

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Utilities Service****Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program**

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of application filing deadline for Fiscal Year 1996 funding.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces that applications are now being accepted for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 1996 funding. The final rule, 7 CFR Part 1703, subpart D, amending the DLT Grant Program is published elsewhere in today's issue of the Federal Register.

DATES: Applications to be considered for FY 1996 funding must be postmarked no later than August 5, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Applications may be submitted to the Administrator, Rural Utilities Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1590, 14th and Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250. Applications should be marked "Attention: Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara L. Eddy, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, room 4056-South Building, STOP 1590, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, telephone number (202) 720-9549.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to 7 CFR 1703.113, Application filing

dates, location, processing, and public notification, the amount of funds available for grants during FY 1996 is \$7.5 million and the deadline for submitting applications for FY 1996 DLT grants is August 5, 1996. The maximum amount awarded to any application selected for FY 1996 will not exceed \$350,000 (See 7 CFR 1703.106). Applicants are reminded to submit an original and three copies of the completed application and to also submit a copy to the State government point of contact at the same time an application is submitted to RUS (See 7 CFR 1703.113(f)).

Application information packages containing various forms and guidelines for completing and submitting a grant application to RUS, as well as general information about the DLT grant program, are available through any of the following sources:

(1) The Internet via the RUS Home Page at the following Internet address: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/dlml.htm>.

(2) The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development State Director's office, if established for the applicant's State; addresses of State contact offices are available through the RUS Home Page or from RUS Telecommunications Program area offices, Washington, DC.

(3) The RUS Telecommunications Program area offices, Washington, DC. Requests for application packages must be faxed to the area office representing the applicant's State. A list of area offices follows:

Southeast Area, Craig Wulf, Director, room 2870-South Building, STOP 1596.

Telephone number (202) 720-0715, Fax number (202) 205-2924. States served: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands.

Northeast Area, Gerald Nugent, Jr., Director, room 2859-South Building, STOP 1596. Telephone number (202) 720-8268, Fax number (202) 205-3934. States served: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

Northwest Area, Jerry Brent, Director, room 2813-South Building, STOP 1597. Telephone number (202) 720-0803, Fax number (202) 205-2921. States served: Alaska, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Missouri, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming.

Southwest Area, Ken Chandler, Director, room 2808-South Building, STOP 1597. Telephone number (202) 720-0800, Fax number (202) 205-2921. States served: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Guam, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, North Mariana Islands, and Palau.

Dated: June 20, 1996.

Wally Beyer,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

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