

**OFFICIAL APRIL 2011 UPDATE SUBMISSION TO  
THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION  
ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE  
STATE BROADBAND DATA AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM  
FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA**

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**April 1, 2011**

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**ALASKA COVER LETTER**

April 1, 2011

Ms. Anne W. Neville  
SBDD Grant Program Director  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Room 4716  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Neville:

It is with highest regard that the collective stakeholders of Connect Alaska offer congratulations to the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) on the recent release of the National Broadband Map. This extraordinary milestone demonstrates the intense and joint effort of the NTIA, FCC, state governments, industry, and non-profits like Connected Nation and will serve as a key tool for the American public and policymakers resulting in smarter investments and targeted state and local broadband policies and programs. We are proud of the role that Connect Alaska has played in creating such a powerful tool that will surely benefit not just Alaskans, but consumers and businesses nationwide.

Therefore, as the State Broadband Designated Entity, in partnership with the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, please accept this submission from Connected Nation on behalf of the state of Alaska's State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) Grant Program, known as Connect Alaska.

These artifacts should be found to be compliant with the April 1, 2011, deadline for the semi-annual data update and in accordance with the terms of the July 1, 2009, Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) and all subsequent clarifications pertaining to delivery of State-Level Mapping of Broadband Service Availability. This packet includes:

***Inventory of Deliverables, Connect Alaska: April 1, 2011***

<u>NOFA Requirement</u>	<u>Data Transfer Model</u>	<u>Data Description</u>
Appendix A: 1(a)(i)	BB_Service_CensusBlock	Broadband Service Availability of Facilities-Based Providers in Census Blocks of No Greater Than Two Square Miles in Area
Appendix A: 1(a)(ii)	BB_Service_RoadSegment	Broadband Service Availability of Facilities-Based Providers by Road Segment in Census Blocks Larger in Area Than Two Square Miles
Appendix A: 1(b)	BB_Service_Wireless	Broadband Service Availability of Wireless Services Not Provided to a Specific Address

Appendix A: 3(b)	BB_ConnectionPoint_MiddleMile	Broadband Service Infrastructure Middle-Mile and Backbone Interconnection Points
Appendix A: 4	BB_Service_CAInstitutions	Community Anchor Institutions- Listing
Appendix A: 4	n/a	Community Anchor Institutions- Narratives
VII.A.1(a)	n/a	Accuracy and Verification Report
n/a	DataPackage.xlsx	Worksheets of Contact Information, Data Dictionary, and Provider Summary Table
n/a	n/a	Broadband Provider Roster and Participation Status

In addition, this data update submission should be found to be compliant with the additional program requirements instituted by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration since the time of the October 2010 SBDD data submission for the Connect Alaska program. Specifically, these new requirements are:

#### **SBDD Data Transfer Model**

The submission of the broadband dataset for April 1, 2011, is contained within the SBDD Data Transfer Model as released on the Grantee Workspace on January 14, 2011. All efforts have been made to comply with formatting, domain, and metadata requirements to include as much information on each provider as possible.

#### **Additional Submission Guidance**

This submission also includes the updated DataPackage spreadsheet with enhanced provider listings as well as satisfactory outputs from the SBDD\_Check toolbox to ensure fewer unexpected values with the submitted broadband datasets prior to federal processing for the National Broadband Map update.

This April 2011 semi-annual data update under the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program continues to demonstrate our dedication to implementing the joint purposes of the Recovery Act and the Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA) by gathering comprehensive and accurate state-level broadband mapping data, developing state-level broadband maps, aiding in the development and maintenance of the National Broadband Map, and undertaking statewide initiatives for broadband planning.

#### ***Broadband Service Availability — Provider Outreach and Verification***

This data update submission under the SBDD includes the participation of approximately 90.91 percent of the Alaska provider community, or 20 of 22 total providers. Of the 20 participating providers, 9 supplied an update to their network or coverage area(s), while 11 have reported no change. A complete roster by provider depicting participation status and contact record is contained herein. Of the 2 providers that are not represented in the attached datasets, 1 has refused to participate in the voluntary program and the remaining provider is currently in some form of

progress toward data submission but was not able to submit coverage areas at the time of this submission. By the time of the deadline to receive and approve data for this April 2011 submission, the provider Alaska Communications Systems (ACS) had refused to participate, but there have been recent developments as a result of the Alaska Broadband Task Force and it is expected that ACS will participate and be represented in the October 2011 submission.

