helpful if the budget presented in excel format.\*\*\*

# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Applying

## Application Submission – **Deadline is TBD**

- Electronically via [grants.gov](https://grants.gov)
- Submission cutoff is 11:59pm EDT on **???**
- SAM.gov registration with Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations must be completed first! Do not wait!
- Only form SF-424 is completed in Grants.gov. **Everything else is an attachment.**



# Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Assistance

## Sources of Assistance

- Website: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>
- App Guide: 2022 Guide will be on the website
- General Field Representatives (GFR): Applicants may contact their GFR for technical assistance up to 14 days prior to closing date of application window. GFR listing is found at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/telecom-gfr>
- DLT Mailbox: [DLTInfo@usda.gov](mailto:DLTInfo@usda.gov)
- RUS National Office: 202-720-0800





Questions?

Questions?





Rural Development | Telecommunications Program  
Rural Utilities Service | U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W. | Washington, D.C. 20250  
[www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov)



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.