



DLT Grant and Loan Awards - Alaska

2006 Grant Awards

Alaska Island Community Services

Wrangell, Alaska

\$50,885

Areas Served: Anchorage, Coffman Cove, Petersburg, Wrangell

Contact: Mr. Mark Walker

Telephone: 907-874-2372

Fax: 907-874-2576

Congressional District: AK – At Large

Rural Development funds will be used to initiate a telemedicine program which will enhance behavioral and medical health services for clients in rural southeast Alaska. The program will offer three primary services that include telepharmacy, telepsychiatry, and telemedicine (primary care). The program will provide medical professionals in Wrangell, Petersburg, and Anchorage with the means to deliver health care, via telecommunications, to rural residents in the project areas.

Lower Kuskokwim School District

Bethel, Alaska

\$442,827

Areas Served: Atmautluak, Bethel, Chefornek, Eek, Juneau, Kasigluk, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Kwethluk, Kwigillingok, Newtok, Nunapitchuk, Quinhagak, Seward

Contact: Mr. Ted Berry

Telephone: 907-543-4876

Fax: 907-543-4911

Congressional District: AK – At Large

Rural Development funds will be used for a distance learning project that will provide an interesting and challenging curriculum for students as well as allow the district to obtain and share content, provide instruction from highly qualified teachers, expand and enhance professional development for faculty and staff, and connect students located at all remote sites to help them retain their native language and culture.



Skagway School District

Skagway, Alaska

\$490,657

Areas Served: Anchorage, Juneau, Kenai Peninsula, Nome Census Area, Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area

Contact: Ms. Kathy Pierce

Telephone: 907-983-2960

Fax: 907-983-2964

Congressional District: AK – At large

Rural Development funds will be used to enhance the Alaska Technology Communication partnership which provides educational opportunities and adult learning to rural isolated schools. The project will incorporate interactive videoconferencing equipment and digital libraries to provide expanded course content, AP and Honors courses, and educational opportunities for adults.

Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)

Juneau, Alaska

\$219,255

Areas Served: Boroughs: Sitka, Juneau, Haines

Census Areas: Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon, Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan, Wrangell-Petersburg

Contact: Mr. Bob Cita

Telephone: 907-463-4085

Fax: 907-463-4075

Congressional District: AK – At Large

Rural Development funds will be used to develop an information technology infrastructure that allows SEARHC to effectively deliver telemedicine and distance learning programs that result in an increase in access to health services for the 12,370 Alaska Native beneficiaries and 6,000 rural residents of twelve isolated communities within Southeast Alaska. Specifically, the project will allow replacement of routers and upgrade of a videoconferencing bridge. The project will increase telebehavioral health, clinical services, and prevention of chronic disease while reducing patient travel and meeting unmet health care needs



2005 Grant Awards:

Aleutians East Borough School District

Aleutians East Borough, Alaska

Areas served:

Contact: Bill Burr, (907) 383-5222

Congressman, District: Young, At Large

Rural Development funds will be used to create a technological infrastructure capable of handling the present distance learning needs of the district. The project will establish computer labs and wireless networks at each end-user site which will provide traditional classes with distance learning courses through the installation of a Category 6 based network at each site. The six end-user sites are the only communities in the Aleutians East Borough. Over 2,500 rural residents and 288 students will be served by the project.

Norton Sound Health Corporation

Nome, AK

\$499,646

Areas Served: Bering Strait/Seward Peninsula

Contact: Vicki Hamilton

Telephone: 907-443-3293

Fax: 907-443-3139

Congressional District: AK-At Large

Videoconferencing equipment purchased with grant funds will improve primary and mental health care in the area. Video conferencing will enable “face-to-face” real-time visits between the doctors and patients. This capability will dramatically improve diagnosis and treatment of patients, reduce patient travel, and increase the availability of behavioral health services. The hub site in Nome will link to 15 end-user sites inhabited by approximately 5,500 residents on 2 islands 185 miles off the coast only accessible by boat or fixed wing aircraft.



Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

Bethel, AK

\$500,000

Areas Served: Bethel Borough

Contact: Valerie Warzewick

Telephone: 907-543-6074

Fax: 907-543-6570

Congressional District: AK-At Large

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant funds will be bring clinical services and provider education to the residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwin Delta through video-teleconferencing. The project will enhance emergency care and telepsychiatry, decrease provider and patient travel, and increased access to quality health care for 47 rural end-user sites serving approximately 23,000 Native and non-native residents in a roadless area about the size of Oregon.

