



## **USDA-Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning & Telemedicine Program**

The RUS Grant is a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture. The grant provides funding for distance learning and telemedicine equipment - primarily to public and private schools, healthcare organizations, and non-profit organizations. CBE will work with you every step of the way to provide technology and grant writing consulting services, helping you to win funding from this competitive grant. Our application success rate is over 90% and we have helped hundreds of schools participate in this grant program!

### **RUS Grant Eligibility & Guidelines**

- **How Much Funding is Available?**

Awards can range from \$50,000 to \$500,000. About 100 Grants are awarded nationally each year, making this a highly competitive grant.

- **Who is Eligible?**

Almost any type of organization is eligible, but the RUS Grant's rurality and poverty guidelines are scored strictly and objectively. Content providers and hub sites may be urban, but the beneficiaries of the Grant funds must be able to demonstrate the following characteristics:

#### **Objective Qualities**

- Rurality: Applicants who are considered Rural or are in Urban Areas of less than 20,000 are given priority.
- High NSLP participation: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) data is used to determine the poverty level of the area, even in Telehealth applications. Applicants with higher NSLP numbers receive more points in their application.
- Match: 15% match ratio is the minimum, but more match means more points on your application. Cash and in-kind match are both eligible.
- EZ/EC Communities: Sites located within Empowerment Zones or will receive additional points on their application.

### ***Subjective Qualities***

- Projects with Innovative use of distance learning equipment or unique applications for Grant-funded equipment will receive higher scores
- Projects that demonstrate extreme needs, like low test scores, few advanced classes, or significant health issues, within the communities served will be given higher scores.
- Cost effective programs are scored highly.

### **• *What Equipment is Eligible for Funding?***

The RUS Grant funds the acquisition of eligible capital assets – equipment that is used primarily for distance learning or telemedicine purposes, including (but not limited to):

- Interactive video equipment
- Audio and video equipment
- Computer hardware
- Computer network components
- Other facilities that further DLT services
- Acquisition of instruction programming that is a capital asset. This does not include tuition, virtual field trip fees, or renewals of online content.
- Acquisition of technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment.

### **• *Grant Information***

- CFDA Number: 10.855
- Program Type: Discretionary/Competitive Grants
- Grant Timeframe: TBD
- Website: [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UTP\\_DLTResources.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UTP_DLTResources.html)

### ***Contact Us Today to Discuss Your Grant Application!***

Kris Schmitt, Grants Program Manager  
[kschmitt@cbetech.com](mailto:kschmitt@cbetech.com); 207-239-3012

Jeff Mann, Account Manager  
[jeff.mann@cbetech.com](mailto:jeff.mann@cbetech.com); 207-239-3013