Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2024

USDA Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agenda

- Introduction to the DLT Program
- Eligibility
- Completing an Application
- Available Resources
- Q&A

Introduction to the DLT Program

Introduction to the DLT Program

- Hierarchy of authority for the DLT Program
    - Statute: 7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq.
    - Regulation: 7 CFR 1734, Subparts A and B
    - Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) published February 29, 2024
    - DLT Application Guide, Fiscal Year 2024

Introduction to the DLT Program (continued)

- **Distance Learning** means an interactive, telecommunications link to an end-user through the use of eligible equipment for the following purpose:
  - Provide educational programs, instruction, or information originating in one area, whether rural or not, to students and teachers who are located in rural areas

- **Telemedicine** is an interactive, telecommunications link to an end-user through the use of eligible equipment which electronically links medical professionals at separate sites in order to exchange health care information in audio, video, graphic, or other format for the purpose of providing improved health care services primarily to residents of rural areas.
  - Benefits rural residents both in reduced travel and improved access to service

Changes for FY 2024 DLT Projects

- The scoring criteria for Special Consideration points has been updated

- Video conferencing platform licenses directly related to the funded project are now an eligible grant purpose

- For non-tribal applicants with a DLT project on or over Tribal Lands, the requirement for a Tribal Resolution requirement has been updated

Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility

- To be eligible for the DLT Program, the applicant must
  - Be one of the following entity types:
    - Incorporated organization (for-profit or not-for-profit)
    - Indian tribe or tribal organization, as defined in 25 U.S.C. 450b(b) and (c)
    - State or local unit of government
    - Consortium as defined in 7 CFR 1734.3

  - 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

- Each applicant must provide written evidence of its legal capacity to contract with RUS to obtain the grant
- Each applicant must be able to implement the project, own the assets and comply with all applicable program requirements

Applicant Eligibility - Consortia

- A **consortium** is a combination or group of entities formed to undertake the purposes for which the DLT financial assistance is being requested

  - A **formal consortium**, with the legal ability to contract with the Federal Government, can apply in the name of the formal consortium

  - An **informal consortium**, as it applies to the DLT program, is multiple entities choosing to share grant responsibilities and asset ownership
    - One entity serves as the host organization to apply on behalf of the group
    - Each individual entity must meet the eligibility criteria and contract with RUS

Additional Eligibility Requirements

- Minimum Rurality Score of **20 points** is required

- Matching contribution of **at least 15%** of the requested grant amount and must be used for eligible grant purposes

- Tribal Government Resolution or Letter of Consent
  - If a DLT project **proposes service** on or over Tribal Lands and the applicant is non-Tribal, then a **letter of consent** is required from each Tribal Council with jurisdiction over the Tribal Lands to be served.
  - However, if a DLT project **proposes infrastructure construction or deployment** on or over Tribal Lands, then a **Tribal Resolution** is required from the Tribal Government with jurisdiction over the Tribal Lands to be served.
  - Any non-Tribal applicant that fails to meet this requirement will **not be eligible for funding**
  - Review Appendix A of the DLT application guide for a sample Tribal Government Resolution

- The minimum grant amount that may be requested is **$50,000**, and the maximum grant amount that may be requested is **$1,000,000**.

Eligible Grant Purposes

- Eligible Grant Purposes
  - Acquiring and installing, by lease or purchase, eligible equipment.
    - If leased, the cost of the lease during the 3-year life of the grant is eligible.
    - All equipment for the project must be **new and non-depreciated**

  - Purchases of extended warranties, site licenses, and maintenance contracts

  - Acquiring or developing instructional programming that is a capital asset (including the purchase or lease of instructional programming already on the market)

  - Providing technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment (limited to 10% of grant)

  - Purchasing and installing broadband facilities. The facilities must be applicant owned and used for providing distance learning or telemedicine services
    - limited to 20% of the requested grant amount

Examples of Eligible Equipment

- Computer Hardware and Software

- Audio visual equipment

- Monitors and other display devices

- Telemedical devices

- Broadband facilities, **if owned by the applicant**

- Cyber security software **directly** related to the funded project

- **New**: Video conferencing platform licenses **directly** related to the funded project

- The application must demonstrate that the predominant purpose (50% or more of use) of every line-item in the grant and match budget meets the DLT Grant definition of distance learning or telemedicine.

Ineligible Grant Purposes

- Application preparation cost

- Salaries, wages, or employee benefits

- Cost of medical or educational services (subscriptions to service platforms)

- Operating or recurring expenses, including broadband connection fees

- Equipment not having telemedicine or distance learning as its essential function

- Cost incurred prior to RUS receipt of a complete application

Ineligible Grant Purposes (continued)

- Building construction, renovation or alteration

- Duplicate facilities already providing DLT services

- Projects whose sole objective is to provide a link between sites at the same facility

- Any purpose not specifically contained in 7 CFR 1734.21

- **Please refer to the FY2024 DLT Application Guide for additional information**

Completing an Application

Registration Requirements

Registration Requirements – SAM.gov

System for Award Management (SAM – www.sam.gov)

- Applicants must have an **active** registration in SAM.gov **prior** to registering in Grants.gov to submit an application. It can take 12-15 business days after submitting a SAM registration for it to be active. Plan accordingly.

