

DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program is to enhance educational and health-care opportunities for rural residents by providing modern telecommunication interconnectivity to educational and medical facilities.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

An incorporated organization, partnership, Indian tribe, municipal corporation or not-for-profit organization that operates or will operate a school, college, university or learning center. In areas with a population of 20,000 or less.

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE

This is a loan and/or grant program.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Nationwide FY 2008 funding is \$29.8 million in loans; \$28 million for 100-percent loans (combination loan and grants).

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Annual appropriation by Congress.

APPLICATION PROCESS/DEADLINES

Application information, including an application guide, can be obtained from www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm; the FY 2008 grant application deadline was April 14, 2008, and the loan/grant combination has no deadline.

MATCHING/OTHER REQUIREMENTS

No match is required for loans; however, leveraging of other funds is encouraged and enhances the chance of a higher project score. Grants require a 15-percent match.

CONTACT

Michael A. Langston, Community Program Director
Rural Development
Florida State Office
U.S. Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 147010
Gainesville, FL 32614-7010
(352) 338-3440
Fax: (352) 338-3452
E-mail: michael.langston@fl.usda.gov
www.rurdev.usda.gov/fl