

BEMIDJI AREA

The Bemidji Area Office has two telemedicine and one telehealth grant projects. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Leech Lake tribal governments received grants for a telepharmacy and a community wellness program that supports diabetic care. In addition, Leech Lake has a telehealth grant to support education through local schools. The three-grant programs total \$1.2 million, and are in the early implementation phases. The Bay Indian Mills Community and Sault Ste. Marie tribes receive benefits from a Michigan telehealth network operated by Marquette General Health Systems.

1. Upper Peninsula Telehealth Network & Marquette General Health System

Area Office	Bemidji Area
Indian Facility	Bay Mills Health Center Sault Ste. Marie Health & Human Services
Primary Use	Telemedicine & Telehealth
Use Status	Growing
Facility Contact	Walt Parish, Clinic Coordinator, Bay Mills Health Center, 12124 West Lakeshore Drive, Brimley, MI 49715 Phone 906-248-3204, Fax 906-248-5765 Russ Vizina, Director, Health Division, Sault Ste. Marie Health & Human Services, 2684 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 Phone 906-632-5274, Fax 906-632-5276
Grantee	Marquette General Health Systems, Upper Peninsula Telehealth Network
Funding	OFHP - FY's 94-00 - \$921,233 RUS - FY 93, 96, & 98 - Total \$765,797
Grant Contact	Sally Davis, Community Relations, Marquette General Health System, 420 West Magnetic Avenue, Marquette, MI 49855 Phone 906-225-3120, Fax 906-225-3842, E-mail < sdavis@mgh.org > Web site < http://www.mgh.org/education/telemed.html >
Summary	Both the Bay Mills Indian Community and Sault St. Marie tribal health clinics participate in a regional telemedicine and telehealth network called the Upper Peninsula Telehealth Network.

Marquette General Health System is the hub of the Upper Peninsula Telehealth Network that provides 22 end-users with continuing education, videoconferencing and imaging services. The network operates over ISDN lines. Each site pays for telecom installation, monthly costs, and shares site equipment cost. By November 2000, the network will combined its original videoconferencing system with Internet protocol videoconferencing using an Accord Bridge to provide a transparent merger for the end-user sites. Other network equipment includes PictureTel, Concord, Picture Swiftsites, Polycom ViewStations, and RSI Video Flyers. Peripheral equipment includes document cameras, electronic stethoscopes, computer mediator, microscope, auxiliary cameras, and ultrasound machines.

Telemedicine applications include psychiatry, surgical follow-ups for pediatric and cardiothoracic patients, neonatal discharge planning, pediatric learning assessments, dermatology, physical therapy, prenatal consults, pre-chemotherapy assessments, and case conferences. The Marquette General Health System is a component of ORHP/OAT's national evaluation of telemedicine.

The Sault St. Marie Health and Human Services operates a large health center and three satellite clinics to serve its 13,500 members. The main tribal clinic uses a PictureTel Concord. Additional rollabout equipment will be installed in a conference room and clinician area. Recently, the tribe installed a T-1 connection and plans improved connections to its satellite clinics. Future telemedicine emphasis will be neonatal. Upper Peninsula Telehealth Network uses in 2000 has been limited to nine programs.

The Indian Bay Mills Health Center had a delayed in start-up due to telecom connection problems. The Center and tribe have agreed to share a T-1 line, which allows the Center to come on-line. The Center will receive a PolyCom View Station and related peripherals such as an electronic stethoscope that may be used for cardiac patient follow-up. Bay Mills plans on using the Upper Peninsula Telehealth Network for distance leaning, clinical, and administrative purposes.

