



United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development



USDA Rural Development and Telemedicine *Case Studies from Iowa*

USDA and Rural Iowa

- Almost \$5 billion invested since 2009 in housing, water/sewer, community facilities, electric, broadband and small business
- Almost \$500 million of that total in rural health care
- Focus primarily is on communities under 20,000 in population



Key USDA Programs for Health Care/Telemedicine

Community Facilities Loan/Grant (CF)

Rural Economic Development Loan/Grant
(REDLG)

Distance Learning-Telemedicine (DLT)



Community Facilities (CF)

- More than \$2 billion in direct loans available
- 40-year loan term; record low interest rates
- Very limited grant funding
- Rural areas and towns of up to 20,000
- Applicant must be non-profit, government or tribe

Rural Economic Development Loan/Grant (REDLG)

- Pass-through loan from rural electric, rural telephone or municipal utility
- 0% term for 10 years
- 20% contribution from utility partner
- \$1 million max for loan; \$300,000 max for grant (grant is to the utility)
- Available to communities 50,000 and under

Distance Learning- Telemedicine (DLT)

- Designed to assist rural communities in acquiring distance learning and telemedicine technologies
- Allow rural teachers and medical service providers to establish interactive video conferencing links
- Connect rural places to teachers, medical professionals, and other needed expertise located at distances too far to access otherwise

DLT Funds Usage

- Acquisition of eligible capital assets
- Acquisition of instructional programming that is a capital asset
- Acquisition of technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment
- Awards Range from \$50K to \$500K with a 10% match required



Success Stories

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinic

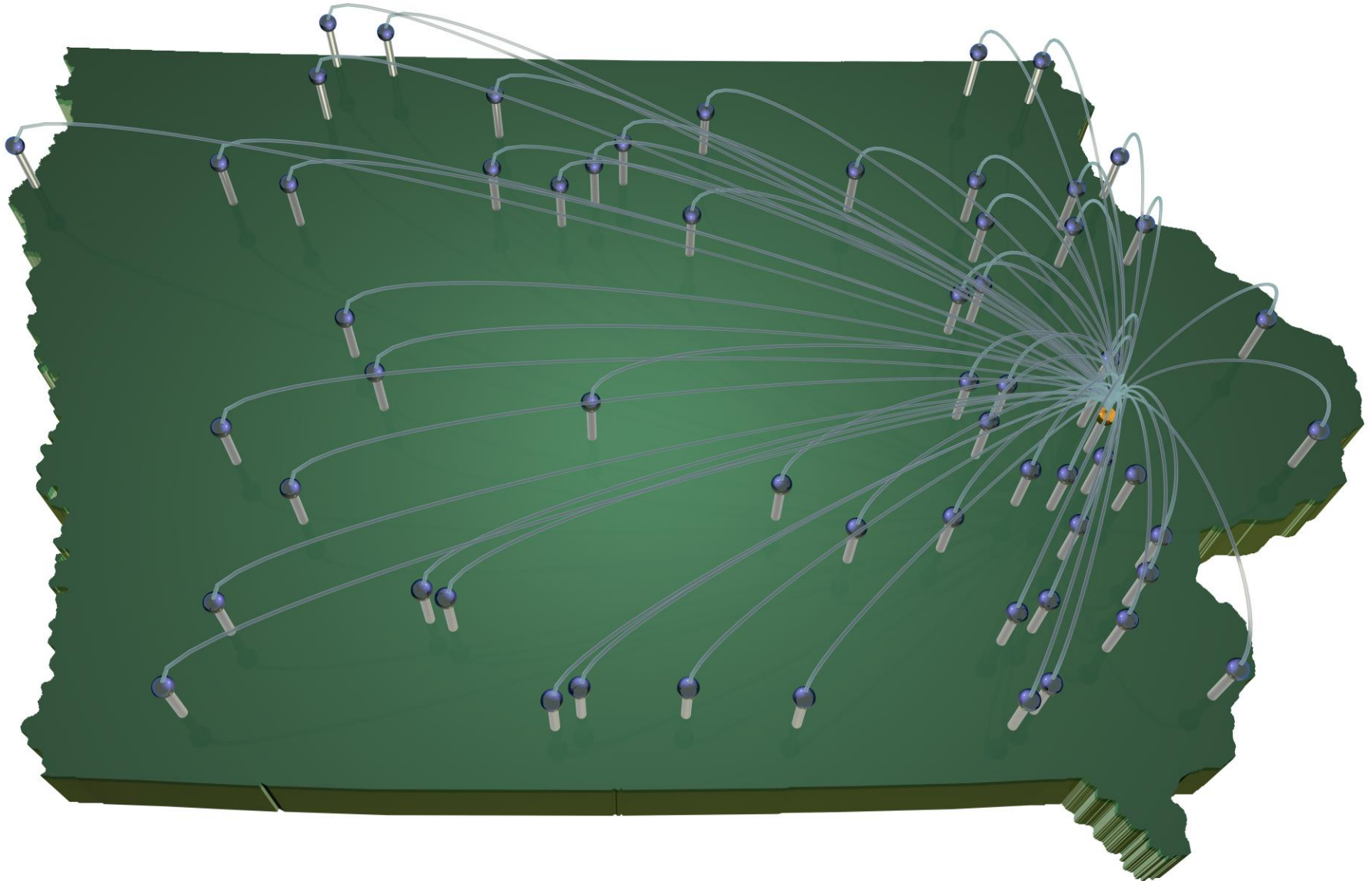
- \$498K DLT Grant
- Establish telemedicine sites in nearly 70 rural health care locations in 46 counties across the state.
- Matching contributions from UIHC
- Rural facilities, including family medicine clinics, nursing homes and Child Health Specialty Clinics, will receive almost \$1 million in telemedicine equipment.



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USDA Grant - eHealth Extension Network



USDA DLT Grant: Providing Rural Iowans Convenient Specialty Care

Continuously evolving, improving technology and processes among UIHC and telemedicine sites have clarified the need for more and better equipment options for the 65 sites that will receive telemedicine equipment with the UI USDA DLT grant. Some of the differences from lessons learned since the grant application to today are noted below.

- Application

- Carts for all sites, all UIHC specialists
- Vidyo through Epic
- All sites hard-wired with UIHC VPN
- No peripheral medical devices

- Today

- Sites choose equipment, ranging from iPad to cart with peripheral medical devices (e.g., stethoscope, medical camera)
- UIHC specialists usually need only a webcam; headset if peripherals used
- Vidyo software outside Epic EMR supports lower bandwidths

Loring Hospital Sac City

- \$262,742 REDLG award
- Video conferencing equipment purchased
- Connected digital telescopes
- Matched funds of \$265,000 local funding



Shenandoah Medical Center





- \$27M renovation and two-story addition for a new medical clinic. USDA Loan for \$23.2M.
- The existing clinic space will be modernized into a new surgical area.
- Creation of single entry point and registration/waiting area
- Expanded emergency department
- Relocation of the respiratory therapy area
- Lab improvements.

Henry County Health Center Mount Pleasant





- REDLG loan from Access Energy
- Total Project: \$998,134 including surgical suite
- \$195,791 will be used for servers, routers, switches, wireless controllers, docking stations and access points.
- USDA provides \$798,000 to the local rural electric coop, which passes funds to hospital via ten-year, 0% loan.
- Financing allows hospital to use its own reserves for additional HIT investments totaling \$165,000



Thank You

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