- The entity name in the SAM system should be the entity's LEGAL NAME – the system has fields to enter 'doing business as' (dba) names.

- SAM registration must **remain active** with current information while RUS is considering an application or while a DLT grant award is active.

- Financial Assistance Representations and Certifications must be made. If these certifications were not made when creating or updating your SAM registration, they must be made before applying. Edit your SAM registration to include these certifications before applying.

Registration Requirements - SAM.gov (continued)

SAM.gov Registration

- Applicants will be asked "Does [Entity Name] wish to apply for a Federal financial assistance project or program, or is [Entity Name] currently the recipient of funding under any Federal financial assistance project or program?"

  - The system **default** answer to this question is "No".

  - Applicants **must make the certifications and representations required** of entities which are applying for or have received funding under any Federal financial assistance project or program in order to be eligible for the DLT Program. **To do this, applicants must change the answer to "Yes".**

  - Please see the next slide for an example of this question.

■ **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPRESENTATION AND CERTIFICATION**

The Grants Certifications are a common set of certifications and representations required by Federal statues or regulations in accordance with the grants guidance under Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR 200.208 Certifications and Representations). Those non-Federal entities who intend to apply for, or are already recipients of Federal grants or agreements, must read and agree to the corresponding certifications and representations. Registrants who reply yes to the following questions are required to keep these certifications and representations current, accurate, and complete as part of their entity registration.

Does ███████████████████████ wish to apply for a Federal financial assistance project or program, or is ████████████████ currently the recipient of funding under any Federal financial assistance project or program? **No**

Registration Requirements

SAM.gov Account

- An active Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is required to submit an application
  - o The UEI is obtained free of charge by registering in SAM.gov
  - o The UEI must be for the applicant, not an affiliate, subsidiary, or parent company
  - o The active UEI will be used to submit an application in Grants.gov

Login.gov Account

- You will need an email address to register

Grants.gov Account

- An email address, phone number, organization name, organization's active UEI and Login.gov account will be used to create a Grants.gov applicant account

- You will create a username and password and link your Grants.gov account with your Login.gov account

Components of a Complete Application

Components of an Application

A. Standard Form 424

B. Description of Project Sites

C. Executive Summary

D. Scoring Criteria Documentation

E. Matching Requirements

F. Scope of Work

G. Financial Information and Sustainability

H. Statement of Experience

I. Telecommunications System Plan

J. Compliance with other Federal Statutes

K. Evidence of Legal Authority and Existence

L. Environmental Impact and Historic Preservation

M. Consultation with USDA State Director

N. Supplemental Information

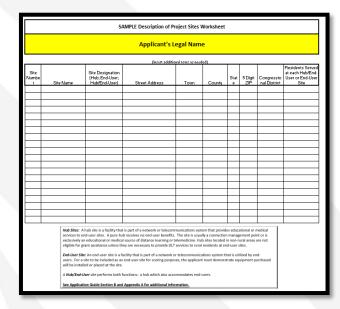**Each of these sections is detailed in the FY2024 DLT application guide**

Completing an Application – DLT Sample Worksheets

- Description of Project Sites Sample Worksheet

- Rurality Calculation Sample Worksheet

- Economic Need Calculation Sample Worksheet

- Special Consideration Calculation Sample Worksheet

- Matching Calculation Sample Worksheet

- Line-Item Budget Sample Worksheet

- All sample worksheets are available on the DLT website under the "To Apply" tab

Description of Project Sites

Description of Project Sites

- Must include:
  - A description of participating hubs, end-users, and hub/end-user sites
  - Number of Rural residents to be served by the project at each end-user and hub/end-user site
  - Location of each end-user and hub/end-user site (congressional district, city, town, village, borough, or rural area, and the state)
    - The DLT Map can help identify congressional districts

- List all locations <u>to receive grant-funded equipment or will function as a critical piece</u> of the proposed project

- Review the application guide for definitions of hub, end-user, hub/end-user, and non-fixed end-user sites

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

- Provides reviewers the first overall view of the proposed project

- Should include:
  - Why the project is needed and how the applicant will address these needs

  - Description of the applicant, including documentation of eligibility

  - Explanation of total project cost and breakdown the grant and matching contributions

  - Statement specifying if the project is distance learning OR telemedicine

  - Statement of whether the project is proposing to reduce substance use disorder in rural areas

  - Whether the project is requesting special consideration points (and under which category)

Executive Summary (continued)

- Should include:
  - An overview of the telecommunications system to be developed

  - Description of sites and number of rural residents that will be served by the project at each end-user and hub/end-user site.

  - Discuss the applicant's relationship with participating sites, and whether the application is being submitted as an informal consortium

  - A certification that the facilities to be constructed to not duplicate adequate established distance learning or telemedicine services

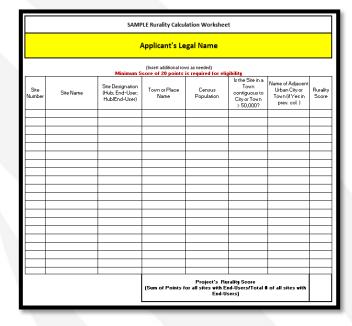 - Listing of the location of each end-user and hub-end-user site.