2. Leech Lake Tribal Council

Area Office	Bemidji Area
Indian Facility	Leech Lake Tribal Health
Primary Use	Telemedicine & Telehealth
Use Status	New Projects
Facility Contact	Dr. Linda Fritzell, Health Planner, Leech Lake Reservation, RR 3 Box 100, Cass Lake, MN 56461, Phone 218-335-3215, Fax 218-335-8219,

E-mail <frizzell@paulbunyan.net>

Grantee Leech Lake Tribal Council

Funding TOP - FY 99-01 - \$560,000
 ORHP - FY 01-03 - \$570,000 (estimate)

Grant Contact See Facility Contact

Summary Leech Lake's Tribal Health Division is developing a comprehensive community wellness program distributed to area clinics, schools, and possible patient home care. Emphasis placed on diabetic care.

The Leech Lake TOP project structure is wrapped around a sustainable tele-wellness infrastructure, starting with building capacity in the area of health and reaching into community networking; education, culture, and lifelong learning; public safety; and public services, and communications. Emphasis is placed on improved appointment compliance, expert consultation, retinal eye exams for diabetes management. The system supports eleven IHS primary care providers, one physician, and two tribal mid-level providers among six satellite clinics.

The grant application described two diabetic programs. First, a home monitoring system operating over a 2-way interactive audio/visual video box with a connection over regular phone lines to a nurse's station was planned. A 12-home rollout would produce annual cost savings of \$38,000 in nurse travel to remote homes. The second application was diabetic retinopathy workstation with a high-resolution reading. This equipment is not easily scaleable to smaller populations and requires 2,000 patients a year for cost recovery. Both technology choices are under review.

The GSA is providing assistance on equipment vendors and a telecom solution for the remote areas with poor infrastructure. A fractional T-1 line from Paul Bunyan Phone is an option since ISDN is not available at two sites. Three videoconferencing units will be installed with more planned as telecom capacity is increased. Video conferencing can be back hauled to Fargo for dial-up services.

The project serves the IHS service unit, Tribal Health Division (Cass Lake, MN) and the satellite clinic at Ball Club. Site connection is through videoconferencing and Internet. Remote satellite clinics at Inger and Onigum have Internet only. Internet access exists for Bug-O-Nay-Go-Shig, a tribal K-12 school at Bena. By year 3, the project will extend coverage to other residents through the additional schools of Cass Lake Bena Public School, Laporte Public School, Walker Hackensack-Akeley Public School, Leech Lake Tribal College, Bemidji State University, and the City of Cass Lake. Residents and students will benefit from the hook-up through limited classroom presentations and access to health information via the Internet.

Collaborative project planning partners include the Tribal Health Division, Regions Hospital (St. Paul), Cass Lake service unit (hospital/clinic), Paul Bunyan Telephone (Bemidji), Merit Care (Fargo, ND), and St. Luke's Hospital and Clinics (Duluth).

Another Leech Lake Tribal project expands distance education and enhances already-existing medical primary care services at the tribes K-12 Mino-A-Yan School which has a school clinic. This clinic has a chemical dependency, mental health, and health program and is connect to the Tribe's telemedicine wellness program. This project focuses on primary care services and curriculum for youth at-risk, the medically underserved children and adolescents, the homeless, and the surrounding community. Other involved project partners are the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, Cass County Health and Human Services, Minnesota Board on Aging, Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative, and the Regions Hospital.

3. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Area Office	Bemidji Area
Indian Facility	Mille Lacs Service Unit
Primary Use	Telemedicine (Telepharmacy)
Use Status	New Project
Grant Contact	Sharon Gialason, Executive Director, Health & Human Services, HCR 67 Box 241, Onamia, MN 56359 Phone 320-532-4163, Fax 320-532-4354
Grantee	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Funding	RUS - FY 00 - \$107,305
Facility Contact	See Facility Contact
Summary	The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is implementing a remote operated pharmacy operation throughout its population area.

The Mille Lacs Telepharmacy Project improves access to pharmaceuticals by tribal members who need to drive 30-80 miles for the closest service. Two outlying tribal clinics will be able to dispense medications and pharmaceuticals through a remote controlled package and bottle dispenser. Consultation will be provided through videoconferencing equipment connected to the pharmacy. Two T-1 lines have been ordered.