



## **DLT Awards – Georgia**

### ***2012 Grant Awards***

#### **Clinical Services, Inc. - Ethica Health & Retirement Communities**

\$167,721

Georgia

Areas Served: Taylor, Jones, Evans, Glascock, Treutlen, and Warren Counties

Contact: Lucy Rogers

Telephone: (478) 621-2100

Congressional District: Bishop, 2nd Dist.; Scott, 8th Dist.; and Barrow, 12th Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used purchase telemedicine equipment by Clinical Services which will distribute five individual systems to associate skilled nursing facilities. Once integrate into their care delivery system, the new technology will better coordinate the job of caring for rural patients with multiple chronic conditions. Cost savings and time savings will benefit both provider and patient when computerized coordination is put in place to achieve better hand-offs and transitions, fewer medication errors, and the elimination of needless transportation. Georgia is a Strike Force 1 state.

### ***2011 Grant Awards***

#### **Georgia Partnership for Telehealth, Inc.**

\$342,378

Georgia

Areas Served: Cook, Decatur, Elbert, Fannin, Floyd, Franklin, Fulton, Gordon, Monroe, Morgan, and Tattnall Counties

Contact: Paula Guy

Telephone: (912) 285-0902

Congressional District: Kingston, 1st Dist.; Bishop, Jr., 2nd Dist.; Lewis, 5th Dist.; Scott, 8th Dist.; Graves, 9th Dist.; Broun, 10th Dist.; Gingrey, 11th Dist.; and Barrow, 12th Dist.

Like many rural areas, Georgia has a critical shortage of health professionals in rural counties. Strokes exact a disproportionate health and economic toll in Georgia in the form of increased death rates, higher rates of hospitalization and rising health care costs. Also, trauma injuries are the leading cause of death for individuals under age 45 in the U.S. With funding assistance from USDA Rural Development, the Georgia Partnership will expand the availability of care in these two specialty areas by installing video conferencing units, computers and peripheral clinical diagnostic devices at nine rural hospitals and linking them to hub sites at Floyd Medical Center in Rome, and another at Grady Health Center in Atlanta. Professional staff in trauma and stroke will extend their services and



expertise for clinical consultations to the nine rural hospitals, also providing distance mentoring and learning opportunities for the rural hospital emergency department staff and EMS personnel on clinical best practices for stroke and trauma patient stabilization and transport. Georgia Partnership will match grant funds with \$171,190 of local funding.

### **Wiregrass Georgia Technical College**

\$497,306

Georgia

Areas Served: Atkinson, Brooks, Cook, Echols, Lanier, Lowndes, and Wilcox Counties

Contact: Dr. Bonnie Davis Kelly

Telephone: (229) 468-2091

Congressional District: Kingston, 1st Dist.; Bishop, Jr., 2nd Dist.; and Scott, 8th Dist.

Wiregrass is the largest technical college in South Georgia, with an eleven-county service area. Valdosta State University, within a coinciding service area, is part of the Georgia regional university system. Both institutions will serve as hubs in this educational video network, which – with funding assistance from USDA Rural Development - will connect with ten video end points, located in six high schools, three adult education centers and a workforce development center. This arrangement will allow more students-including those in participating high schools or attending the adult education center-to pursue technical, two-year, and/or four-year diplomas or degrees. Valdosta offers classes on a pre-engineering track. Wiregrass has over one hundred certificate, diploma and degree options. Students in the area high schools may take pre-approved joint credit courses toward any number of these. The equipment is a mixture of fixed video conferencing units and upgraded bridging equipment (at the hubs) and mobile media carts for the end user sites. Wiregrass will match grant funds with \$160,000 of local funding.

### ***2009 Grant Awards***

#### **Georgia Partnership for Telehealth, Inc.**

\$436,218

Georgia

Areas Served: Richmond, Bibb, Chatham, DeKalb, Emanuel, Jefferson, Burke, McDuffie, Crisp, Houston, Upson, Bacon, Toombs, Effingham, and Wilkes

Contact: Paula Guy

Telephone: (912) 285-0902

Congressional District: Kingston, 1st Dist.; Bishop, 2nd Dist.; Westmoreland, 3rd Dist.; Johnston 4th Dist.; Marshall, 8th Dist.; Broun, 10th Dist.; Barrow, 12th Dist.