As the aforementioned roster and attached methodology documentation will attest, it is the collective opinion of the Connect Alaska principals that all commercially reasonable efforts were made to account for 100 percent of the known Alaska broadband provider community, pursuant to this semi-annual data update submission.

Connect Alaska has also continued to perform broadband verification activities through several means. In addition to confirmation of service area(s) by each provider, Connect Alaska conducts field validation efforts. To date, 12 (54.55 percent) providers have been validated through field verification activities. Additional details on verification activities are contained within the Field Validation Narrative.

At the program's inception, Connect Alaska launched a website to create awareness about the initiative. Connectak.org continues to serve a prominent role in the outreach and data collection effort. This program asset provides a way for the general public to participate in the process by offering interactive tools for users to test their connection speed, submit broadband inquiries, or contact a program representative.

As an indicator of stakeholder penetration, the Connect Alaska website encountered 1,587 unique visits during this reporting period (3,397 total to date for the life of the grant awarded on June 1, 2010). Additionally, this pronounced Web activity netted 9 broadband inquiries over this same reporting period (31 grant inception to date). The website also provides the BroadbandStat application, which allows the consumer to confirm or dispute the coverage represented on the broadband inventory map. These consumer-initiated actions are facilitated through the Connect Alaska website and the Connect Alaska Interactive Mapping Tool (BroadbandStat) that offer the citizens the vehicles to provide information regarding availability in their respective service area, either in affirmation or contest of the reported data represented in the Connect Alaska mapping artifacts. Since the initial data collection and release of corresponding maps, feedback in the form of broadband inquiries has allowed Connected Nation to identify additional areas that are in need of field validation, which is scheduled as soon as possible.

### ***Community Anchor Institutions***

Connect Alaska has established an ongoing mechanism for gathering data on the location and broadband connectivity of Community Anchor Institutions (CAI), in accordance with the data requirements of the SBDD NOFA Technical Appendix.

In conjunction with the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, outreach was conducted during this data update reporting period by Connect Alaska to continue identification of existing, centralized sources for CAI connectivity data. Connect Alaska worked closely with the Alaska State Library to gain access to library connectivity data from its

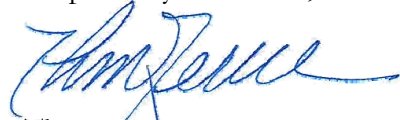
contacts across the state for inclusion during this reporting submission. Additionally, outreach was coordinated to distribute the CAI survey to institutions throughout the state through multiple methods including a customized online survey available on the Connect Alaska website. During this reporting period Connect Alaska has developed a number of new relationships with statewide associations such as the Division of Community and Regional Affairs, the Alaska Village Council, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, and the Alaska Regional Development Organizations to promote the importance of broadband connectivity at anchor institutions and participation in this data collection process. Connect Alaska will continue to build upon these new relationships over the coming months and utilize its contacts throughout the state to collect data and raise awareness of this project.

While we continue to document institutions and the related addresses, the connectivity data collected in most categories remains incomplete at this time. Connect Alaska will be implementing a number of new processes to increase participation including launching a CAI newsletter to connect communities across the state, increasing industry-specific planning to target new community contacts, and revising the CAI portion of our website to increase visibility and content. From our work in Alaska, as well as other states, we recognize the great value of this data to future collaboration efforts within the state as well as its value to the recently released National Broadband Map. We plan to continue to bring best practices to the Connect Alaska efforts, along with an investment of both human and technical resources required to reach our goal of increasing the data that is secured and reported as part of this process.

In acquiring both broadband availability and CAI data within the state of Alaska, Connected Nation has previously engaged all federally recognized native communities in the area covered by the Connect Alaska SBDD grant and reported that outreach as part of past submissions. Throughout the next reporting period Connect Alaska plans to continue to engage directly with Native Alaskan communities and will also conduct affirmative outreach with Native Alaskan organizations that are active within the area. Connect Alaska understands the connectivity challenges facing these communities, and we have identified a need to include their data as part of our upcoming submissions.

The Connect Alaska program exists to improve data on the deployment and adoption of broadband services and to assist in the extension of broadband technology across all regions of the great state of Alaska, as well as the United States through contribution to the National Broadband Map. We look forward to the continuing work ahead.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas W. Ferree  
Chief Operating Officer  
Connected Nation, Inc.

## **DATA ACQUISITION: ALASKA COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS**

In this third reporting period of the SBDD, Connect Alaska, working in close coordination with the state of Alaska, has established an ongoing mechanism for gathering data on the location and broadband connectivity of Community Anchor Institutions (CAI), in accordance with the data requirements of the SBDD NOFA Technical Appendix. During this reporting period Connect Alaska has continued to focus efforts on conducting outreach and raising awareness of this important project.

