



FOUNDATION FOR
RURAL SERVICE

Community Organizations Toolkit

Featured Resources

Community Grant Program

Virtual Living Room Program





A FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE PROGRAM

2024 Community Grant Program

Funding That Supports Important Projects In Our Community

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) is a nonprofit organization that works in cooperation with NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association to sustain and enhance the quality of life in America by advancing an understanding of rural issues.

The FRS Community Grant Program is offered annually through NTCA members, like us, to support local efforts to build and sustain a high quality of life in rural America.

The Program supports projects in these categories:

- Business and economic development
- Community development
- Education
- Telecommunications applications

DO YOU HAVE A COMMUNITY PROJECT THAT NEEDS FUNDING?

We are accepting grant requests from \$250 to \$5,000. Ten percent of the total grant award comes from the NTCA member partner:

FRS will not fund grants to the following:

- Individuals
- Scholarship programs
- International organizations
- Lobbying and political activities
- Ticketed events
- Security cameras
- For-Profit Businesses
- Digital signage
- Endowments or capital campaigns
- Event sponsorships
- Community food programs
- Loan programs
- Religious-based activities
- Employee or contractor salaries

Note: Grants are a one-time only award.

PROPOSAL DEADLINE:

Send your proposal to:

COMPANY: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

Please use the application guide on the back of this flyer or visit frs.org/communitygrant to create a complete Community Grant application. Then, return your complete Community Grant application to your NTCA member partner. The application guide has the exact questions that will need to be answered.

Applications must be submitted through your NTCA member partner.



TALKING POINTS

Rural Americans Face Unique Health Care Challenges

- ▶ Chronic disease causes about 75 percent of health care costs and contributes to about 70 percent of all deaths in the United States.
- ▶ Rural areas, which contain about 20 percent of the U.S. population, are face additional risk caused by physician shortages and lack of access to nearby health care facilities. Although 25 percent of the U.S. population resides in rural areas, only 10 percent of the Nation's physicians are in rural America. And, rural areas have 70 percent fewer specialists per 100,000 people.
- ▶ Additionally, poverty increases the risk of complications from chronic conditions by decreasing the likelihood that these individuals will have health insurance at all or otherwise be able to absorb the costs of treatment and preventative care.

Telemedicine Can Enable Better Health Care

Numerous studies have demonstrated the health benefits of telemedicine across multiple medical conditions. The economic benefits of telemedicine and telehealth have also been found to create substantial health care cost savings, as well as ancillary savings relating to travel to distant facilities and lost wages.

Veterans Benefit from Telemedicine

- ▶ Veterans constitute 11 percent of the U.S. population and approximately 25 percent of the Nation's Veterans live in rural areas. Although the VA has health centers throughout the United States, many rural veterans nevertheless face transportation and access difficulties.
- ▶ To address this problem at least in part, in 2106, the VA provided more than 2.17 million telehealth interactions to more than 702,000 patients, or approximately 12 percent of veterans enrolled in the VA health care system.
- ▶ VA telehealth is associated with a 25 percent reduction in bed days of care and a 19 percent reduction in hospital admissions.



Expanding Opportunities for Veterans

The Virtual Living Room® provides free broadband access to VA telehealth and other online services by providing access points in publicly-accessible locations such as a library, VFW, Legion Hall or firehouse. These venues provide complete computer workstations, privacy and necessary peripherals to connect to VA medical professionals. The Virtual Living Room can provide Veterans with peer and technical support and can be an on-ramp to home use of VA telehealth services.



VENUE AND FURNITURE IDEAS

Venue Ideas

Your Virtual Living Room venue can be just about anywhere you think will work. Your Virtual Living Room venue should include at a minimum:

- ▶ A setup for privacy
- ▶ Adequate electrical connections to support a computer workstation; lamps and peripherals
- ▶ Broadband provided by an NTCA member

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- ▶ American Legion - www.legion.org
- ▶ Public Library
- ▶ Church
- ▶ Veterans of Foreign War Lodge - www.vfw.org
- ▶ Community Center
- ▶ Firehouse

Furnishing Ideas

Suggested Virtual Living Room furnishings to help simulate the experience a veteran would have while using VA telehealth services at home include:

- ▶ White Noise Machines (a sound proof environment is recommended to support the privacy of the users)
- ▶ Basic Office Supplies
- ▶ Rug
- ▶ Comfortable Work Station (desk, computer, web cam, headphones, microphone)
- ▶ Adaptive fixtures, such as grab-bars to assist disabled veterans
- ▶ Comfortable chairs
- ▶ Soft Lighting



Expanding Opportunities for Veterans

The Virtual Living Room[®] provides free broadband access to VA telehealth and other online services by providing access points in publicly-accessible locations such as a library, VFW, Legion Hall or firehouse. These venues provide complete computer workstations, privacy and necessary peripherals to connect to VA medical professionals. The Virtual Living Room can provide Veterans with peer and technical support and can be an on-ramp to home use of VA telehealth services.

