



DLT Awards – Mississippi

2008 Grant Awards

Holly Springs School District

Mississippi

\$481,170

Areas Served: Marshall, 1st Dist., Sunflower and Tunica, 2nd Dist

Contact: Mr. Jones C. Mays

Telephone: (662) 252-2183 ext. 1010

Congressional District: Childers, 1st, Thompson, 2nd

Rural Development funds will be used in this distance learning project to connect Holly Springs School District to project partners with the purpose of sharing content, providing professional development for faculty and to improve the educational well being of the rural students and residents through collaboration with partners. Interactive and web-based distance learning will be utilized to conserve limited resources and to expand course offerings with the project area.

Pine Belt Healthcare Resources

Mississippi

\$52,898

Areas Served: Covington and Jefferson Davis, 3rd Dist., Greene and Perry, 4th Dist.

Contact: Mrs. LaNeysa R. Calvin

Telephone: (601) 264-2111 ext. 112

Congressional District: Pickering, 3rd, Taylor, 4th

Rural Development grant funding will be used by PBMHR to implement a project that provides equipment which will function via telecommunications for the purpose of connecting mental health professionals and patients with serious mental illness (SMI). The project will improve employment outcomes for individuals with SMI, increase the numbers of individuals with SMI who can effectively interrelate within the community, increase access to mental health care and improve medication compliance.

2007 Grant Awards

Holly Springs School District

Mississippi

\$423,800

Areas Served: Hinds (part), Humphreys, Washington; Hinds (part)

Contact: Dr. Cassie Pennington

Telephone: 662-686-3520

Fax: 662-686-3522



Congressional District: MS-2 Thompson, MS-3 Pickering

The Delta Health Alliance will develop a telemedicine network with a distance learning component to serve rural areas of the Mississippi Delta. The network will provide the delivery of medicine from medical professionals at UMMC and Stoneville to patients and medical professionals at the Belzoni site via interactive telecommunications. A multi-use conference center will be based at Stoneville where physicians and scholars in residence can send and receive distance educations.

Delta Health Alliance

Mississippi

\$156,656

Areas Served: Hinds (part), Tallahatchie, Washington; Hinds (part)

Contact: Dr. Cassie Pennington

Telephone: 662-686-3520

Fax: 662-686-3522

Congressional District: MS-2 Thompson; MS-3 Pickering

Rural Development funds will permit Delta Health Alliance and the University of Mississippi Medical Center to develop a telemedicine network with a distance learning component that will serve rural areas of the Mississippi Delta. The network will provide the delivery of medicine from medical professionals at the UMMC to patients and their medical professionals at end-user sites via interactive telecommunications.

2006 Grant Awards

Holly Springs School District

Holly Springs, Mississippi

\$406,868

Areas Served: Quitman, Marshall

Contact: Mr. Jones Mays

Telephone: 662-252-2183

Fax: 662-252-2183

Congressional District: MS-01, 02

Rural Development funds will be used to create a distance learning partnership between Holly Springs Schools, Quitman County Schools, Rust College, and the Marshall County Health Department. The project will utilize IP-based interactive videoconferencing to provide course content, expanded professional development, and critical healthcare education to students and residents of rural Mississippi.



Rush Health Systems, Inc.

Meridian, Mississippi

\$383,704

Areas Served: Mississippi: Clarke, Newton, Scott; Alabama: Choctaw and Sumter

Contact: Ms. Laura A. Davis

Telephone: 601-703-3220

Fax: 601-703-4046

Congressional District: MS-03; AL-07

Rural Development funds will be used to extend a telemedicine network which will enable access to diabetic care in eleven rural clinics, eight clinics in east central Mississippi and three in southwest Alabama. The existing Diabetes Education Center will serve as hub/end-user to provide integrated diabetes self-management education aimed at preventing, controlling, and reducing the complications caused by diabetes.

West Mississippi Home health Services, Inc.