Executive Summary (continued)

- At the end of the Executive summary, include a "Publicly Releasable Project Description" including
  - Project Title

  - Description of proposed end-user and hub/end-user sites

  - Brief project description

  - Total estimated population affected by the project and how the applicant arrived at this number

  - Examples for distance learning and for telemedicine project are found on page 16 of the application guide

Scoring Criteria

Rurality Scoring (up to 40 points)

- Score is determined by the 2020 Decennial Census population of the community in which each End-User site is located and its proximity to urban areas
  - An End-User Site is a facility that will be used by end-users to receive services from the project. Project equipment must be placed at a site for it to be considered an end-user site for scoring purposes.

- Applicants will use both the DLT map and Census data to determine rurality

- A link to the DLT Map can be found on the DLT Website under "To Apply" at https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants

Rurality Scoring (continued)

- Rurality scores per site are 40, 30, 20, or 0 and are averaged to determine score

  Exceptionally rural area – 5,000 and under   **40 Points**

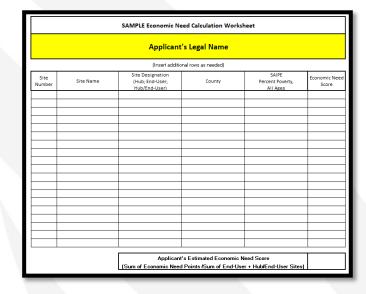 Rural area – 5,001-10,000   **30 Points**

  Mid-rural area – 10,001-20,000   **20 Points**

  Urban Area – over 20,000   **0 Points**

- **A minimum rurality score of 20 points is required for eligibility.**

- **Non-fixed end-user site projects have rurality determined by Hub locations.**

- Additional guidance on how to calculate the rurality scoring can be found in the DLT Application Guide.

Economic Need Scoring (up to 30 points available)

- Used to evaluate the relative financial need of the applicant, community, and project

- All applicants are required to provide the applicable SAIPE poverty percentage based on the counties where the hub, end-user, and hub/end-user sites are located.
  - o Use the current SAIPE county-level data spreadsheet which has been posted to the DLT website to look up SAIPE data.

  - o End-user sites located in geographic areas for which no SAIPE data exist will be determined to have an average SAIPE poverty percentage of 30 percent.
    - ▪ Such geographic areas may include territories of the United States or other locations eligible for funding through the DLT Grant Program.

SAMPLE Economic Need Calculation Worksheet

Applicant's Legal Name

(Insert additional rows as needed)

Site Number	Site Name	Site Designation (Hub; End-User; Hub/End-User)	County	SAIPE Percent Poverty, All Ages	Economic Need Score

Applicant's Estimated Economic Need Score
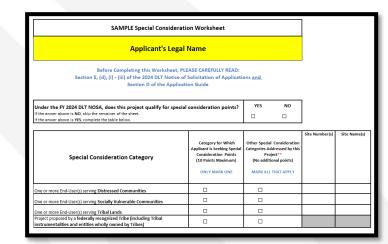(Sum of Economic Need Points /Sum of End-User + Hub/End-User Sites)

Economic Need Scoring (continued)

- The project Economic Need Score percentage will be determined by the average of the scores for all of the end-user and hub/end-user sites.

- How to determine scoring:

County poverty percentage > 30 percent	**30 points**
County poverty percentage ≥ 20 percent but < 30 percent	**20 points**
County poverty percentage ≥ 10 percent but < 20 percent	**10 points**
County poverty percentage < 10 percent	**0 points**

Special Consideration Scoring (up to 10 points available)

- Applicants can receive special consideration points from **one** of these categories:

  - **Creating More and Better Markets**

  - **Projects advancing Racial Justice, Place-Based Equity, and Opportunity**

- While applicants may meet more than one of the above criteria as part of the proposed project, the **maximum number of points a project can receive under this category is 10 points.**

Special Consideration Scoring (continued)

- **Creating More and Better Markets**
    - Projects that enable and improve distance learning and telemedicine services in Rural Areas to the most distressed tier of the Distressed Communities index are eligible for 10 points.

    - The most distressed tier of the index are those communities with a score over 80. A list of the most distressed tier of Distressed Communities can be found on the DLT website under the "To Apply" tab at: http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants.

Special Consideration Scoring (continued)

- **Projects advancing Racial Justice, Place-Based Equity, and Opportunity**
  - o Projects proposing to serve rural communities with a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) with a score of 0.75 or higher are eligible to receive 10 points. Puerto Rico, Guam, America Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Hawaiian Census Tribal areas are considered Socially Vulnerable Communities.

  - o Projects that enable and improve distance learning and telemedicine services on Tribal Lands. Tribal Lands will be identified in GIS layers included in the DLT mapping tool available at: www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants

  - o Projects proposed by a federally recognized tribe, including Tribal instrumentalities and entities that are wholly owned by Tribes are also eligible to receive 10 points

Needs and Benefits Scoring (up to 30 points available)

1. Measure the extent to which the proposed project meets the **need** for distance learning or telemedicine services in rural areas.
   - State the economic, educational, or health care challenges facing the project's respective communities
     - Provide any documentation that demonstrates the challenges.
     - Substantiate and quantify these challenges with verifiable data and statistics.

