

# Quick Reference Guide

**Upcoming Deadline – July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**



## USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program – Round II



**Agency:** USDA, Rural Utilities Service

**CFDA Number:** 10.855

**Maximum Award Amount:** \$1,000,000

**Estimated Total Funding:** TBD – funds will be carried over from Round 1. RUS may add additional funds as well, and may or may not include the \$25M in the Covid19 CARES funding.

**Matching Funds:** 15%

**Program Purpose:** The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program provides grants to encourage and improve telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies to be used by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents. Grants are for projects where the benefit is primarily delivered to end users that are not at the same location as the source of the education or healthcare service.

Grant funds may be used to:

- Acquire equipment and other capital assets:
  - Broadband transmission facilities
  - Audio, video, and interactive video equipment
  - Terminal and data terminal equipment
  - Computer hardware, network components, and software
  - Inside wiring and similar infrastructure that further DLT services
- Acquire instructional programming
- Acquire technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment

**Special Consideration:** Special Consideration. Special consideration points will be awarded for projects in the following areas. Applicants may only receive special consideration points in one area (up to 10 points):

- Telemedicine projects having the primary purpose of providing treatment and counseling services for opioid or other substance use disorder. Opioid or other substance use disorder treatment is defined as the interactive communication between medical or educational

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professionals and opioid users or their families, other treatment professionals or those who interact with opioid or other substance users. Opioid or other substance use disorder treatment eligible purposes include:

- Counseling of opioid or other substance users
- Treatment of opioid or other substance dependent persons
- Training of medical professionals, counselors or first responders in the interaction with opioid or other substance users
- Education programs addressing opioid or other substance abuse, or;
- Distance learning projects having the primary purpose of providing access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) courses; or
- Telemedicine or distance learning projects having at least one end-user site physically located in an Opportunity Zone. An Opportunity Zone is an economically distressed community where new investments, under certain conditions, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment. Localities qualify as Opportunity Zones if they have been nominated for that designation by the State and that nomination has been certified by the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury via delegation of authority to the Internal Revenue Service.

**Applicant Eligibility:** Eligible applicants include entities that provide education or healthcare through telecommunications, including:

- State and local government entities
- Federally-recognized tribes
- Nonprofit organizations
- For-profit businesses
- Consortia of eligible entities

**Website:** <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>