Vicksburg, Mississippi

\$192,500

Areas Served: Claiborne, Copiah, Issaquena, Lamar, Sharkey, Simpson, Smith, Warren, Yazoo

Contact: Mr. Dean B. Noblin

Telephone: 601-582-6019

Fax: 601-582-5241

Congressional District: MS-02, 03, 04

Rural Development funds will be used to improve the health of home care patients in eight rural counties of west Mississippi. The project will place 40 telemonitors with videophone capabilities in the homes of targeted patients. Vital signs will be communicated daily to the nursing staff of WMHHS for evaluation and follow-up. This will enable quick intervention with physicians to avoid costly hospital stays. The videophone technology will be utilized to reassure patients and provide one-on-one health care.

University of Mississippi Medical Center

Jackson, Mississippi

\$177,339

Areas Served: Calhoun, Claiborne, Choctaw, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Montgomery, Monroe, Noxubee, Perry, Quitman, Scott, Sunflower, Walthall, Yazoo

Contact: Mr. Brian L. Rutledge

Telephone: 601-815-1787

Fax: 601-815-3487

Congressional District: MS-01, 02, 03, 04



Rural Development funds will be used to upgrade the existing TelEmergency system and expand the services to ten additional hospitals. The TelEmergency system connects nurse practitioners via a T-1 network to the emergency physician in the emergency room department of urban medical centers through a videoconferencing system.

2005 Grant Awards:

Carroll County School District

Carrollton, MS

\$500,000

Areas Served: Carroll, Tunica, Quitman Counties

Contact: Billy Joe Ferguson

Telephone: 662-237-9276

Fax: 662-237-9703

Congressional District: MS-02

Two high schools and a non-profit youth opportunity organization will install real-time distance learning equipment, multi-media computer labs and a mobile lap-top computer lab. The project will benefit over 5,000 students and residents of the area.

2004 Grant Awards:

Delta State University

Cleveland, Mississippi

\$500,000

Area(s) served: Towns of Clarksdale, Sherard, Jonestown, Duncan, and Merigold

Contact: John G. Thornell 662-846-4256; Fax: 662-846-4272

Congressional District(s): MS-02

Delta State University expand access to distance learning and vocational/career opportunities in the two-county project area with RUS funds. Through a collaboration with Coahoma Community College, and the Coahoma Higher Education Center, Delta State will equip five sites with state of the art videoconferencing systems at four participating rural schools. Benefits of the program will include professional development and continuing education to participating rural teachers and students. Coahoma County Higher Education Center will develop interactive videoconferencing capability for advanced nursing and other medical education programs. The project will serve over 2,900 rural students and community members in five communities within Bolivar and Coahoma counties.



East Tallahatchie School District

Charleston, Mississippi

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Towns of Charleston, Ashland, Hickory Flat in Tallahatchie and Benton Counties

Contact: David R. Harget, 662-647-5524; Fax: 662-647-3720

Congressional District(s): Applicant - MS-02; Project - MS-01 and MS-02

East Tallahatchie School District and Benton County School District have collaborated to form the Mississippi Delta Educational Group. RUS funding will establish a distance learning videoconferencing system serving four schools and community residents in the project area. The schools will share resources including technology experts and instructional staff members to increase the number of course offerings in each of the schools. Community members will gain access to GED and on-line education courses. The project will offer computer courses in Internet instruction, software technology, and computer training. The program will serve 2,132 students and 3,340 residents in the project area.

North Bolivar School District

Shelby, Mississippi

\$500,000

Area(s) served: Cities of Shelby, Benoit, Rosedale, Mound Bayon, and Shaw

Contact: Maurice Smith, 662-398-4000

Congressional District(s): MS-02

The North Bolivar County School District will provide 11 schools and two hub sites with interactive videoconferencing systems. The units will offer user-friendly distance learning capability to teachers, students, and community members. Web-based learning will also be included in the project allowing "anywhere, anytime learning." Vocational training and career counseling will also be available to residents of the community as an added benefit. The project will serve 2,921 residents in four rural communities.