Eastern Aleutian Tribes

Anchorage, AK

\$412,867

Areas Served: Aleutians East Borough, Adak, St. George, Whittier

Contact: L. Chris Devlin, Exec. Dir./Mike Layne, Grant Admin.

Telephone: 907-277-1440

Fax: 907-277-1446

Congressional District: AK-At Large

A distance education and telemedicine network, named MediPeer, will provide primary healthcare and education services to the 2,600 residents of the eastern Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. The hub site in Anchorage will communicate via satellite using IP video teleconferencing equipment with 9 remote clinics. Travel for residents of these islands is by airplane or boat. This network will ensure these residents will receive necessary healthcare services during the first year of operation. The network will also provide healthcare education to healthcare providers in the area.



Maniilaq Association

Kotzebue, AK

\$269,892

Areas Served: Northwest Arctic Borough

Contact: Eugene Smith

Telephone: 907-442-7207

Fax: 907-442-7686

Congressional District: AK-At Large

Videoconferencing equipment will provide both 2-way voice and video communications, and data transmission for medical clinics. The participating clinics will use the equipment primarily for patient care and exams, diagnosis, treatment, and other clinical outreach services and emergency patient triage as well. The project will serve over 7,500 residents in an extremely remote area of Alaska.

Alaska Primary Care Association, Inc.

Anchorage, AK

\$258,765

Areas Served: (AK) Aleutians West, Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Wrangell-Petersburg, Bristol Bay Borough, Southeast Fairbanks, Valdez-Cordova, Kenai Peninsula Borough

Contact: Marilyn Kasmar

Telephone: 907-929-2725

Fax: 907-929-2735

Congressional District: AK-At Large

Grant funds will provide access to specialty healthcare providers for the patients of the non-tribal community health centers and other safety-net providers in the state of Alaska. The project will benefit approximately 75,000 residents and seasonal workers of rural Alaska.



2004 Grant Awards:

Chatham School District

Angoon, Alaska

\$472,579

Areas served: Angoon

Contact: Connie Newman, 907-788-3302

Congressional District(s): AK-At Large

DLT funds will help stem out migration from 4 communities, by providing enriched content from the University of Alaska and other sites. The content will include instructional information and vocational and career training, in order to provide job training and re-training. The project places special emphasis on the development skills and qualifications that can be used by residents while remaining in their home villages.

Haines Borough School District

Haines, Alaska

\$499,999

Areas served: Haines Borough, Metlakatla

Contact: Woody Wilson, 907-766-2664

Congressional District(s): AK-At Large

1163 rural residents in 4 communities will receive expanded access to distance learning, vocational and career opportunities from this project. Students will receive focused content that will help them pass mandated progress examinations and additional and enriched content that will help them prepare for entry into the job market or higher education. In addition, replacement of equipment will ensure that these students are conversant with today's technology - a critical marker of success at work or at college.

Kuspuk School District

Aniak, Alaska

\$411,913

Areas served: Bethel Census Area

Contact: Dr. Kim Langton, 907-675-4250

Congressional District(s): AK-At Large

DLT funds will be utilized to allow for the provision of distance learning opportunities between eight villages in the Kuspuk School District (KSD), Kuskokwim College (KC) and the Kuskokwim Regional Health Corporation located in Bethel. Expanded course offerings for students, professional development opportunities, as well as content through virtual field trips will be made available. The KSD will serve over 5,400 residents with this project.



2003 Awards:

United Utilities, Inc.; Anchorage, Alaska

\$3,631,000 Loan

Counties (Villages) Served: Bethel and Wade Hampton

Contact: Steve Hamlen (907) 561-1674; FAX: (907) 563-3185

Congressional District: Alaska

United Utilities, Inc. is an existing RUS borrower and will use DLT loan funds to acquire and install 18 new satellite earth stations and the necessary equipment that will be leased to GCI Communications Corporation to provide services to educational facilities in the Lower Yukon and Lower Kuskokwim school districts.

Educational services to be offered to the 18 locations will include instructional video services and internet access. The Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center intends to offer vocational educational courses. Also, the SeaLife and Challenger Centers will offer science educational courses. Other courses to be offered will include advanced mathematics, science, foreign language, art, music, and courses that are not normally offered to the students within the 18 end-user sites.

