Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT)

**CFDA Number:**  
10.855

**Authority:**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

**Summary:**

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program is specifically designed to meet the educational and health care needs of rural America through the use of advanced telecommunications technologies. The DLT Grant Program is primarily focused on providing equipment that operates via telecommunications to rural end-users of telemedicine and distance learning. Grant funds may be used for equipment, instructional programming, and technical assistance.

**Eligibility:**

To be eligible for a grant, your organization must: (1) Currently deliver or propose to deliver distance learning or telemedicine services for the term of the grant. To receive a grant, the purposes must meet the grant definition of distance learning and/or telemedicine. The DLT program is focused on sustainability. Planning studies, research projects, and short-term demonstration projects of less than life of the award (three years) will not be considered; (2) Be legally organized as an incorporated organization or partnership; an Indian tribe or tribal organization; a state or local unit of government; a consortium; or other legal entity, including a private corporation organized on a for profit or not-for profit basis with the legal capacity to contract with the United States Government; and, (3) Operate a rural community facility or deliver distance learning or telemedicine services to entities that operate a rural community facility or to residents of rural areas at rates calculated to ensure that the benefit of the financial assistance passes through to such entities or to residents of rural areas.

**Award Information:**

Awards range from $50,000 to $500,000. Approximately $30 million is available.

**Cash Match**

The DLT program requires a minimum match of 15%. Higher matches receive points in the evaluation process. To be considered as eligible matching funds, cash and in-kind contributions must go toward items which would be eligible for grant funding if included as part of a grant request.

**Deadline Description:**

The 2011 deadline was April 25, 2011. A similar deadline is anticipated for 2012.

**Additional Information:**

It is useful to keep in mind that while the equipment is eligible, it does not fund the telecommunications that connects that equipment. DLT does not fund communications links between sites (wireless or wire-line) and it does not fund telecommunications or Internet connections. Grants (and eligible matching funds) can be expended only for the costs associated with the initial capital assets associated with the project.

**Agency Contacts:**

Gary Allan, Acting Director  
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Email: gary.allan@wdc.usda.gov  
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UTP_DLT.html

FY11 Guidance (for reference purposes):  
Some Cisco Technologies to Help Meet Your Project Goals:

- Video conferencing
- Communications and collaboration

To learn more about Cisco’s education solutions, please contact your Cisco representative. Additional information can be found at: [www.cisco.com/web/strategy/education/index.html](http://www.cisco.com/web/strategy/education/index.html)

Who to Contact at Cisco for General Funding Assistance and Questions:

Cisco’s grant support program is designed to assist you through the application process. The Cisco grants team can provide personalized consultations that will help you:

- determine if your agency is eligible to apply — and what to do if you’re not
- identify which of your agency’s projects can be funded
- plan what steps can be taken to fund other agency initiatives after you submit your application

For more information on how Cisco’s Grants Support Program can help today, contact your Cisco Representative or Stephanie Jones at 219-766-0821 or stephanie.jones@cisco.com