

DLT Awards – New York

2008 Grant Awards

Finger Lakes Migrant Health Care Project, Inc

New York

\$197,877

Areas Served: Schoharie, 21st, Oswego and Jefferson, 23rd Dist., Otsego, 20th & 24th Dists.; Cayuga, 24th & 25th Dists.; Niagara, Orleans, 26th & 28th Dists.; Herkimer, 24th Dist., Wayne, 25th, Livingston, 26th

Contact: Ms. Mary Zelanzy

Telephone: (315) 531-9102

Congressional District: Gillibrand, 20th; McNulty, 21st, McHugh, 23rd, Arcuri, 24th, Walsh, 25th, Reynolds, 26th, Slaughter, 28th

Rural Development grant funds will be used to establish the New York State Farmworker Telehealth and Learning Network. The network will comprise 5 hub and 13 rural end-user sites and will strive to improve access to primary and specialty healthcare services for migrant and seasonal farm-workers and their families. The network will also expand dental and wellness screenings for migrant children and improve educational opportunities for K-12 and out-of school youths within the migrant community.

Genesee Valley Board of Cooperative Educational Services

New York

\$268,256

Areas Served: Livingston, Genesee, 26th Dist.; Steuben, 29th Dist.

Contact: Ms. Sharon M. Kaiser

Telephone: (585) 344-7920

Congressional District: Reynolds, 26th and Kuhl, 29th Dist

Rural Development grant funds will establish a distance learning project using telecommunications to connect teachers and students at eight rural school sites, the Mt. Morris Library, and four campuses of the Genesee Valley BOCES. The distance learning project will include live and archived classes over videoconferencing equipment and streaming video creating a broad base of course offerings, web-based classes which will connect students to global education environments, professional development and teamwork opportunities, and virtual field trips.

2006 Grant Awards

Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming Board of Cooperative Educational Services

New York

\$497,411

Areas Served: Allegany, Cattaraugus

Contact: Ms. Gail M. Hirst

Telephone: 716-372-8247

Congressional District: NY-29

Rural Development funds will be used to expand and enrich the districts' existing distance learning labs, assist challenged students, develop literacy in multimedia texts and programs, create new distance learning content, and engage all K-12 students in distance learning activities along with their regular classroom instruction.

Genesee Valley Board of Cooperative Educational Services

New York

265,148

Areas Served: Genesee, Livingston

Contact: Ms. Sharon M. Kaiser

Telephone: (585) 344-7920

Congressional District: Reynolds, 26th and Kuhl, 29th Dist

Rural Development funds will be used to expand distance learning by providing students with advance coursework in science, math, languages, and advanced placement courses. The project will also provide the capability for virtual field trips and mentoring opportunities with professionals in the community. The project will also partner with the Business and Educational Alliance (BEA) to expose students to engineering careers and to provide vocational training to adult students of the community.

Otsego Northern Catskills Board of Cooperative Educational Services

New York

\$338,971

Areas Served: Delaware, Greene, Otsego, Schoharie

Contact: Dr. Marie T. Wiles

Telephone: 607-652-1209

Congressional District: NY-20, 21, 24

Rural Development funds will be used to build a new distance learning network that will provide academic and college level classes to students in the school district. The network

will have the ability to archive and stream content, conduct multi-point conferences, provide access to web-based and online content, and manage and control the system from a central location. The project will benefit over 18,000 students, teachers, and residents of the community.

The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital

New York

\$500,000

Contact: Mr. Kenneth R. Deans

Telephone: 607-547-3094

Congressional District: NY-20, 24

Rural Development funds will be used to implement digital mammography in four locations in rural central New York to improve quality and access to digital mammography exam diagnosis via telemedicine. This migration from analog radiological study data to digital images will permit computer-aided detection of multiple types of cancers.

2005 Grant Awards

Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services

New York

\$ 467,635

Areas Served: Lewis, Jefferson Counties

Contact: Dr. Laura L. Payne-Bourcy

Telephone: 585-388-7474

Congressional District: NY-23

Five small elementary schools and two career/technical centers will link to expanded education programs including a career education project, an interactive science program and local history educational projects provided by the University College at Syracuse University. The project will employ classroom-based mobile videoconferencing units and a video gateway linked to a regional fiber-optic network. A total of 24,314 students, 2,713 educational professionals, and 140,000 residents in the two-county area will benefit from the project.