   - Address why the applicant cannot afford the project without a grant.

   - Document support for the project provided by professionals in the educational or health care fields.

   - **Any economic data used in this section should not be duplicative of the data used for the Economic Need scoring criterion.**

Needs and Benefits Scoring (continued)

2. Evaluate the **benefits** derived from the services proposed by the project
    o   Document the specific benefits of the project and quantify them in terms of expected outcomes.

    o   Tie the benefits of the project **directly** to the stated needs the project is intended to address.

    o   Provide measurable targets or goals
        ▪   Example: For a distance learning project that serves secondary schools, provide the number of schools and students that will benefit.
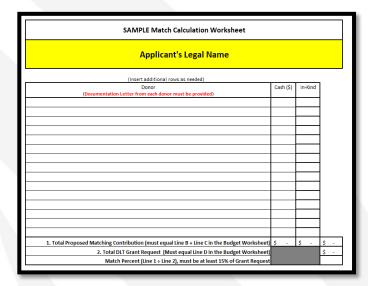
Needs and Benefits Scoring (continued)

3. Address local community involvement in planning, implementing, and financial assistance of the project.
   - Include evidence of participation in the application.
     - Examples of evidence: community meetings, public forums, and surveys.

   - Document willingness of local end-users or community-based organizations to contribute to the costs of completing, operating, or maintaining the project is a strong indication of community support.
     - Documentation of support includes letters of financial and non-financial commitment towards the project from local organizations.

Matching Requirements

Matching Requirements

- Matching Contribution must be 15% of the requested grant amount, and the specific matching amount must be included in the budget.

- Cash or in-kind
  - Only new, non-depreciated equipment with an established value may be considered an in-kind match
  - Vendor discounts or supplied equipment is not an eligible match
  - Future revenue is not an eligible match

- Must be for a purpose that would otherwise be eligible for grant funding and must be integral to the project as outlined in 7 CFR 1734.21

- Applications from **American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands** are exempt from matching requirements for the FY 2023 DLT Grant Program.

- If any part of an in-kind line item is for ineligible purposes, the line item cannot be budgeted for match.

SAMPLE Match Calculation Worksheet

Applicant's Legal Name

Matching Requirements (continued)

- Federal funds are not eligible as matching funds, unless specifically authorized otherwise by Federal statute.
  - The application must include documentation of the statutory exception with the application for the federal matching funds to be considered.

- If the project is located in eligible counties under Counties in Appalachia, Appalachian Regional Commission ("ARC") funds may be used as a matching contribution.

- To document a match using non-Federal grant funds as matching funds, include a copy of the announcement letter from the grantor. The letter must be explicit about the purpose of the grant and not have limitations or exclusions, and funds must be available at the time of application submission.

Scope of Work

Scope of Work

- Scope of Work is provided through a narrative explaining how the goals of the project will be completed.

- If a scope of work is not included, the application will be deemed ineligible.

- At a minimum, should include:
  - Specific activities to be performed under the project
  - Who will carry out these activities
  - Timeframes for accomplishing project objectives/activities
  - A line-item budget for capital expenditures
    - Additional guidance on how to complete the budget can be found in the application guide

Financial Information and Sustainability

Financial Information and Sustainability

- The narrative demonstrating project feasibility should:

  o Discuss how the project will be sustained following completion

  o Demonstrate sufficient resources and expertise to undertake and complete the project

  o Describe how funds and institutional financial support will sustain the project and maintain continuity of service

  o Include all assumptions

  o Describe the project's expenses in the project budget

  o Contain evidence of cost-sharing arrangements among hub and end-user sites (as applicable)

  o Identify any other items that may affect feasibility or sustainability of the project

Statement of Experience

Statement of Experience

- The narrative should:

  o Be no longer than three single-spaced pages

  o Describe the organization's capability and experience operating an educational or health care endeavor or project similar to the proposed project

- Experience working on similar projects is desirable, but not required

- If the applicant does not have experience with projects similar to the proposed project, discuss how the applicant will overcome a lack of experience

Telecommunications System Plan

Telecommunications System Plan

- Review the DLT regulation, 7 CFR 1734.25(h) for details on the components of the Telecommunications System Plan (TSP)

- The plan should include
  - System Plan Narrative
  - System Plan Map or Diagram

- Failure to provide a thorough TSP may result in the application being rejected.