This project will fund video conferencing, tele-medical and other support technology to establish a rural tele-trauma network of 4 trauma centers and 14 rural hospitals in 15 counties throughout Georgia.

**Moultrie Technical College**

\$190,612

Georgia

Areas Served: Colquitt, Turner, and Worth Counties

Contact: Dr. Tina Anderson

Telephone: (229) 217-4136

Congressional District: Bishop, 2nd Dist. and Marshall, 8th Dist.

This project will fund videoconference equipment for a distance learning system that will link two campus sites to three high schools and four other technical college campuses so that students in this rural 3-county area can earn certificates, degrees and diplomas.

**Englewood Health System, Inc.**

\$294,968

Georgia

Areas Served: Early, Terrell, Randolph, Baker, Calhoun, and Clay Counties

Contact: Joyce Barlow

Telephone: (229) 435-2109

Congressional District: Bishop, 2nd Dist.

This project will fund monitoring equipment for sixty home care patients, laptops for the home care clinicians, and other support computers for Englewood's Point of Care Program serving residents in this six-county area of rural Southwest Georgia.

**North Georgia Technical College**

\$80,500

Georgia

Areas Served: Union, Habersham, and Stephen Counties

Contact: Mark Ivester

Telephone: (706) 754-7703

Congressional District: Deal, 9th Dist. and Broun, 10th Dist.

This project will fund video conferencing equipment which will link three campuses to share course in their medical technologies curriculum, improving the college's academic efficiency and ensuring a qualified and well-trained cadre of health professionals in Northeast Georgia.



## **2008 Grant Awards**

### **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Inc.**

\$231,621

Georgia

Areas Served: Coffee, Newton, Union, Stevens, Towns, and Emanuel, 12<sup>th</sup>

Contact: Ms. Lesley Gentry

Telephone: (404) 785-7500

Congressional District: Kingston, 1st Dist.; Linder, 7th Dist.; Marshall, 8th Dist.; Deal, 9th Dist.; Broun, 10th Dist.; and Barrow, 12th Dist.

The Rural Development grant funds will support the child Protection Telemedicine Network that will connect rural county Child Advocacy Centers from across the state with the Children's Child Protection Center in Atlanta. The videoconferencing system is designed to capture several modalities of diagnostic information and transmit information in real time to health care providers on the network.

### **Darton College**

\$74,070

Georgia

Areas Served: Washington County

Contact: Dr. Teresa Teasley

Telephone: (229) 317-6505

Congressional District: Barrow, 12th Dist.

Rural Development grant funds will be used by Darton College to establish videoconferencing with Sandersville Technical College. The project will include a new videoconferencing classroom which will provide educational services to rural students in the Sandersville area. This system will allow interaction between the hub and end-user site and the technology will give students a classroom style college environment in a location close to home.

### **Darton College**

\$66,635

Georgia

Areas Served: Quitman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist.

Contact: Mrs. Traci W. Akins

Telephone: (229) 317-6514

Congressional District: Bishop, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Rural Development funding will be used by Darton College to establish a distance learning project that is designed to train EMS students in Quitman County. Through interactive videoconferencing Darton College will provide EMS courses to current citizens of Quitman County. Courses will be provided by state-certified EMS instructors from the hub site at Albany, Georgia.



### **Georgia Partnership for Telehealth, Inc.**

\$496,355

Georgia

Areas Served: Coffee, Baker, Clay, Lee, Brooks, Early, Randolph, Wilkinson, Franklin, Chattooga, and Jefferson

Contact: Paula B. Guy

Telephone: (912) 285-0902

Congressional District: Kingston, 1st Dist.; Bishop Jr., 2nd Dist.; Marshall, 8th Dist.; Broun, 10th Dist.; Gingrey, 11th Dist.; and Barrow, 12th Dist.