Madison-Oneida Board of Cooperative Services

New York

\$ 468,853

Areas Served: Oneida, Madison, Herkimer, Fulton, Otsego Counties

Contact: Joan Sotherden

Telephone: 315-361-5530

Congressional District: NY-23, NY-24

Seventeen exceptionally rural school districts, three regional BOCES centers and Cornell Cooperative Extension will form a collaboration network using video technology. Students will be able to access video on demand, share information with others and produce educational materials. Evening and weekend programming will also be available for students and residents. Over 15,000 students and educators will benefit from the program.

Steuben-Allegany BOCES

New York

\$ 252,948

Areas Served: Steuben, Allegany Counties

Contact: Margaret Munson

Telephone: 607-962-3175

Congressional District: NY-29

Elementary students and educators in 8 communities in rural western New York state gain access to virtual field trips, collaborative projects, as well as remedial, advanced placement, special education and enrichment opportunities through a distance learning network. The project will directly benefit 1,789 students and 206 teachers.

Sullivan County Board of Cooperative Education

New York

\$ 446,232

Areas Served: Sullivan County

Contact: Elizabeth Huggler

Telephone: 845-292-0082

Congressional District: NY-22

The project will install IP-based interactive videoconferencing at nine schools to increase access to educational content, professional development for teachers, special education services to rural students, opportunities for adult education and vocational training. Over 5500 students will benefit.

Washington County Public Health

New York

\$136,035

Areas Served: Sullivan County

Contact: Ann Marie Reynolds

Telephone: (518) 746-2220

Congressional District: NY-20

The project will enable health care providers to monitor, evaluate and educate chronically ill patients located in remote area using conventional phone lines and the Viterion TeleHealthcare Network. The system will permit caregivers to provide comprehensive telehealth services to a maximum of 240 rural residents and education to a projected 160 individuals in the service territory.

Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming BOCES

New York

\$ 498,979

Areas Served: Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties

Contact: Robert Olczak

Telephone: 716-376-8246

Congressional District: NY-29

This project will establish an audio-video network. It will enable more than 20,000 culturally and economically disadvantaged, rural, elementary, native & non-native students, parents and teachers to participate in interactive, audio-visual teaching and learning experiences in distance learning labs and school classrooms.

2003 Grant Awards

Madison-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services

New York

\$ 500,000

Areas Served: Counties of Fulton, Herkimer, and Madison

Contact: Joan Sotherdon

Telephone: (315) 361-5530

Congressional District: 23rd and 24th

The Madison-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services will deliver distance learning to 19 school districts, 3 regional cooperative education services organizations, and one institution of higher learning. This service will provide improved student achievement through on-line classes, enhanced learning experiences, advanced level and college courses, and access to career exploration. Teachers and community members will also gain increased professional development, including remote access, throughout the service area.

Moses-Ludington Hospital

New York

\$ 499,800

Areas Served: Essex, Warren, and Washington Counties

Contact: Mark R. Kubricky

Telephone: (518) 585-2831

Congressional District: 20th and 23rd

Moses-Ludington Hospital will utilize RUS grant funds in a telemedicine project to install a remote telemedicine diagnostic and physician order system. This system will provide remote connection to physician access and on-line medical records and will serve approximately 17,000 residents in the service area. Participating organizations are Moses-Ludington Hospital, Mineville Health Center, and Mountain Family Practice.

St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES

New York

\$ 500,000

Areas Served:

Contact: Stephen M. Putman

Telephone: (315) 386-4504

Congressional District: St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties

St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES will install and operate a distance-learning network connecting ten rural school districts, three BOCES Career and Technical Schools, and SUNY Canton, a two-year technical college. Telecommunication links will connect 8,768 residents/students at these rural sites for the purpose of offering courses not available at all sites which will greatly increase student accessibility to electives, advanced placement classes, and college credit courses. Professional development programs will also be offered to faculties which will enhance professional collaboration.