Telecommunications System Plan

System Plan Narrative

- Describe the overall DLT network and use of the proposed equipment

- Detail each item in the Scope of Work budget by line number

- Provide justification of equipment based on discussions with technical experts

- Discuss possible duplication of other DLT efforts and how the project avoids duplication

  o See schedule J-4 to complete the Non-Duplication of Services Certificate

- Discuss applicant's involvement in any previous or current DLT grants/applications

System Plan Map/Diagram

- Include a map or drawing as a spatial representation of the service area of the project

- Display an overlay of the proposed distance learning or telemedicine system

- Each site, hub, end-user, and hub/end-user sites must be represented on the map

Compliance with other Federal Statutes

Compliance with Other Federal Statutes

- Applicants will attest to four certifications by executing and including the FY2024 DLT checklist as part of the completed application
  - o Certificate Regarding Flood Hazard Area Precautions
  - o Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970
  - o Certificate Regarding Architectural Barriers
  - o Non-Duplication of Services Certificate

- The checklist can be found on the DLT website under the "To Apply" tab

- Informal Consortium applications: each entity must provide a set of the certifications – these can be found in Appendix A

J	Compliance with Other Federal Statutes and Regulations		
	1. Certificate Regarding Flood Hazard Area Precautions **(check appropriate box below)**		J-1
	The Project is **not** located in a 100-yr Flood Plain. No flood insurance is required.	☐	
	The Project is located in a 100-yr Flood Plain. **See attached statement** regarding who is or will be providing the flood insurance.	☐	
	2. Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 Certification	☐	J-2
	3. Certificate Regarding Architectural Barriers	☐	J-3
	4. Non-Duplication of Services Certificate	☐	J-4

By signing this certification, you are agreeing to the language in schedules J-1, J-2, J-3, and J-4, as shown in the application guide. If a box checked in Section J-1 above requires an attachment, the attachment is provided with this application. If you have any questions about your application, please contact RUS prior to submitting this application and certification.

_____

Signature   Date

_____

Print Name and Title

55

Evidence of Legal Existence and
Authority to Contract with the Federal Government

Evidence of Legal Existence and Authority to Contract with the Federal Government

- Legal Existence
  - Applicants must provide acceptable evidence of legal existence
  - Corporations or LLCs must provide evidence of good standing in accordance with laws of the state or other body under which they are organized
  - Entities that exist under law (such as school districts, hospital districts, and state universities) should provide a copy of the statute, resolution or other documentation to confirm the legal name of the entity

- SAM Registration
  - Provide a copy of the organization's SAM registration demonstrating that the Financial Assistance Representations and Certifications have been made and that shows registration was active **before** the application was submitted.

- Entity name, UEI, and SAM registration must be that of the **applicant**

Environmental Impact and Historic Preservation

Environmental Impact and Historic Preservation

- Applicants must provide details of the proposed project's impact on the environment and historic properties

- Include as part of the application a section titled "Environmental Impact of the Project"

- Environmental Questionnaire must be completed for any external facilities that will be constructed with DLT funds.

- If a project is **not** proposing broadband facilities, an Environmental Impact Survey must be completed.
  - Consists of a project description and statement of why the project will not impact the environment

Consultation with USDA State Director

Consultation with USDA State Director

- The applicant must consult with the USDA State Director(s) for Rural Development and provide evidence of the consultation as part of the application.
  - o Discuss the availability of other sources of funding at the state or local level

- To assist the State Director(s) in making an informed determination, the applicant should provide:
  - o An executive summary of the project
  - o The proposed grant and match amounts

- Contact the State Director(s) **as early as possible** in the application process**.**

- A listing of State offices can be found at https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices

Application Submission

Available Resources to Assist in Completing an Application

- DLT Application Guide

- DLT Application Checklist

- Sample DLT Worksheets

- Sample Tribal Government Resolution of Consent

- All items can be found on the DLT website under the "To Apply" tab

Application Checklist

FY2024 DLT- Application Checklist

Section	Description	Complete	Schedule
A	Completed Standard Form 424	☐	
B	Site Worksheet	☐	
C	Executive Summary of the Project, including Publicly Releasable Project Description	☐	
D	Scoring Criteria Documentation		
	D-1 Rurality	☐	
	D-2 Economic Need	☐	
	D-3 Special Consideration	☐	
	D-4 Need for Services and Benefits	☐	
E	Matching Requirements	☐	
F	Scope of Work		
	1 - Specific Activities to be performed	☐	
	2 - Who will carry out activities	☐	
	3 - Timeframes for accomplishing objectives	☐	
	4 - Budget for all capital expenditures	☐	
G	Financial Information and Sustainability	☐	
H	Statement of Experience	☐	
I	Telecommunications Systems Plan		
	1 - Capabilities & Description of Telecommunications Equipment	☐	
	2 - Complete Listing of all Telecommunications Equipment.	☐	
	3 - Description of the consultations with telecommunications carriers.	☐	
	4 - A diagram or map of the proposed system overlaid with a geographic map of the service area	☐	
	5- Sites (hub, hub/end-users, or end-users that will participate in the project and where equipment is located). Note: Any non-tribal applicant with end-user sites on Tribal Lands must include Tribal Consent (see Application Guide for additional details)	☐	

Section	Description	Complete	Schedule
J	Compliance with Other Federal Statutes and Regulations		
	1. Certificate Regarding Flood Hazard Area Precautions **(check appropriate box below)**		J-1
	The Project is **not** located in a 100-yr Flood Plain. No flood insurance is required.	☐	
	The Project is located in a 100-yr Flood Plain. **See attached statement** regarding who is or will be providing the flood insurance.	☐	
	2. Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 Certification	☐	J-2
	3. Certificate Regarding Architectural Barriers	☐	J-3
	4. Non-Duplication of Services Certificate	☐	J-4
K	Evidence of Legal Existence and Authority to Contract with the Federal Government		
	1. Evidence of Legal Existence	☐	
	2. SAM.gov registration with Financial Assistance General Certifications & Representations	☐	
L	Environmental Impact and Historic Preservation (indicate which document was provided)		
	Environmental Impact Survey - required for all projects except, those including broadband facilities	☐	
	Environmental Questionnaire - required for all projects that include broadband facilities	☐	
M	Consultation with State Director for each state where there will be end-users	☐	

By signing this certification, you are agreeing to the language in schedules J-1, J-2, J-3, and J-4, as shown in the application guide. If a box checked in Section J-1 above requires an attachment, the attachment is provided with this application. If you have any questions about your application, please contact RUS prior to submitting this application and certification.