2003 Grant Awards:

Jackson County School District; Vancleave, MS

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Counties of Jackson, Hinds, and Tallahatchie

Contact: Dr. Loretta Goff (228) 875-4751; Fax: (228) 826-3393

Congressional District(s): Applicant 4th, Project 2nd and 4th

Jackson County School District has joined with Hinds County and West Tallahatchie to utilize grant funds to acquire mobile wireless workstation distance learning labs and desktop computers. In Jackson County, St. Martin High School will be equipped with two



mobile 25-workstation wireless distance learning labs and 200 desktop workstations for classroom use. This will effectively enable distance learning and video conferencing and will put on-line computers in every classroom. Hinds County will expand instructional capabilities for their students and teachers with one 20-workstation wireless mobile lab, a distance learning module, computers, printers, and an LCD projector and screen. West Tallahatchie's technology program will be enhanced through the purchase of one 25-workstation wireless mobile lab, a SMART board, and an LCD projector and screen. Once installed, this equipment will meet the need for portable distance learning technology and will serve 2,275 students.

Newton County School District; Decatur, MS

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Counties of Bolivar, Humphreys, and Newton

Contact: Billy Pierce (601) 635-2317; Fax: (601) 635-4025

Congressional District(s): 2nd and 3rd

The Tri-District Partnership for Distance Learning spans several economically depressed regions of Mississippi including the poverty stricken Mississippi Delta region. The Partnership is comprised of four schools within three school districts. Utilizing RUS funding, the project will install multimedia computers in distance learning classrooms, libraries, media centers, labs, and/or regular classrooms to provide online and other technology resources for teaching staff, and to support those students taking classes taught via distance learning. The project is designed to remove the disparity in educational opportunities between students in rural, low-income districts, and their more affluent peers. The project could impact over 52,000 residents in the communities.

South Central Mississippi Consortium for Educational Excellence and Development; Hattiesburg, MS

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Counties of Covington, Forrest, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Leflore, Pike, Simpson, and Warren

Contact: Dr. Dewey Blackledge (601) 266-6777; Fax: (601) 266-6766

Congressional District(s): 2nd, 3rd and 4th

The South Central Mississippi Consortium for Educational Excellence and Development (SCMCEED) will utilize RUS funding by implementation of a distance-learning network led by the Jefferson Davis County School District. The network will serve those students enrolled in Alternative School settings. The network will serve 21 end user sites in nine Mississippi school districts service nine counties. Approximately 36,000 students and a population of 265,628 will be impacted by the project. The project will reduce isolation and improve student achievement among students placed in alternative school settings, improve academic achievement through enriched resources, expand curriculum choices, and have college coursework available on-site for accelerated learners and adults.



2002 Awards:

Mississippi Blood Services; Jackson, Mississippi

\$193,930 Grant

Area(s) Served: Bolivar County Towns of Mound Bayou, Shelby, Renova, Alligator, Pace, Beulah, West, Duncan, Rosedale, Benoit Gunnison, Marigold, Boyle and Cleveland; Coahoma County Towns of Frairs Point, Jonestown, Lyon and Clarksdale; Holmes County Towns of Tchula, Lexington, Pickens and Cruger; Leflore County Town of Itta Bena; Sunflower County Towns of Doddsville, Moorhead, Inverness, Ruleville, Shaw, Drew, Indianola and Sunflower; Washington County Towns of Greenville, Leland and Hollandale; Adams County Towns of Lorman and Natchez; Tallahatchie County Town of Charleston, Tutweiler.

Contact: Nina Salamon (601) 368-2602; Fax: (601) 984-3783

Congressional District(s): Applicant: 2nd / Project: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th,

Mississippi Blood Services and its partners in Project UNITE (Uniting Community Services To Serve) will use RUS grant funds to introduce a new donor referral network and enhance current telehealth networks in the Mississippi Delta and rural communities throughout Mississippi. Specifically, the project proposes to create a demonstration model telemedicine/distance learning network project through the implementation of the automated database management system, Digi-Trax Donor-ID Data Management System. The multi-year project will support Mississippi Blood Services as the first blood service in the Rural South to implement a computer-based system to automate the blood donation process. It will be the first project in the United States to use the Digi-Trax System to collect data to develop and enhance region-specific Health Education Programs. Mississippi Blood Services records indicate that 5.7 percent of initial donor contacts are deferred due to problems associated with hypertension and anemia. An estimated 570 of these deferred donors will benefit from the telehealth referral mechanism in place through Project UNITE. It is estimated that Project UNITE will impact 10,000 individuals in 2002-2003 and more than 55,000 donors state wide.

