

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Utility Services Distance Learning & Telemedicine Program (DLT)



Grant overview

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program is a competitive grant specifically designed to meet the educational and health care needs of rural America through the use of advanced telecommunications technologies. The DLT Program is primarily focused on investing in projects relying on video equipment and infrastructure to facilitate distance learning and/or telemedicine resources to rural end-users.

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

DLT encourages projects that promote equity and economic opportunity in rural America to advance key priorities in:

- Supporting health care needs stemming from Covid-19 pandemic and helping prepare for future pandemic events
- Ensuring racial equity
- Rebuilding our rural economy
- Addressing the climate crisis

Projects should enable and improve distance learning and/or telemedicine services to end-user sites in rural areas using telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies.

Special consideration points are given for projects;

- with end-user sites on Tribal Lands, Farmworker Communities, or Distressed Energy Communities;
- that support Native American Language(s) or;
- that support Mental Health Services.

Funding

Approximately \$64 million in funding was available in 2023. It is anticipated that similar funding will be available for 2024.

Application deadline

Anticipated for early spring 2024.

Eligibility

- State and local government organizations, federally recognized Tribes, non-profit organizations, incorporated businesses, and groups of eligible entities delivering distance learning or telemedicine services to entities that operate a rural community facility or to residents of rural areas.
- Projects must have at least 1 hub site located anywhere to provide the services and 1 or more end-user sites to receive services.
- End-user sites must be in rural areas (population of 20,000 or less) not connected to large urban centers and preferably locations with high economic need.

Use of Funds

Eligible equipment for eligible purposes. Acquisition can be by purchase or lease. If leased, the cost of the lease during the 3-year life of the grant is eligible. The following are examples of eligible equipment. This list is not exhaustive. Neither does it convey blanket eligibility.

- Computer hardware and software
- Audio and video equipment
- Computer network components
- Cybersecurity software directly related to the funded project
- Data terminal equipment
- Interactive audio/video equipment
- Extended warranties on eligible equipment up to the 3-year life of the grant
- Inside wiring
- Terminal equipment

Note: A computer is not automatically eligible. It must be used for an eligible purpose.

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- [East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine, NC](#)

How Cisco Public Funding can help

- Identify funding to support your projects
- Provide detailed information and grant verbiage for Cisco® technology
- Assist with general grant project design and partnership recommendations
- Serve as an extra set of eyes to review grant proposals

To learn more about available grants funding, please contact your Cisco Account Manager or Public Funding Advisor at grantquestions@cisco.com or scan the QR code to visit the US Public Funding Office website.

