

# FY16 Promise Zone Benefits from Partnering Agencies

**Agency:** Department of Agriculture  
Rural Utilities Service

**Programs with PZ Benefits:**

Distance Learning and Telemedicine  
(DLT) Grant Program

## Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program

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

**Benefit Type:** Grants

**Eligible Communities:** Rural, Tribal

**Eligible Applicants:** Eligible entities include state and local government entities, federally-recognized tribes, non-profits, for-profit businesses and consortia's of eligible businesses. To meet the minimum rurality requirements, applicants must propose end-user sites that accrue a total average score of at least twenty (20) points. Applicants should check with a [General Field Representative \(GFR\)](#) to determine whether the proposed service area qualifies.

**Funding Amount:** Awards can range from \$50,000 to \$500,000. Applicants are required to provide a minimum 15 percent match.

**Benefits to Promise Zone:** RUS will offer special consideration to applications that contain at least one end-user site within a "Promise Zone" area. Such applications will be awarded 15 points. The application must include a map that shows the end-user site(s) located in the "Promise Zone" area and cites the geographical coordinates and physical address(es) of the end-user site(s). Current "Promise Zones" include the South Carolina Low Country, Choctaw Nation, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and the Kentucky Highlands.

**Program Description:** DLT grants are designed to provide access to education, training, and health care resources for rural Americans. The DLT Program is authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa and provides financial assistance to encourage and improve telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies that students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents can use. The regulation for the DLT Program can be found at 7 CFR part 1703 (Subparts D through E). The grants, which are awarded through a competitive process, may be used to fund telecommunications- enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies which extend educational and medical applications into rural areas. Grants are intended to benefit end-users in rural areas, who are often not in the same location as the source of the educational or health care service.

FY16 Federal Register Announcement: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-01-12/pdf/2016-00405.pdf>

For further information regarding the grant application process, please refer to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) to monitor when the Request for Applications is announced or subscribe to the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program listserv via GovDelivery at [www.govdelivery.com](http://www.govdelivery.com).