_____   _____
Signature   Date

_____
Print Name and Title

Application Submission

Application Submission Deadline – April 29, 2024

- Electronic submission via https://www.Grants.gov

- **Submission cutoff is 11:59 PM ET**

- SAM.gov registration with financial assistance representations and certifications must be completed **before application submission.**
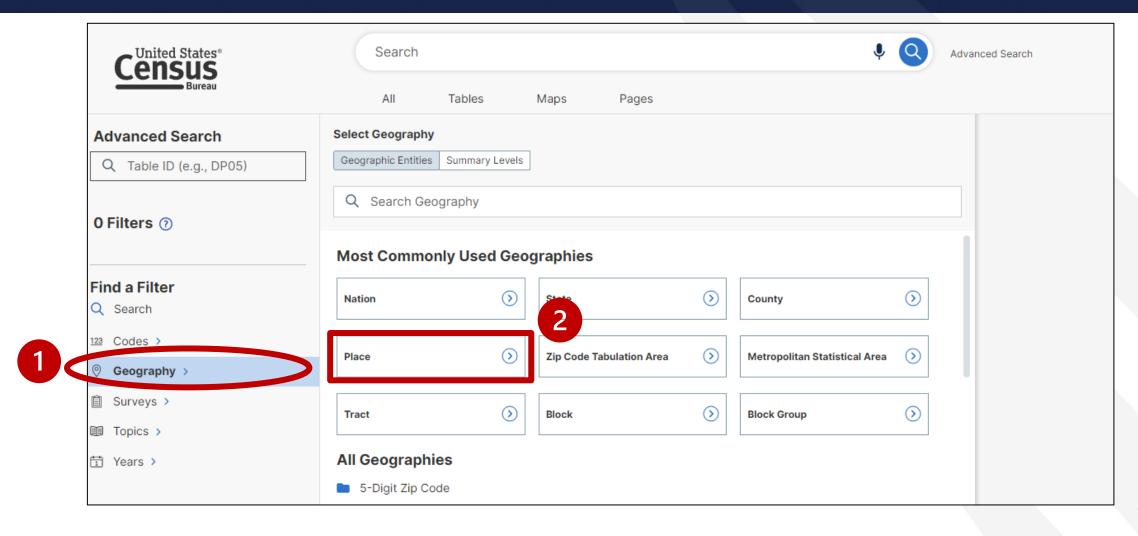
Available Resources

Helpful Links

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

- General Field Representatives (GFRs)
  - Find your GFR: https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/telecom-gfr

- Contact Us: https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/contact-us
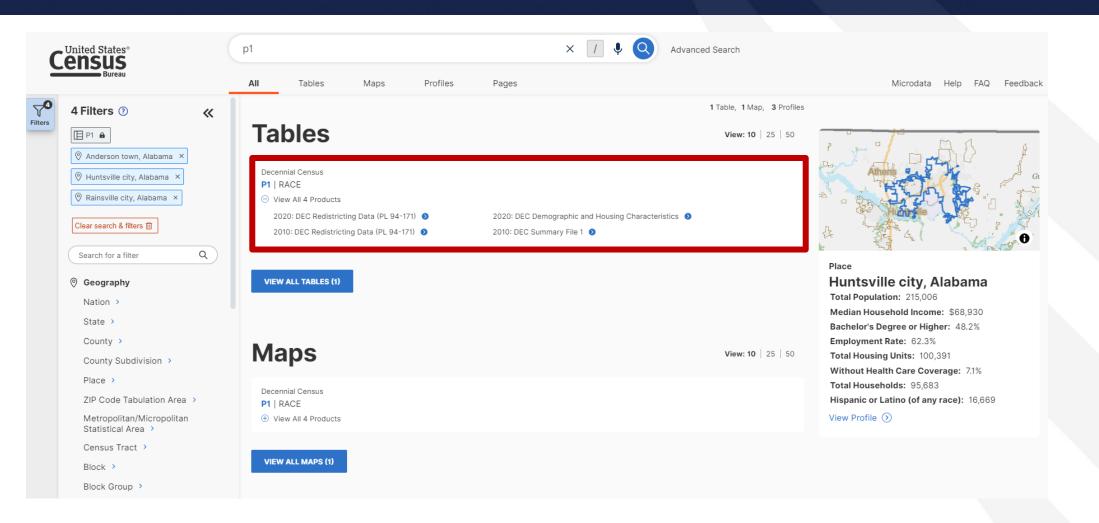 - Submit technical questions and request assistance from RUS