Rural Development grant funds will be used by Georgia Partnership for Telehealth in the Georgia Telemedicine Program to provide expanded capabilities to patients in rural Georgia which will include tele-ICU, tele-trauma, mental health, non-urgent telemedicine clinics, and specialty care clinical capabilities. The project will include three hub sites and twenty additional health care facilities in rural Georgia.

### ***2007 Grant Awards***

#### **Darton College**

\$90,185

Georgia

Areas Served: Berrien, Crisp, Dougherty, and Miller Counties

Contact: Tarrah Nicole Mirus

Telephone: (229) 317-6759

Congressional District: Kingston, 1st Dist. and Bishop, Jr., 2nd Dist.

Rural Development funding will enable the installation of new video conferencing equipment to expand enrollment, upgrade equipment, achieve two-way interaction, and initiate a partnership with Berrien Charter School, as well as the other end-user sites. Darton College will be equipped to provide highly compatible instructional feeds to the end user sites to avoid classroom interruptions and offer students the most realistic classroom experience possible.

### ***2006 Grant Awards***

#### **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Georgia**

\$489,085

Georgia

Areas Served: Bacon, Ben-Hill, Bleckley, Brooks, Candler, Calhoun, Chatham, Charlton, Coffee, Colquitt, Clinch, Crisp, Decatur, DeKalb, Early, Franklin, Fulton, Grady, Irwin, Jasper, Jefferson, Jeff Davis, Miller, Mitchell, Monroe, Pulaski,



Rabun, Richmond, Quitman, Screven, Stewart, Talbot, Tattnail, Telfair, Tift, Thomas, Towns, Union, Washington, Wayne, and Wilkes Counties

Contact: Paula B. Guy

Telephone: (912) 550-9025

Congressional District: Kingston, 1st Dist.; Bishop, Jr., 2nd Dist.; Marshall, 3rd Dist.; McKinney, 4th Dist.; Lewis, 5th Dist.; Westmoreland, 8th Dist.; Norwood, 9th Dist.; Barrow, 12th Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to increase their existing telehealth network by expanding clinical telemedicine sites, services, clinical capabilities and utilization levels to rural residents of Georgia. The planned expansion will operate over a T-1 dedicated network, Second Opinion software for diagnosis and medical records, medical carts, radiology systems, and other specialty care equipment designed to deliver high quality specialty care.

### ***2005 Grant Awards***

#### **East Central Technical College Foundation**

\$498,252

Georgia

Areas Served: Atkinson, Ben Hill, Irwin, and Wilcox Counties

Contact: Roy Warren

Telephone: 229-468-2060

Congressional District: Kingston, 1st Dist. and Marshall, 3rd Dist.

The main campuses of East Central Technical College, in Fitzgerald and Douglas, will link with end-user sites in Pearson, Ocilla, and Rochelle to provide distance learning those communities and surrounding areas. The project will use an interactive IP-Based distance learning system to serve over 15,000 students and residents of Ben Hill, Coffee, and Atkinson counties.

### ***2004 Grant Awards***

#### **Northeast Health Systems, Inc.**

\$176,774

Georgia

Areas Served: Madison, Oglethorpe, Elbert, Franklin, Hart, Hall, Barrow, Rabun, and Wilkes Counties

Contact: Dr. Jackie R. Griffin

Telephone: (706) 788-3234

Congressional District: Norwood, 9th Dist.; Deal, 10th Dist.; and Barrow, 12th Dist.



Northeast Health Systems will connect ten sites using available transmission lines and equipment. RUS funds will link the hub site with local medical communities to create an improved health care delivery system. 345,000 rural residents will gain the benefits of improved care through telemedicine, patient education and support, physician recruitment and retention, enhanced opportunities for staff training and effective quality assurance measures.

## ***2003 Grant Awards***

### **Darton College**

\$62,000

Georgia

Areas Served: Crisp and Miller Counties

Contact: Kathryn Bishop

Telephone: (229) 430-6838

Congressional District: Bishop, Jr., 2nd Dist.

Darton College will utilize RUS grants funds in a distance learning system to provide broadband connectivity to two rural southwest Georgia communities. Real-time distance learning will be offered to 150 students initially as well as to provide nursing courses to rural hospitals. Approximately 28,000 residents and students will benefit from enhanced educational opportunities in the communities served.