2002 Grant Awards

New York State Office of Children & Family Services

New York

\$335,000

Areas Served: Town of Perth in Fulton County; Red Hook in Dutchess County

Contact: Thomas M. Thorpe

Telephone: (518) 473-4403

Congressional District: Applicant: 21st / Project: 19th, 21st, 22nd, 24th & 26th

The New York State Office of Children & Families Services (OCFS) will use RUS grant funds to improve access to telepsychiatry, telemedicine and distance learning for juvenile delinquents placed by family court in rural institutions for children. Telemedicine will permit consultations with off site health service specialists without the high transportation costs in dollars and staff time. The project proposes an incremental approach to establish telepsychiatry which will provide much needed support in the areas of clinical case conferencing, mental health in-service, with the potential for direct care of approximately 600 youth residing at the Tryon Residential Center. Distance learning will enable approximately 400 staff to receive professional training from clinical experts to care for the at-risk youth population that otherwise is currently unavailable. This recently

developed education wide area network employs state-of-the-art technology to connect thirty-four (34) OCFS school locations throughout the state to each other and back to OCFS' Central office location in Rensselaer, New York. The end-user sites, Tryon Boys Residential Center and Tyron Girls Residential Center located in Perth, as well as the Parker Training Academy telecommunications hub in Red Hook have T-1 lines installed with "Quality of Service" verification.

New York State Office of Children & Family Services

New York

\$190,279

Areas Served: Community of South Kortright, Town of South Lansing and Community of Brooktondale

Contact: Thomas M. Thorpe, Jr.

Telephone: (518)-473-4403

Congressional District: Applicant 21st & Project: 26th, 23rd, 31st

New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) will use RUS grant funds to establish the Rural Juvenile Facilities: Linking Disadvantaged Youth to Schools and Employers distance learning project to encourage students to pursue careers as firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMT). OCFS will use synchronous video conferencing equipment to broadcast courses and workshops in firefighting, first aid, CPR and emergency response interventions which will connect to the hub at the Academy of Fire Science to two (2) OCFS's centers for juveniles. In addition, a course of study will be developed for pre-college study, reading, note taking, and writing skills. This curriculum will also prepare OCFS youth and local EMTs, firefighters and ambulance squads for federal, state and New York City civil service exams required in order to enter careers in emergency response or, in the case of community fire department and ambulance squad personnel, for career advancement. This distance learning and telecommunications technology will enable experience firefighters and EMT's to mentor OCFS residents. Not only will they introduce students to careers in firefighting, they will also prepare them to meet the rigors of this profession should they pursue it someday. The project is expected to benefit 180 youth and 110-130 emergency services personnel.

Moses- Ludington Hospital

New York

\$499,800

Areas Served: Ticonderoga, Moriah, Crown Point, Hague, Putnam, Essex County, Warren County, Washington County

Contact: Mark Kubricky

Telephone: (518) 585-2831

Congressional District: 22nd & 24th

The Moses-Ludington Hospital will use RUS grant funds to develop a coordinated teleradiology and telemedicine system that will provide upgraded technology allowing

connectivity between remote practitioners and clinics, and more sophisticated medical service providers. The project will improve patient and provider access to life saving medical services and overcome, in an efficient and cost efficient manner, the challenges of geographic isolation, severe weather conditions and a lack of public transportation options. It will also provide opportunities for local medical personnel to keep abreast of current technologies through a distance learning and continuing education component of the system. The grantee will utilize the existing Adirondak Area Network to operate cost-effective frame relay technology. The project will serve the resident regional population of 15,000 in addition to the summer resident population of 30,000 and an estimated tourist passthrough population of 250,000.

Copenhagen Central School District

New York

\$476,650

Areas Served:

Contact:

Telephone:

Congressional District:

The Copenhagen Central School District will use grant funds to expand upon a Fiscal Year 2001 grant awarded to establish a distance learning network. This grant will enhance agricultural science and environmental science programs in two counties and expand a nationally innovative career awareness curriculum designed specifically for rural schools. The geographic isolation caused by extremely hard winters during the school year, and the sheer size of the sparsely populated area (3,200 square miles), makes it difficult if not impossible for the 18 rural schools to experience the same type of learning opportunities that are available to many students in urban areas. Additionally, funding these schools is becoming increasingly difficult for the school districts as the local economies have been hit hard by the closure of traditional industries and the vanishing family farm which is pervasive across the country. The project will utilize fiber optic and ISDN based learning networks to connect classrooms in two schools with 12 others linked in previous phases of the project. Once in the schools wireless technologies will be used for most applications. Approximately 3,300 students will benefit from this project.