Denali Borough School District; Healey, AK

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Denali Borough

Contact: Robert Whicker (907) 683-2278; Fax: (907) 683-2514

Congressional District(s): At Large

Denali Borough School District, in partnership with the North West Arctic School District and the Denali Borough of Alaska will utilize RUS grant funds for start up of the project "Moving Content, Not People." The Denali Borough covers more than 12,000 square miles of the Alaskan interior and serves students from five communities in three schools located in Healy, Anderson, and Cantwell. This project is geared to provide high quality staff development opportunities as well as equip the Tri-Valley Community Center with distance learning and interactive video conferencing equipment, computers, and other technology that will offer students and residents new educational opportunities. RUS funding will enable Denali Borough Schools to provide on-line courses, develop a "virtual school", and develop a model approach to school improvement, thus making an important contribution to small, rural schools throughout the state of Alaska and beyond.



Kake City School District; Kake, AK

\$490,000

Area(s) Served: Cities of Kake and Sitka

Contact: Eric Gebhart (907) 785-3741; Fax: (907) 785-6439

Congressional District(s): At Large

Kake School District will use RUS funding to implement a distance learning/telemedicine project that will benefit 500 students, 31 teachers, 710 residents of Kake, as well as 8,835 residents of Sitka. The project meets a wide variety of educational and healthcare needs by providing resources via 2-way videoconferencing. This project, through the use of technology, will provide more modern course offerings to match today's needs, as well as increase healthcare resources throughout the area served.

Pribilof School District; St. Paul Island, AK

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Saint Paul, Saint George, Naukati, Hollis, and Hyder

Contact: Malcolm Fleming (907) 546-3337; Fax: (907) 546-2327

Congressional District(s): At Large

The Pribilof School District will utilize RUS grant funds for a distance learning project that will serve 3,544 residents and the Saint George and Saint Paul schools in the isolated rural communities of Naukati, Hollis, and Hyder. A total of 684 students will benefit from expanded educational opportunities and 13 teachers will benefit from expanded professional development opportunities. Distance learning courses will be provided through the installation of interactive video conferencing system and computer equipment. This equipment will also be utilized by the community Head Start program to train teachers and support staff and to provide exposure to sights and activities outside the immediate area to students.

Southeast Island School District; Thorne Bay, AK

\$485,732

Area(s) Served: Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska

Contact: Stan Osborne (907) 828-8254; Fax: (907) 828-8257

Congressional District(s): At Large

The Southeast Island School District is an exceptionally rural area of Southeast Alaska. The Southeast Island School district will use RUS funding for a distance learning project that will include two hub/end user sites and eight end user sites within the district. Educational courses and teaching will be shared and a community center for public internet access will be established. Video conferencing equipment will also be utilized. Future plans include links to a clinic and other schools. A total of 919 students and 2,776 people will benefit from the project.



Yukon-Koyukuk School District; Fairbanks, AK

\$500,000

Area(s) Served: Yukon-Koyukuk School District

Contact: Christopher Simon (907) 374-9400; Fax: 907-374-9440

Congressional District(s): At Large

The Yukon-Koyukuk School District will utilize RUS funds to implement a distance-learning network for the entire school district. The network will serve 1,780 students at ten extremely remote end user sites. Objectives of the distance-learning network are to provide high quality professional development to faculty and staff, improve and increase services to students with disabilities and regular high school academic subjects. The project also seeks to provide expanded educational and vocational/technical opportunities that will reduce the disparity between sites in the district as compared to more urban districts.

2002 Grant Awards:

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; Anchorage, Alaska

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Rural Alaska

Contact: Linda Lekness (907) 729-2261; Fax: (907) 729-2269

Congressional District(s): Applicant and Project: At Large

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, a tribal organization, will use RUS grant funds to provide direct telemedicine services to 165 rural and remote communities throughout Alaska to improve the delivery of health care. All 165 sites face economic challenges as well as travel difficulties due to severe weather and rough terrain that create barriers to accessing primary health care. In addition to live telemedicine consultations, some communities will be able to use the equipment to provide training and continuing education with a video teleconferencing option. The existing telecommunications system will be used without requiring additional network lines, servers, or connectivity. Project sites will receive additional hardware that attaches to the telemedicine carts already in use and will expand clinical capacity for telemedicine consults, especially in the areas of ear and respiratory disease. The project is expected to benefit approximately 164,000 rural Native Alaskans.