### **Southwest Georgia Regional Services Agency; Pelham, GA**

\$499,515

Areas Served: Cities of Pelham, Thomasville, Cairo, Camilla, Moultrie, and Sylvester

Contact: Carl L. Rowland

Telephone: (239) 574-8243; Fax: (239) 574-8240

Congressional District: Bishop, Jr., 2nd Dist.

Southwest Georgia Regional Services Agency will utilize RUS grant funds to provide interactive distance learning opportunities in seven local school districts to over 30,000 students. Benefits upon implementation will include a greater percentage of students receiving vocational training, cost and time savings for teacher re-certification, higher percentage of teachers receiving continuing education, a decrease in high school drop out rates, and an increase in number of students advancing to college.

## ***2002 Grant Awards***



### **South Georgia Government Services Authority; Camilla, Georgia**

\$499,100 Grant

Areas Served: Towns of Cairo, Camilla, Moultrie and Thomasville

Contact: Carl Rowland

Telephone: (229) 226-8411

Congressional Districts: Bishop, Jr., 2nd Dist.

The South Georgia Governmental Services Authority, a collaborative effort by the municipalities of Cairo, Camilla, Moultrie and Thomasville, will use RUS grant funds to establish an interactive comprehensive distance learning facilities project and acquisition of a mobile interactive distance learning facility. The goal of the project is to improve the economic condition as well as the social well being of the 50,000 regional residents at 57 end-user sites in 4 rural communities in Southwest Georgia. The network will provide interactive video, high speed Internet, data exchanges and permit the sharing of resources among all network users. Education opportunities are planned that include courses such as teacher re-certification, vocational training, language arts and InTech training. Health care activities such as nurses training, telemedicine, hospital-to-school programs and data transfer are also intended project benefits.

### ***2000 Awards***

#### **South Georgia Business and Development Authority**

\$350,000

Georgia

Areas Served: Colquitt, Grady, Mitchell, and Thomas Counties

Contact: Lynn Gwaltney,

Telephone: (912) 227-7069

Congressional District: Bishop, Jr., 2nd Dist

This is a project that is intended to focus on education as the predominant application area and medical purposes as the secondary application area. The project proposes that the introduction of networking technology and the collaboration of project partners in a four-county, rural area will reduce existing disparities and enhance quality of life. It is the goal of the project to connect through network technology school systems and hospitals within the region. The project will produce appropriately educated, better-employed, healthy and progressive residents of the region.

#### **Liberty County Board of Health**

\$301,245

Georgia

Areas Served: Camden, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, and Bryan Counties

Contact: Dr. B. Brooks Taylor

Telephone: (912) 264-3907





Congressional District: Kingston, 1st Dist.

The purpose of this project is to provide a distance learning network in rural, coastal Georgia. It will bring video teleconferencing connectivity to six counties. Community-accessible sites will successfully position a network location within minutes of nearly all coastal Georgia residents. It will also address the need of local rural health care facilities to operate more efficiently. The distance learning equipment will facilitate point-to-point and multi-point conferencing, thereby eliminating travel time for the public health staff. Target markets include health care consumers; business and industry; health care providers; social service agencies; health care facilities; and emergency medical services.

### ***1998 Award***

#### **Atlanta-Fulton County Zoo, Inc.**

\$304,409

Georgia

Areas Served: Charlton County

Contact: Suzanne Safran

Telephone: (404) 624-5948

Congressional District: Applicant: 5th, Project: 5th and 8th Atlanta-Fulton County Zoo, Inc. is the legal name for a non-profit learning institution. Grant funds from RUS will be used to purchase and install the necessary equipment in order for the Charlton County Schools to participate in the "Virtual Explorers" program. This program is a joint creation by Zoo Atlanta and Charlton County Schools, is designed to challenge students and teachers to integrate the use of multiple technologies through a multi-week animal behavior project. It will also allow the students to access information from anywhere in the world via the Internet. The projects partners include Zoo Atlanta, Charlton County School System, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and the Georgia Department of Administrative Services or DOAS. There are 250 students in the Charlton County Schools who will benefit from the project.