Schuyler-Chemung-Tioga Board of Cooperative Education Services

New York

\$400,998

Areas Served: Schuyler; Chemung; Tioga Counties

Contact: Steve Manning

Telephone: (607) 739-3581

Congressional District:: 25th, 26th, 31st

The Board of Education Services will use RUS grant funds to install distance learning classrooms with Internet based video conferencing and other multi-media resources. With

the installation of this equipment and implementation of the services provided in this grant, students will have the opportunity to utilize the resources of neighboring school districts and area higher education institutions. They will be able to participate in "virtual" field trips to museums, zoos, medical facilities and science centers. Teachers will have expanded access to certification courses, graduate level coursework, seminars and conferences without having to leave the school district. A high percentage of the students from this part of the state are from low income families with few resources for providing enrichment experiences for their children. Regional opportunities for enrichment activities are limited and usually involve transportation over great distances and the expenses related to that travel. Due to budget constraints local school districts have been forced to limit course offerings for students such as advanced placement courses and exploration of career opportunities. This project will supplement the activities that the school have been losing and will open new doors for education. This project will provide enhanced educational opportunities for 5,400 students.

Copenhagen Central School

New York

\$473,900

Areas Served: Jefferson and Lewis Counties

Contact: George S. O'Brien

Telephone: (315) 688-4411

Congressional District: 24th

This unique distance learning model (D.R.E.A.M.S., Daring Rural Education to Affect Meaningful Science) will dramatically increase instructional capacity and opportunities for rural schools and rural learners. It will develop and enhance a telecommunications infrastructure that will support rural students and their teachers as they strive to meet and exceed national and state educational standards via distance learning. In addition, this distance learning and telecommunications network will enhance rural students' efforts to seek and transition successfully to higher education and careers.

Hoosick Falls Health Center, Inc.

New York, Vermont

\$205,393

Areas Served: Rensselaer and Washington Counties, NY, and Bennington County, Vermont

Contact: Ms. Joyce N. Davis

Telephone: (518) 686-4371

Congressional District: 21st and 22nd

This is a telecommunications project for a skilled nursing facility to provide open communication with its two support hospitals. It includes the installation of a phone system with voice mail, telemedicine, distance learning, Internet connectivity and IP TV. This project will make it possible for residents to communicate with their families,

through videoconferencing, no matter where they are located around the world as well as use telemedicine services across state lines.

Research Foundation of Suny for Suny College of Technology at Canton

New York

\$122,565

Areas Served: St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Franklin, Essex, Clinton, Oswego, Herkimer, Hamilton and Lewis Counties

Contact: Ms. Linda Moerschell

Telephone: (315) 386-7051

Congressional District: 22nd, 23rd and 24

Westchester County Health Care Corporation

New York

\$455,303

Areas Served: Ulster County

Contact: Ms. Linda F. Seligson

Telephone: (914) 493-7297

Congressional District: 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th , and 26th

The Westchester County Health Care Corporation proposes to use RUS funds to implement the "Healthy Outlook Network Telemedicine Program." This project will provide telemedicine services to electronically link medical professionals so they may exchange health care information for the purpose of providing improved healthcare services primarily to residents of rural areas in New York. Specialty care providers at the Westchester Medical Center located in Valhalla will be connected to the Ellenville Regional Hospital and the Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute Family Practice Center in Ellenville. This area that covers 1,127 square miles, is mostly mountainous (Catskill and Shawangunk Mountains), isolated and sparsely populated. Ellenville is a federally designated Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zone. There is a shortage of health care providers and limited access to routine medical care due to lack of public transportation and geographic isolation. This project will allow physicians to use state-of-the-art diagnostic services, and minimize the need for their patients to be sent to large tertiary or academic centers just for these diagnostic support services.

2000 Grant Awards

Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming BOCES

New York

\$344,762

Areas Served: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Genesee Counties

Contact: Mr. John Grant

Telephone: (716) 372-8394

Congressional District: 31st and 33rd

The ARTS LINK program enables students, parents, senior citizens, handicapped persons and community members, via distance learning teleconferencing technology, to learn about art, artists, art history, and arts related careers through educational programs originating at the Burchfield Penny Art Center, which is located at the State University College at Buffalo. Mobile/wireless distance learning equipment will support real-time, interactive audio-visual activities, guided tours, and discussions with gallery staff, visiting artists and curators. Students, teachers and learners of all ages will use the system to experience the world of established and emerging artists and to explore career-related opportunities in the arts.