The Health TV Channel, Inc.; Anchorage, Alaska

\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Alaska

Contact: Joseph Friedman (907) 770-6200; Fax: (907) 336-6205

Congressional District(s): Applicant and Project: At Large

The Alaska Workforce Development Project was submitted by The Health TV Channel Inc., a non-profit organization. RUS funds will be used to provide distance training and



learning to communities throughout rural Alaska by acquiring instructional programming and production equipment. The project will partner with the Community Health Aid Program, which has eighty-eight (88) health aides in rural villages throughout Alaska, and will provide the training to most of these extremely rural sites. The target group for this project are rural health care providers in Alaska Native Health System including seven (7) regional hospitals, five (5) physician based health centers, twenty-two (22) physician Assistant Health Centers, and 168 Rural Village Health Stations. Approximately 1,500 "learners" will be trained who will serve potentially 450,000 extremely rural and urban residents. The content material will be broadcast on a satellite transponder called Alaska Three. The specific coverage area for this project includes 57 end-user sites located in extremely isolated towns and villages that often have no roads. The technology to be used is broadcast television which will display programming content on individual television sets in an office or home.

2001 Grant Awards:

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District; Palmer, Alaska

\$361,272 Grant

Area(s) Served: Glacier View Community, SuValley Community, City of Houston, City of Palmer, City of Wasilla

Contact: Dave Holmquist; Phone: (907) 745-2158; FAX: (907) 745-1442

Congressional District: At-Large - Alaska

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough covers a vast geographical area (24,693 square miles, about the size of the state of West Virginia), and while it is the fastest growing area in the state and the second fastest growing area in the nation, it is populated by a relatively small number of people. The Mat-Su Equal Access Learning Plan has been designed to be fully integrated with existing educational resources in the Borough. The Mat-Su Equal Access Learning Plan will serve seven end users at local high schools with a total student enrollment of 3,564. These seven schools are: Colony High School; Glacier View High School; Houston Junior/Senior High School; Palmer Senior High School; Susitna Valley High School; Wasilla High School; and, Valley Pathways High School. This project will allow access to educational content, provide hands-on training to improve technology skills and provide on-going workshops. A fully furnished mini-CTC center with 15 portable, wireless Internet accessed computers to be used for distance learning courses during the school day and share with the community in the evening will also be provided along with a more efficient Internet connection permitting interactive online educational materials to be delivered using audio, video and text by way of the Internet.



1999 Grant Awards:

The Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.; Fairbanks, Alaska

\$259,064 Grant

Census Divisions Served: Yukon-Koyukuk, Southeast Fairbanks

Contact: Ms. Rebekah Hunter, (907) 452-8251; Fax (907) 459-3851

The Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. (TCC) operates an Indian Health Service compact to provide medical services to tribal members and beneficiaries residing in Fairbanks and 25 tribal villages in interior Alaska. In order to improve and extend service to the tribal villages, TCC has requested funding of Telemedicine for Alaskan Interior Tribes (TAIT). TAIT will be implemented using standard phone lines, off-the-shelf computer hardware, and proven telemedicine technologies. The equipment purchased will allow the use of telemedicine applications for diagnosis, treatment, and follow up in a wide range of medical services including cardiology, dermatology, orthopedics and behavioral health at the village clinics.

Norton Sound Health Corporation; Nome, Alaska

\$313,025 Grant

Census Divisions Served: Nome, Bering Straits

Contact: Mr. Maurice Ninham, (907) 443-3224; FAX (907) 443-3724

Norton Sound Health Corporation, a tribal health care organization, has been in existence for 29 years. The project will remove access barriers to health care services in the Bering Straits Region of Alaska. Such barriers include geography (25,000 square miles), absence of a highway system, and the high cost of air travel. This project will transmit data between 15 village clinics, IRA tribal government offices and two health care providers in Nome. The project will transmit diagnosis-quality data images to specialists in Anchorage thus avoiding costly and dangerous emergency transport of patients. The population of the region is approximately 9,085. Roughly 50 percent of the population live in 15 extremely remote villages. The project will also provide greater access to vocational and adult education programs.

Aleutians East Borough; Anchorage, Alaska

\$233,767 Grant

Census Divisions Served: Aleutians East Borough

Contact Person: Mr. Robert Juettner, (907) 274-7555; Fax (907) 276-7569

The "Electronic Bridge Project" will bring the technologically under-served and economically disadvantaged residents of small, isolated and rural Alaskan communities into the Information Age. This project will connect hospitals, training centers, government offices, and schools. The project will consist of a 128-Kb satellite circuit, wide area, digital Internet Protocol network that will provide health care information,



training classes, and videoconferencing with hospitals in Anchorage. The high winds and fog make travel very difficult in this part of Alaska. This telemedicine project will help residents of these remote villages to gain access to medical care and other services.