Brookhaven School District; Brookhaven, Mississippi

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Towns of Brookhaven, Port Gibson, Crystal Springs, Wesson, Hazlehurst, Monticello, BogueChitto, Moss Point, Pascugoula, Magee, Mendenhall, Pinola, Pentiss, Bassfield

Contact: Sam Bounds (601) 833-6661; Fax: (601) 833-4154

Congressional District(s): Applicant: 1st / Project: 2nd, 4th & 5th

The Brookhaven School District will use RUS funds to establish a distance learning network for The Partnership Consortium that will enable intra-district connectivity, inter-district shared instruction and professional development, and full capability to access other networks. The proposed project specifically addresses the needs of the alternative school students, who are placed in an alternative learning environments because they are at extremely high academic and social risk, which results in further separation from the



mainstream. The project consists of twenty-four (24) end-user sites within nine (9) Mississippi school districts. The districts serve constituents from seven (7) counties. Ultimately, 26,683 students and 1,200 teachers in those nine districts will be impacted by the project in addition to the 260,033 residents of those counties. With respect to alternative school students, about 280 will receive services at any given time (students are assigned to these environments for periods ranging from a few days to several months). For all participants, distance learning will bridge the gap between them and sources of help in active participating in class activities, improving academic performance, and accessing GED, community college or other coursework and training. One of the challenges involved in this project was to choose technology that would appropriately serve the several school districts as well as the students in alternative school environments. Data transmission will occur in an Ethernet environment of local area networks tied to a wide area network. The system will operate on T-1 and T-3 lines. The proposed e-Vision video-conferencing equipment is IP-based and will operate over existing LAN/WANS.

Jones County School District; Ellisville, Mississippi

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Towns of Laurel, Ellisville, Heidelberg, Leakesville, Hattiesburg, Purvis, Sumrall, Lumberton, Tylertown, Waynesboro, Bay Springs and Stringer

Contact: Thomas C. Prine, (601) 649-5201; Fax: (601) 649-1613

Congressional District(s): Applicant: MS 4th / Project: MS 3rd, 4th, & 5th

The Jones County School District, on behalf of the Southern Mississippi Distance Learning Collaborative (Collaborative) of nine (9) school districts, will accept RUS grant funds to establish a distance learning network that will actively involve students who are under disciplinary actions in the regular instructional program as well as improve services and opportunities to all students who are themselves, at risk, because of geographic isolation and limited resources. The distance learning network will enable intra-district, connectivity, inter-district share instruction and professional development, and a full capability to access other networks. The project consists of twenty-five (25) end-user sites within the Collaborative serving residents in seven (7) counties. The project is expected to deliver the following benefits: (1) alternative school students in every district will be able to participate interactively in their regular classes; (2) archived classes will be available for alternative students as well as other students who have been absent or need additional instruction; (3) Students, teachers, and community members will have local access to college coursework; (4) Curriculum enhancements (such as virtual field trips) will be made feasible; (5) instructional strengths of faculty can be shared throughout the region; and, (6) teacher qualifications and instructional skills will be enhanced via joint professional development activities. All together, 30,000 students and more than 1,400 teachers will be impacted by the project. With respect to alternative school students, it is realistic to estimate that at least 1,000 extremely at-risk alternative school students will receive benefits. The number of residents that will be impacted by the project is 244, 452.



2001 Awards:

Cleveland School District; Cleveland, Mississippi

\$500,000 Grant

Areas Served: Bolivar, Lincoln, Copiah and Forrest Counties

Contact: Mr. Reggie Barnes; (662) 843-3529, Fax: (662) 843-9731

Congressional District(s): 2nd, 4th and 5th.