Copenhagen Central School

New York

\$325,741

Areas Served: Jefferson and Lewis Counties

Contact: Mr. George O'Brien

Telephone: (315) 688-4411

Congressional District: 24th

The main goal of the Adirondack/St. Lawrence Seaway Small Rural Schools Consortium is to create a replicable model initiative that links higher education institutions to a group of rural schools considered "exceptionally rural" by the USDA's parameters for the Rural Utilities Program and "high needs-low resources" by the New York State Department of Education. The largest school district served by this proposal is Alexandria Bay with a student population of 704 drawing from a number of small hamlets, Wellesley Island in the St. Lawrence River and the village of Alexandria Bay which has a population of 1,194. This grant will: (1) Create an innovative School-to-Work curriculum designed specifically for rural schools made possible by distance learning technology; (2) Reinstate, maintain and enhance agricultural science programs in three Counties that rank 1st and 3rd respectively in raw milk production in New York State; (3) Enhance Jefferson Community College's capacity to support rural schools via distance learning and web-based learning environments; and, (4) Provide high-quality, ongoing professional development via Syracuse University to rural school educators who have been historically isolated by the physical distance and extreme weather typical in this region of the United States.

Daemen College

New York

\$106,700

Areas Served: Erie, Livingston, Orleans, Stueben and Wyoming Counties

Contact: Mr. John Dunne

Telephone: (716) 839-8483

Congressional District: 30th

Phase II of the Allied Health Rural Telemedicine Project will add a Videoconferencing Bridge and will allow the delivery of educational programs to four or more rural sites,

simultaneously. Daemen College will provide health education and health promotion programming to the four sites in the local area network, as well as expand this outreach to other rural sites. A videoconferencing bridge maximizes the cost-effectiveness of the system, as well as increases the potential for delivering more health education and health information to rural communities. This will be accomplished not only at the four end sites, but other rural communities that have ISDN capacity.

Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene

New York

\$111,014

Areas Served: Chenango, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, and Wyoming Counties

Contact: Dr. William Tucker

Telephone: (212) 543-5690

Congressional District: 15th, 23rd, 24th and 27th

This project will provide psychiatric consultation to rural practitioners (nonpsychiatric physicians, non-medical mental health clinicians, and the few available adult psychiatrists) by linking them through real-time, frequent, and regularly scheduled consultations to a panel of approximately 40 nationally-known clinicians-researchers, based at the New York State Psychiatric Institute (NYSPI). Between 32 and 64 hours per month of expert psychiatric consultation will be provided to rural practitioners. Each of these consultations will involve the consultant, the rural practitioner (or team), and the patient. Such a format provides for rapport between consultant and patient, so as to ensure accurate diagnosis, response to questions, and acceptance of treatment recommendations; and for rapport between consultant and rural practitioner, so as to ensure completeness of medical history, accounting for possible interaction with other medications prescribed to the patient, and sufficiency of information about the prescribing of possibly unfamiliar medications.

Sullivan County Board of Cooperative Educational Services

New York

\$140,451

Areas Served: Sullivan County

Contact: Mr. Martin D. Handler

Telephone: (914) 292-0082

Congressional District: 20th and 21st

The Sullivan County distance learning network is designed as a dedicated, full-motion, interactive communications network. Using state-of-the-art technology, this network will afford a full-range of educational and instructional opportunities. Through a simultaneous broadcast to the distance learning classrooms, students and staff at locations across the region will be linked in a dynamic learning environment. Communication will be multi-way, opening new dimensions for dialogue, educational equity and opportunity. Transport services will be provided through a partnership with a leading provider of telecommunications services over an existing fiber optic infrastructure. This will allow

for uniformity of service and unparalleled access to new voice, video and data technologies as they emerge.

1999 Grant Awards

Sullivan County Board of Cooperative Educational Services

New York

\$129,318

Areas Served: Sullivan county

Contact: Mr. Martin D. Handler

Telephone: (914) 292-0082

The Sullivan County BOCES Distance Learning network is an interactive communications network which will afford a full range of educational and instructional opportunities. The proposed project will implement the electronic classroom equipment required to facilitate Distance Learning. This equipment will include video and document cameras, VCR's, monitors, an amplifier, speakers, and microphones. The Board of Cooperative Education Services plans to add additional sites to the network, including the remaining districts in the county, a local Community College, and local medical facilities to further enhance the educational opportunities that can be offered.