Q&A
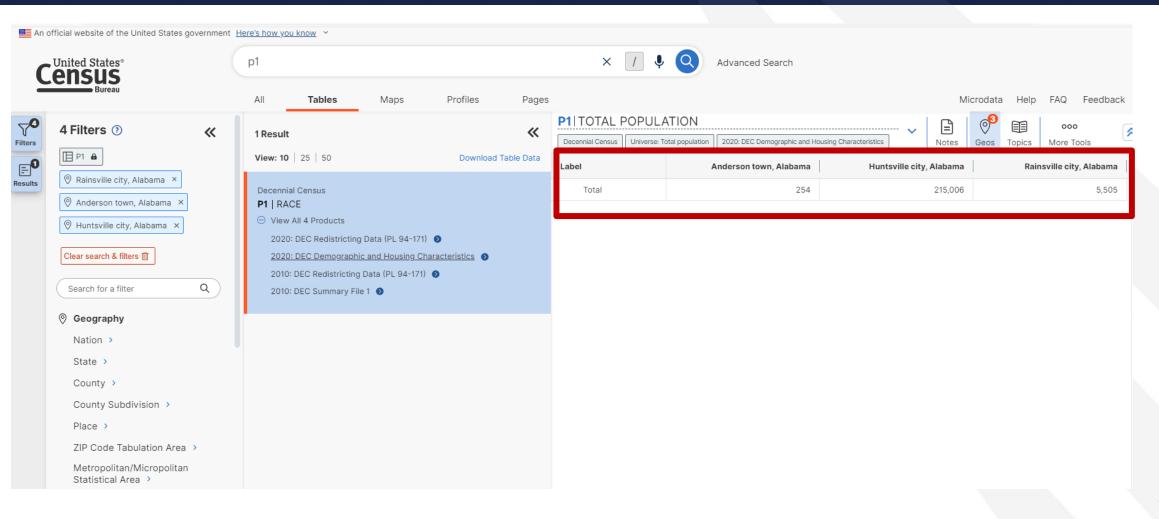
Appendix

Navigating the Census Website

https://data.census.gov

Navigating the Census Website (continued)

Navigating the Census Website (continued)

Navigating the Census Website (continued)