City of Galena; Galena, Alaska

\$186,490 Grant

Census Divisions Served: Yukon-Koyukuk

Contact Person: Mr. Marvin Yoder, (907) 656-1301; Fax (907) 656-1769

The applicant is a consortium consisting of the Galena Health Center, the Galena Mental Health Center, the Tanana School, the Project Education Charter School, and Galena Schools. This project will provide health services, mental health services, educational classes and lifelong learning opportunities to the extremely rural, remote and primarily Native communities of Galena and Tanana, Alaska. The system will allow video/voice/data to piggyback on existing telecommunication lines. This capability will be used in medical diagnosis and treatment, mental health counseling, staff training, collaborative student and community projects and access to regional, statewide and national medical experts. The Yukon-Koyukuk region is very rural and primarily populated by Alaska Native tribes; and has a high rate of poverty, low education levels and high incidences of "at-risk" behavior and attendant medical problems. The area has no roads and there is no medical doctor in the region. Alaska Native residents are the primary beneficiaries of this project.

1997 Grant Award:

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation

\$300,000

Dillingham, Alaska

Area(s) Served: Boroughs Affected: Aleknaiik, Chiginik, Chiginik Bake, Chiginik, Lagoon, Clarks Point, and Dillingham

Contact Person: Ms. Christine Decourtney

Phone Number: 907-842-9422

FAX: 907-842-9354

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC) is a native American tribal organization and is the sole provider of comprehensive public health and primary care services to most of the residents in southwest Alaska who live in the 32 villages within the 46,000 square mile service area accessed only by airplane. Care that cannot be provided in the village or during a health care provider visit requires extensive air travel (costing between \$70 and \$6,000 per flight) depending on if it is a scheduled flight, charter flight or medical evacuation. BBAHC operates through a unique system using trained village residents who provide basic health care and emergency services to the people of the village under guidance of health care providers by telephone contact. RUS funding will help provide additional telemedicine facilities which will enable health providers at a distant location



to more accurately diagnose health problems in the villages and thus reduce the need for travel by the patients in many cases. This technology will especially benefit Optometry, Dentistry, Dermatology and ENT by allowing a distant physician to actually view the symptoms and prescribe the proper treatment.

1996 Grant Award:

Council of Athabascan Tribal Government

\$317,729

Fort Yukon, Alaska

Contact Person: Patricia J. Stanley

Phone Number: 907-662-2587

FAX: 907-662-3333

The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments will coordinate with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Interior-Aleutian Campus and AT&T Alascom to implement a project using RUS grant funds to create a system to deliver critically needed educational and medical services to one of the most remote and underserved regions of the U.S. by connecting this remote area of Alaska and the world via the Internet. At the present time there is virtually no telecommunications access in the Yukon Flats region due to poor connectivity and prohibitive costs. The project is intended to be used by tribal members and villagers, village government councils and employees, community health aid providers, health professionals, rural human services/prevention workers, degree programs and adult community education university students. Reducing disparities in access and promoting the use of the national information infrastructure will encourage economic development, personal empowerment, and self-determination in these communities and will allow them access to the information resources of the larger world.

1994 Grant Award:

Copper Valley Interactive Television Network.

Name of Project: Copper Valley Interactive Television Network

Project Area: The Burroughs of

Copper Valley Region of Alaska encompasses 24,663 square miles and has a population density of one person for every 8 square miles.

This project is a combination of distance learning and medical link which will interconnect 7 public schools in 6 remote communities. As a medical component, medical clinics in 4 of those communities will be interconnected and teleradiology equipment will be installed in Cross Road Medical Center and linked with a hospital in Palmer for needed radiological expertise. Prince William Sound Community College in Valdez will also be linked to the network. Educational opportunities, access to medical services/expertise and communications between these remote communities will be dramatically enhanced with video and data communications. The system will utilize two-



way interactive satellite transmission combined with existing telephone lines in a T1 format.

1993 Grant Award:

Yukon-Kuskokwinn Health Corp., Bethel

Project Name: Distance Delivery Consortium

This telecommunications service unites five school districts, a university branch facility, a health corporation, a national guard unit and others.