Cleveland School District serves as the administrative and fiscal agent for the Central Mississippi School District Consortium, which consists of Cleveland School District, Brookhaven School District, Copiah County School District and Petal School District. This project will link the four rural Mississippi school districts that share the common goal of using distance learning and on-line resources to improve instruction to benefit each student. Interactive classrooms will allow greater diversity of coursework, allow for introduction of foreign language instruction at the elementary level, and provide the capacity to increase the number and diversity of Carnegie units taught. On-line networks will provide research capability far beyond those available locally. Video conferencing will facilitate group communication needs of teachers and students and will extend the benefits of electronic classrooms and promote professional development activities. The project will expand resources for parents, local businesses, retirees and other community members.

Harrison County School District; Gulfport, Mississippi

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Harrison and Sunflower Counties

Contact: Mr. Henry A. Arledge; (228) 539-6500, Fax: (228) 539-6507

Congressional District(s): 5th and 2nd

The proposed project will coordinate distance learning initiatives and other planned curriculum collaborations between Harrison County School District and Drew School District. Teacher presentation stations will be placed in several classrooms at each school site. These stations will have video conferencing equipment, including infrared servo-controlled cameras, which follow the teacher around the classroom. This application recognizes the needs of schools conducting distance learning programs from several classrooms at once, and avoids the problems associated with "scheduled" distance teaching. Grant funds will provide the technologies to expand instructional resources, which will raise academic standards and prevent student dropout. Services and benefits will also include: (1) video conferencing as an instructional tool; (2) shared instruction between the two districts, with links to other schools; and (3) video conferencing activities of interest to parents, businesspersons, retirees and other community groups.



Neshoba County School District; Philadelphia, Mississippi

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Neshoba and Panola Counties

Contact: Mr. Steve Nelson; (601) 656-3752, Fax: (601) 656-3789

Congressional District(s): 1st and 3rd

Neshoba County School District proposes to develop the distance learning project "Cross-Age/Cross-Classroom Mentoring." Cross-age tutoring has long been recognized as an effective way to improve achievement and foster motivation for both older and younger students who are paired as "tutors and tutees." This project extends that concept in a highly innovation application of technology so that small work groups or entire classrooms can be partnered using distance learning. Benefits to students include higher achievement levels, increased motivation, leadership development, and experience with high-tech, real-world science. Tutors and tutees both learn from this interaction. Teachers will benefit through the opportunity to team-teach with colleagues at other school sites, learn from the strengths of their colleagues, and gain access to specialized professional development activities. For the community, the project will bring an increased interest in science and technology which will lead to a better-educated workforce that will, in turn, lead to improved employment opportunities. In the short term, the innovative nature of project activities will help to encourage parents to come to school for special parent-student distance learning events to showcase student's accomplishments and otherwise to support their child's learning. Nearly 8 percent of the Neshoba County student body is Native American.

2000 Awards:

DR. ARENIA C. MALLORY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER; Lexington, Mississippi

\$238,053 Grant

Area(s) served: Carroll and Holmes Counties

Contact: Dr. Martha Davis, (662) 834-1857; FAX: (662) 834-2999

2nd Congressional District

Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community Health Center, Inc. (MCHC), is proposing to create a cost effective Community Health Access through Telemedicine (CHAT) project in rural Holmes and Carroll Counties in north central Mississippi. This project will provide needed access to primary and specialty care to persons currently without a full time physician or system of care. The CHAT project will link three satellite community health outreach clinics (Tchula, Durant and Vaiden) to the main MCHC site with linkage to the University of Mississippi Medical Center – Holmes County. Patients will be able to be seen and treated for illnesses and other medical problems without having to be transported to the nearest hospital or MCHC's site in Lexington. Through the CHAT project, nurse practitioners and nurse midwives will have access to MCHC's physicians to assist in diagnoses and triage of patients in the local communities.