Navigating the Census Website (continued)
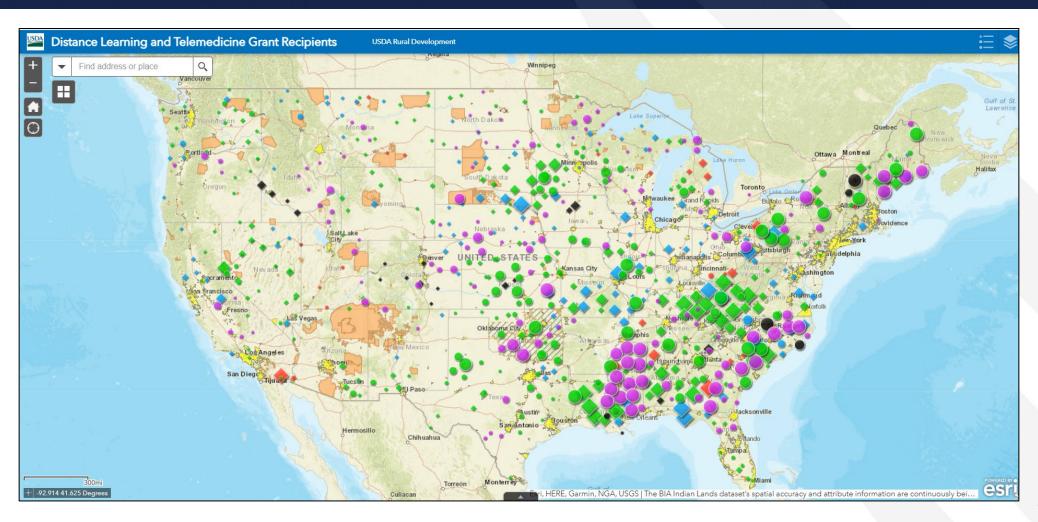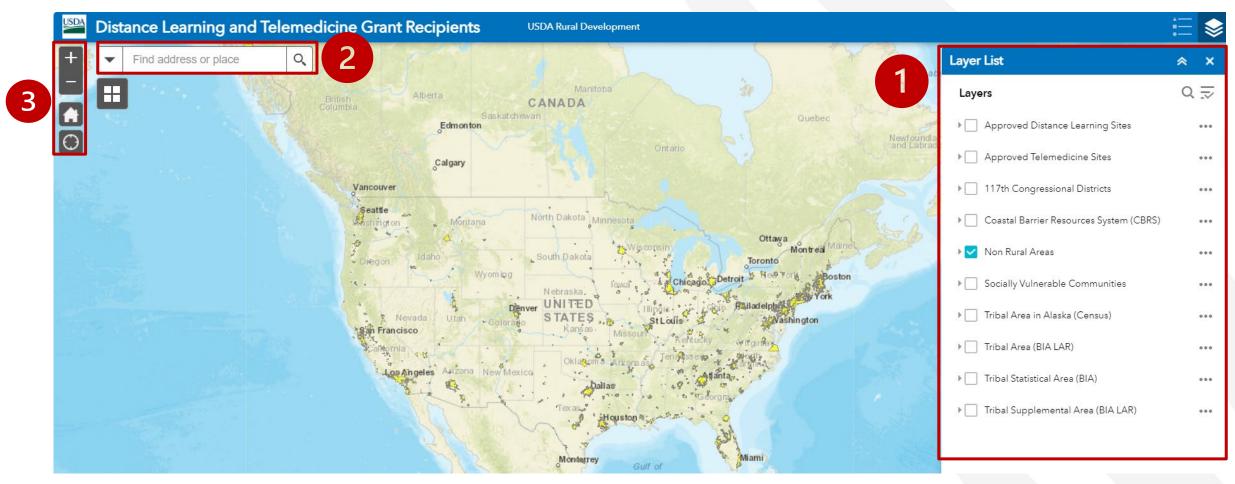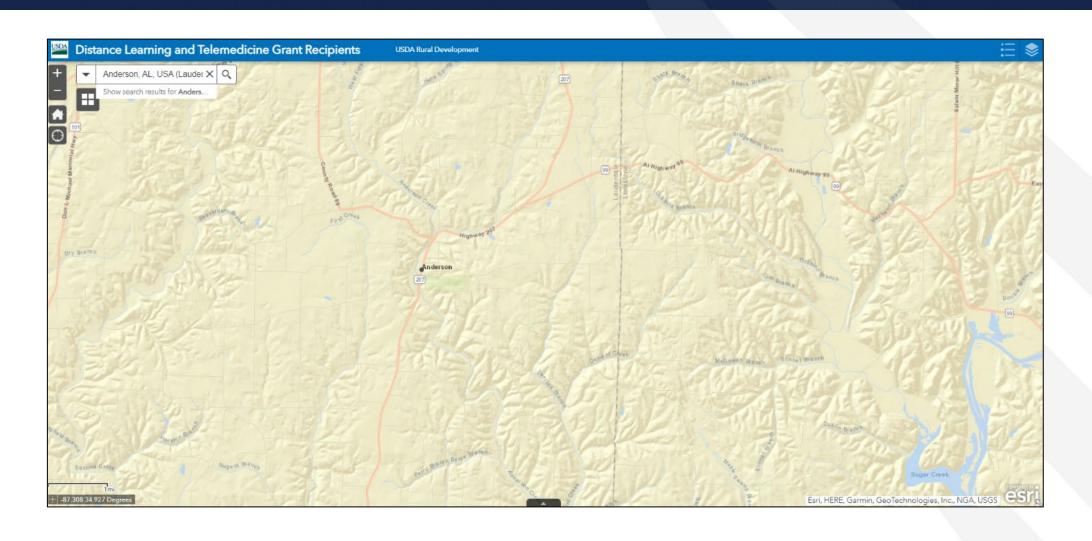
Navigating the Census Website (continued)

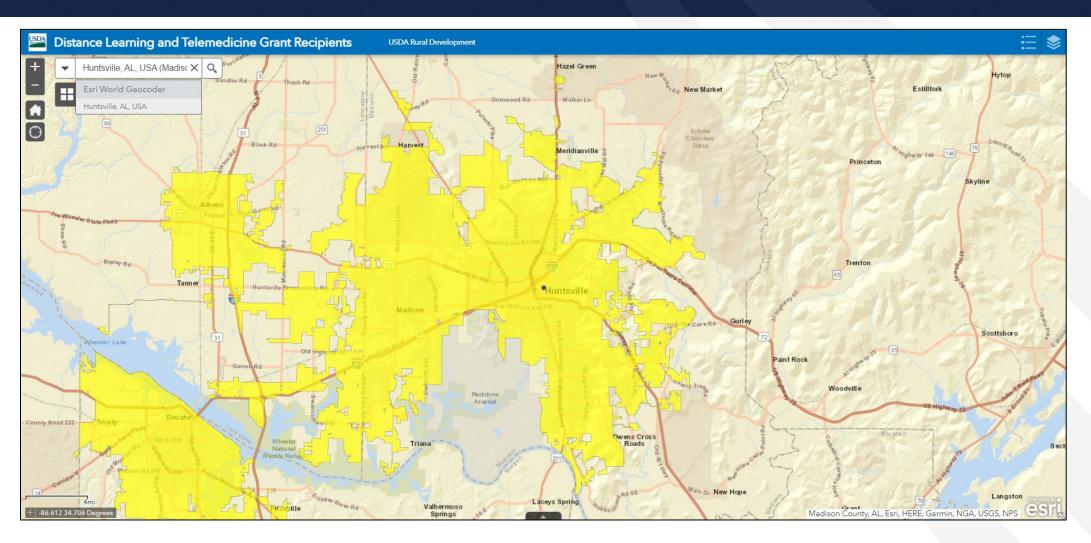# Finding the proximity of urban areas using the DLT Map

Finding the proximity of urban areas using the DLT Map (continued)

Finding the proximity of urban areas using the DLT Map (continued)

Finding the proximity of urban areas using the DLT Map (continued)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.