Webinar Basics

- Screenshare

- Muting

- Submit your questions
  - Questions field in GoTo panel

- Archive video and slide decks will be available at …
Learning Outcomes

- Gain greater awareness of USDA programs with funds available for rural libraries
- Gain greater awareness of USDA program eligibility requirements and application process
- Gain greater awareness of IMLS programs with funds available for rural libraries
Today’s Speakers

- Cheryl Cook, Rural Development Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture
- Carla Anderson, Senior Vice President and CEO, e-Copernicus
- Kevin Cherry, Senior Program Officer, Institute of Museum & Library Service, Office of Library Service
Rural Library Snapshot

- Roughly 60% of U.S. public libraries serve communities smaller than 20,000 people (IMLS FY2008).

- 69% of rural libraries report they do not have enough public Internet computers to meet patron demand at some point during the day (PLFTAS, 2009-10).

- Space and cost are the leading factors affecting libraries’ ability to add computers (PLFTAS).
Rural Library Snapshot

- One in five rural libraries has less than a 1.5Mbps public Internet connection (PLFTAS).

- 45% of rural libraries report Internet connection speeds are not adequate to meet patron demand at some point in the day (PLFTAS).

- 30% of rural libraries would like to increase bandwidth, but are currently unable to afford to do so (PLFTAS).
Wrap-Up

- Archive video and slides will be available at…

- Subscribe to the District Dispatch for the latest news from the ALA Washington Office.

- For more information on the Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study, please visit www.ala.org/plinternetfunding.