NORTH MISSISSIPPI HEALTH SERVICES, Tupelo, Mississippi

\$334,132 Grant

Area(s) served: Chickasaw, Clay, Lee, Lowndes, Pontotoc and Webster Counties

Contact: Mr. McNeil Stanford, (662) 841-3652; FAX: (662) 791-2400

1st Congressional District

By offering health education, screening and treatment in the workplace, NMHS can promote wellness behaviors in a manner that is cost-efficient, easily accessible, and beneficial to both patients and their communities. A nurse practitioner at the industrial locations will be able to conduct basic screening tests and physical examinations on site and then consult with physicians or specialists at hub sites regarding appropriate treatment and follow-up. The School Health Center nurses at the school sites will be able to conduct basic screening tests and observations of students on site and then also consult with physicians or specialists at hub sites regarding appropriate treatment and follow-up. In a similar fashion, patients at each end user site can participate in wellness education programs conducted by hospital staff. This use of telemedicine will enable NMHS to serve rural residents cost-effectively, without a sizeable investment in facilities and outreach. It will also overcome barriers to care by providing medical services that do not require patients to make extraordinary efforts in terms of distance, transportation or scheduling to access them. The patients are already at the work site or school; NMHS only needs to bring health care services to them.

UNION PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, Union, Mississippi

\$350,000 Grant

Area(s) served: Mississippi; Bolivar and Newton Counties; Arkansas: Ashley County

Contact: Dr. William C. Wade, (601) 774-9579; FAX: (601) 774-5796

2nd and 3rd Mississippi Congressional Districts and 4th Arkansas Congressional District

This project proposes to install a distance learning classroom at Union High, JFK Memorial High and Hamburg High, equipping them to participate in shared instruction. To supplement that instruction, computers and printers will be installed in some labs and classrooms to allow for independent and small-group use of on-line resources at each of the three high schools. These schools will have access to high quality instruction in upper-division coursework by way of a regional cooperative distance learning network. Benefits to the residents include improved direct services to children, better use of financial and personnel resources and broader opportunities for entire community.



QUITMAN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT, Quitman, Mississippi

\$350,000 Grant

Area(s) served: Clarke, Rankin and Panola Counties

Contact: Mr. Charles Shepherd, (601) 776-2186; FAX: (601) 776-1051

2nd and 3rd Congressional Districts

The purpose of this project is to link three Mississippi school districts that share common needs and goals that include increasing student achievement, strengthening teacher training and making communications resources available for community use. The project proposes making technologies available to strengthen the curriculum and to encourage students to work independently as well as in small groups to foster the following: problem-solving skills; individual and cooperative work habits; time on task; and ever-challenging learning experiences. The distance learning classrooms will allow greater diversity of coursework; will provide research capability not currently available; and will provide expanded resources for professional development activities.

1999 Awards:

Delta Rural Health Network of Mississippi, Inc., Belzoni, Mississippi

\$157,989 Grant

Counties Served: Humphreys, Yazoo and Lafayette

Contact Person: Ms. Debra Griffin, (601) 247-2676; Fax (601) 247-4114

The proposed project expands on the current Teleradiology Network and also position hospitals for other telemedicine applications. A major focus of the proposed project is to address the problem of fluoro services using teleradiology. Video conferencing technology will allow the radiologist at another location to instruct the radiology technician. It will no longer be necessary for the radiologist to be at the site where the fluoro procedure is being performed. This will enable Humphreys County Memorial Hospital to send all of its data to Radiology Associates of Oxford and experience the benefits of timely interpretation for all patients. This is an important innovation because it will demonstrate to other small rural hospitals that technology is needed to provide complete coverage through teleradiology. Until the problem of fluoro is solved, small rural hospitals are tied to circuit radiologist who do not provide the type of coverage necessary in the health care industry today.



North Bolivar School District, Shelby Mississippi

\$350,000 Grant

Counties Served: Bolivar, Sunflower

Contact Person: Mr. Maurice Smith, (662) 398-7832: Fax (662) 398-7884

This distance learning project links three rural Mississippi Delta school districts. Located in two contiguous counties, the three school districts share common needs and goals – including those addressed by this project. Through the North Bolivar-Shaw-Sunflower County Technology Consortium, the districts plan to use tools of technology to: (1) increase student achievement; (2) strengthen teacher training, (3) utilize teacher's time and expertise more effectively and efficiently, and (4) make communications resources available for parent and community use.