1998 Grant Awards

Daemen College

New York

\$200,000

Areas Served: Genesee, Livingston, Steuben, and Wyoming Counties

Contact: Dr. Keith Taylor

Telephone: (716) 839-8409

Congressional District: 27th and 31st

Through the use of teleconferencing, Daemen College will provide in-service educational opportunities to the medical professionals of Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston and Steuben Counties in New York. Health promotion and disease prevention classes will also be provided via teleconferencing to approximately 122,000 people in these counties in an initiative to decrease incidence of disease and increase wellness. This will be accomplished by creating a network incorporating Daemen College, and the Board of Cooperative Education Sites at Mt. Morris and Holcomb. The Project will provide a network hub at Daemen set up for classes with the potential for multi-site broadband programming. It will establish teleconferencing rooms at the Mt. Morris and Holcomb end user sites. Library computer hardware and software will be provided at each site.

Finger Lakes Distance Learning Consortium

New York

\$118,698 Grant / \$128,327 Loan Total: \$247,025

Areas Served: Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates Counties

Contact: Mr. David S. Alena

Telephone: (315) 946-2200

Congressional District: 27nd, 28th, 31st.

Six rural school districts will form an interactive video network which will connect the end users with Rochester and existing networks around the globe and will connect with and support an innovative teacher training model as well as student and community uses of distance learning facilities.

Mary McClellan Hospital, Inc.

New York, Vermont

\$225,000

Areas Served: New York - Northern Rensselaer, Saratoga, Washington and; Vermont - Bennington

Contact: Ms. Joyce N. Davis

Telephone: (518) 677-2611

Congressional District: 22nd

Mary McClellan Hospital by joining the Adirondack Area Network (AAN), will offer a live interactive video network, covering many sites in New York and Vermont. It will improve the delivery of medical diagnosis, preventive health care, patient education and continuing education for health care professionals. Services offered these areas include teleconsultations, patient vital sign acquisition, static image acquisition, and live video conferencing. The grant provides equipment for multi-point interactive distance learning and telemedicine. A total of 3 sites equipped with systems of similar design, expansion capabilities and costs are funded. The sites are in Washington and Northern Rensselaer Counties, with approximately 70,000 beneficiaries extending to Saratoga County in New York and Bennington County in Vermont. The AAN hub is at the Russell Sage Junior College Albany campus. It includes switching equipment for network administration and facilities for origination of educational services that will be provided AAN user sites. The flexible design of the AAN and diversity in partners encourages a high degree of connectivity with other large networks. This enables communication with any location in the world.

Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming BOCES

New York

\$342,000

Areas Served: Cattaraugus, Allegany, Chautagua Counties

Contact: Mr. John H. Grant

Telephone: (716) 372-8293

Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming BOCES is the lead agency of a public/private partnership which also includes the Bolivar-Richburg, Cuba-Rushford, Yorkshire-Pioneer and Whitesville central school districts, the Center for Applied Research in Interactive Technologies at the State University College at Buffalo, Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board, and the Meyers Group. The consortium will use RUS grant funds to implement a unique, interactive, real-time, teleconferencing network that will connect, via fiber optic infrastructure, four rural school districts, in Erie and Cattaraugus counties in western New York, with each other, SUCAB, Southern Tier West and other local, national and international resources. The project will exploit this new access to a vast array of educational resources to redress educational inequities currently experienced by rural, disadvantaged students and teachers and will reduce isolation barriers inherent in the traditional classroom. The technology will enable the classroom teacher to develop customized instruction where content and methodology will address employment requirements of the modern workplace and career opportunities as well local environmental and civic concerns.

1994 Grant Awards

Western New York Health Care Association

New York

Areas Served: Steuben, Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties

RUS provided funding to equip 7 rural hospitals with two-way videoconferencing equipment to enhance primary care, emergency care, physical therapy and medical training. The system will be used as well for community use in business training and conferencing. A "cluster" consisting of hospitals in Chautauqua, Allegany, Steuben, Cattaraugus Counties, and a health care complex in Cattaraugus County will be connected by interactive video to a consortium of 8 Buffalo area hospitals. The system will incorporate video compression, utilizing a 56 Kbs bandwidth (switched 56) over both copper and existing fiber optic lines, transporting video images, graphics and other data.

1993 Grant Awards

The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital

New York

This project established a dual communications system for medical and learning needs, connecting community hospitals in Delhi and Cobleskill with nine outreach centers in five counties.