

**FCC Rural Health Pilot
Network Approach
NYSERNet**

Name of RHCPP participant(s):

1. Adirondack-Champlain Telemedicine Information Network
2. North Country Telemedicine Project
3. Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center

Brief description of RHCPP project(s):

1. A new fiber optic telemedicine network, connected to Internet2, will connect approximately eight health care facilities in northeastern NY. The new network will enable real-time consultations, sharing of medical image files, and distance education. Plattsburg area
2. Approximately 30 new health care facilities in a poor, sparsely populated region of northern New York will be connected to an existing regional fiber ring and Internet2 at speeds ranging from 10 to 100 Mbps. Services will include telecardiology, teleradiology, and psychiatry through video conferencing, research and education. Network will also serve Fort Drum, which lacks a healthcare facility. Watertown/Potsdam area
3. Network will connect about 40 facilities at speeds of at least 100 Mbps in order to provide access to experienced specialty physicians and critical life-saving treatments. Connections to Internet2 at 1 Gbps and backbone at 2 Gbps. Buffalo area

Brief description of the challenges

The three projects are remarkably similar in goal but face very different challenges based on geography. Hospitals in the third project are close to the Buffalo PoP, and for some there is university owned fiber. They had a consultant early on who worked with us. The second is more remote, but there is the NY commissioned Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) which provides access for many areas for which there is no other connectivity. The third is a grass roots effort nearer to the start of the process. There is available fiber between Plattsburg and the nearest PoP in Albany, but a lot of infrastructure to develop locally.

Approach to meeting these challenges

The interaction with the awardees is very site specific. For 3, work with the University at Buffalo and continue work with their consultant. For 2, DANC is a critical partner, well known to the medical institutions involved and the only transport to some areas. For 1, they will likely seek use of State owned fiber. PI on the grant and NYSERNet CEO both serve on State Broadband Council and we are working together with the state on their dark fiber north out of Albany

Submitted by:

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