1998 Awards:

Mississippi-Alabama School District Consortium

\$339,240 Grant

Location: Leakesville, Mississippi

Areas served: Jefferson and Greene Counties, MS and Sumpter County, AL

Contact Dennis Cochran

Telephone Number: (601)-394-2364

Fax Number: (601) 394-5542

Congressional District: Applicant: MS 5th Project: AL 4th; MS 5th and 2nd.

Greene County School District will serve as Fiscal Agent for the Mississippi-Alabama School District Consortium. Grant funds from RUS will be used to purchase the equipment needed to create a distance learning and interactive video system. The goals of this project are to (1) reduce violence and conflict in the school communities, (2) improve student achievement in reading; (3) reduce to effects of rurality and geographic isolation through technology communications strategies and (4) enhance the local school districts' technology infrastructures for ongoing project implementation, teach development, and academic improvement. The project will benefit approximately 11,902 students in the 3 county area.



Mississippi Delta Tri-District Partnership

\$350,000 Grant

Location: Webb, Mississippi

Area(s) served: Tallahatchie, Tunica, and Holmes

Contact Reginald Barnes

Telephone Number: (601) 375-9291

Fax Number: (601) 375-9294

Congressional District: 2nd

The Mississippi Delta Tri-District Partnership (Partnership) plans to construct a distance learning network to benefit 2,189 students in three rural counties of western Mississippi. RUS funding will be used to install networked computer labs, expand library technology for access to reference networks, and provide distance learning opportunities targeting the most at-risk of the districts' secondary students. The three school districts in the Partnership share poverty and other socio-economic difficulties, including isolation from major sources of industry and higher education. Integration of technology into the schools' curriculum will enable students to move beyond the limitations of their immediate surroundings and increase the economic well-being of the communities involved. The high school in each school district is considered the hub site for that district and schools serving students in grades 7-12 will serve as end user sites.

1997 Awards:

Mid-Mississippi Delta Consortium

Award: \$300,000 Grant

Location: Hollandale, Mississippi

Area(s) Served: Counties of Washington, Humphreys, Leflore, and Bolivar; EZ/EC Zone:

Counties of Washington, Humphreys, Leflore, and Bolivar; Champion Communities:

Counties Washington, Humphreys, Leflore, and Boliva

Contact Person: Howard Sanders

Telephone Number: 601-827-2276

FAX Number: 601-827-5305

The Mid-Mississippi Delta Consortium, which consists of four impoverished rural school districts with nine end user sites, serves both Empowerment Zone and Champion Communities. As a whole, 3,446 students and 40,963 residents in four counties (Washington, Humphreys, Leflore, and Bolivar) will be impacted. Interactive electronic classrooms in three high schools, multi-media computers with Internet access and video-conferencing in four middle schools will serve as one distance learning network to provide challenging curricula, compensate for teacher shortages, and deliver individualized instructional opportunities to such underserved groups as the gifted and talented and the homebound. The interactive video classrooms were designed in accordance with Mississippi ETV guidelines. Courses offered through the Mississippi



ETV interactive video network, during 1996-1997, included fine arts, foreign languages, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

The Delta Rural Health Network of Mississippi, Inc. (DRHN)

Award: \$172,368 Grant

Location: Belzoni, Mississippi

Area(s) Served: Counties of Humphreys, Kilmichael, Quitman and Tallahatchie

Contact Person: Ms. Debra L. Griffin

Telephone Number: (601) 247-3831

FAX Number: (601) 247-4854

The Delta Rural Health Network of Mississippi, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation that consists of ten small independent rural acute hospitals located in the state of Mississippi. This hospital organization is comprised of the Humphreys County Memorial Hospital (Humphreys County), the Kilmichael Hospital (Montgomery County), the King's Daughters Hospital (Yazoo County), Montfort Jones Memorial Hospital (Attala County), Quitman County Hospital (Quitman Hospital), Sharkey-Issaquena Community Hospital (Issaquena and Sharkey Counties), South Panola Community Hospital (Panola County), South Sunflower County Hospital (Sunflower County), Tallahatchie General Hospital (Tallahatchie County) and Yalobusha General Hospital (Yalabousha County). The DRHN provides pediatric acute and intensive care, medical/surgical, emergency and geriatric psych services. In addition, three DRHN hospitals operate nursing homes and six DRHN hospitals operate rural health clinics. The RUS grant award will create a teleradiology network to share radiologists for on-site needs and to provide 24 hour service via teleradiology.

The hub for the network will be established at South Panola Community Hospital. Four of the ten hospitals will serve as the end user sites which are located in the counties of Humphreys, Kilmichael, Quitman and Tallahatchie. These end users will send radiographs to the hub for primary reads. This approach should result in a teleradiology network which is responsive to the rural communities and should provide a model for other rural communities which are characterized by similar radiology coverage problems. The proposed teleradiology network will be managed by the Delta Health Solutions, Inc. (a subsidiary corporation of DRHN). The Humphreys County Memorial Hospital serves the Humphreys county residents which is a part of the Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone. Two of the end user sites are located in the North Delta Mississippi Enterprise Community, Quitman County Hospital and Tallahatchie General Hospital. A portion of Panola County is located in the North Delta Mississippi Enterprise Community. The South Panola Community Hospital serves the Panola county resident



1996 Grant Award:

North Mississippi Health Services, Inc.

\$336,124

Tupelo, Mississippi

Contact Person: Mac Stanford

Phone Number: 601-841-3042

FAX Number: 601-841-4996

North Mississippi Health Services is committed to bringing quality health care services closer to its medically underserved rural population. NMHS has produced an affiliation of over 45 medical centers, clinics, and institutions covering a 30 county service area in northeast Mississippi and northwest Alabama. This project is the dream of those rural medical centers and the residents they serve. RUS grant funds will enable NMHS to implement a long-range solution to the problems of serving sparsely populated, rural areas by (1) strengthening support for existing rural hospitals, clinics, physicians and other health care professionals; (2) using telemedicine as the most effective tool, not the end product, by recruitment, training, and support of physicians willing to work in rural communities; and (3) by linking medical and educational community resources and personnel for maximum impact on local community shared health care concerns.

1994 Grant Award:

Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (MAETV)

Name of RUS Borrowers Serving Area:

Delta Telephone Company (MS 531)

Bay Springs Telephone Company, (MS 506)

Franklin Telephone Co., Inc (MS 532)

Calhoun City Telephone Company (MS 504)

Counties: Bolivar, Warren, Choctaw, Jasper, Lawrence, Yalobusha, Tippah, Pearl River, and Stone Counties

The economic, social, political and technological future of Mississippi depends on the education of its people. In order to prepare students to meet the demands of society in the next century, greater educational opportunities must be made available to all segments of the population. Many isolated and small rural schools in Mississippi lack the facilities to provide the educational opportunities needed for global (competition. These poor, rural areas of the state have difficulty attracting and retaining instructors in subjects such as foreign language, mathematics, and science. Often, the small number of students to be served by special or advanced courses makes it financially infeasible to hire a teacher. Rural community members have been unable to take advantage of the ever-growing array of professional and personal enhancement opportunities because of their distance from urban areas and major universities.



Such was the case in a nine county area, stretching from the Mississippi Delta to the gulf coast of Mississippi, until the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (MAETV) applied for and was awarded a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant of \$271,929 in 1994. The schools involved in the project are located in some of the poorest districts of the state by defraying the cost of the equipment for this project. The design of this network provides advanced telecommunications access to rural school districts and communities within the state. The intent of the project is to improve both the quality of life and the economy in rural areas.

MAETV, headquartered in Jackson, will link 20 rural schools in eleven districts through a mobile uplink satellite, creating a distance learning telecommunications network. By providing the equivalent of one teacher per school through distance learning technology, the system's 20 schools will benefit from a direct savings of \$570,000 per year. The addition of satellite technology has provided rural schools and communities access to direct, interactive distance learning credit courses for over 12,000 students. Specifically, 1300 high school students will have access to college and university programs both in and out of state and 700 teachers will have opportunities for staff development. Satellite transmitted programs available for community development opportunities and new trends in business and industry will benefit 192,000 residents, business and industry personnel.