Connect Alaska has continued to identify and process CAI data obtained through an ongoing statewide outreach campaign. Physical address information continues to be augmented through manual sourcing and geocoded by Connect Alaska through ESRI ArcGIS software.

Connect Alaska continues to utilize a customized online survey hosted through SurveyMonkey, with a landing page on the Connect Alaska website that was developed during the first reporting period. This survey, in combination with a customized data gathering spreadsheet, was distributed to a targeted list of CAI throughout the state. Connect Alaska will continue to use these data gathering tools for future targeted outreach efforts throughout the coming months leading up to the next reporting period. These materials are customized to fit the CAI categories as defined in the SBDD NOFA.

The survey can be accessed at this link using the following password:

[http://connectak.org/mapping/Community\\_Anchor\\_Institution\\_Data\\_Collection.php](http://connectak.org/mapping/Community_Anchor_Institution_Data_Collection.php)

Password: CAI\_AK\_5852

Connect Alaska and the state of Alaska have worked closely during this reporting period to conduct research as part of an ongoing process to identify existing, centralized sources for CAI connectivity data. During this reporting period the Alaska State Library provided a database on the connectivity of 99 public libraries in the state, and efforts are still ongoing to complete the geocoding of this file. Connect Alaska will continue to locate existing connectivity data in the state especially focusing on the public safety sector in the coming months.

In tandem with these efforts to identify existing data, Connect Alaska continues to identify key CAI contacts among all CAI categories in an effort to distribute and promote the online survey and raise awareness of the importance of CAI broadband connectivity. During this reporting period Connect Alaska has coordinated with the Alaska State Library, Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Alaska Division of Rural Affairs, and the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to distribute our survey and identify library, village, and education contacts.

Connect Alaska has an ongoing mission to educate CAI throughout the state on the importance of participating in the project. Participation by these institutions will raise awareness about the importance of broadband connectivity and the need to report the requested data for inclusion on the National Broadband Map. During this reporting period Connect Alaska developed a CAI newsletter to be distributed quarterly beginning in March 2011. The newsletter will highlight a CAI in Alaska, encourage institutions to share their data, and highlight the National Broadband Map.



The greatest challenge with collecting this data continues to be the difficulty in securing CAI broadband connectivity data especially for public safety and higher education CAI. Connect Alaska will continue its ongoing work with the state of Alaska and key organization contacts in an effort to raise awareness of this project among CAI. The newly formed Alaska Broadband Task Force will be briefed on the current CAI data and provided information so they can assist with outreach and promotion over the coming months.

A CAI summary of all processed and submitted data is provided below:

CAI Type	Total	Physical Address	Lat/Long	Technology of Transmission	Download Speed	Upload Speed
K-12 Schools	631	570	631	66	309	287
Libraries	126	126	126	45	43	43
Healthcare	70	70	70	2	4	1
Public Safety	309	135	309	0	0	0
Higher Ed Institutions	9	9	9	0	0	0
Other Government	553	199	553	17	14	14
Other Non-Government	347	208	347	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,045</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>2,045</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>347</b>

## SBDD DATA SUBMISSION METHODOLOGY

The submission of the broadband dataset for April 1, 2011, is contained within the SBDD Data Transfer Model and additional components as released on the Grantee Workspace on January 14, 2011. Connected Nation has reviewed all literature that relates to the release and use of this data transfer model and recognizes that it does not replace or dictate how data is stored, processed, or displayed for the state or territory, as it is meant primarily as a means to transfer the broadband data from all states and territories and populate the National Broadband Map in a seamless fashion. Guidance from the Technical Mapping Guide, as released on the Grantee Workspace on March 24, 2011, was also followed to ensure the completeness and validity of the submission through completion steps and checklists, completing the DataPackage spreadsheet, uploading broadband datasets into the Data Transfer Model, and checking the dataset using the SBDD\_CheckSubmission receipt process.

In addition to the narratives and methodologies contained herein, as well as the DataPackage.xls containing contact information, the data dictionary, and a provider summary table, the following feature classes are submitted within the SBDD Data Transfer Model for the state of Alaska.



### *Inventory of Deliverables, Connect Alaska: April 1, 2011*

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Appendix A: 1(b)	BB_Service_Wireless	Broadband Service Availability of Wireless Services Not Provided to a Specific Address.
Appendix A: 3(b)	BB_ConnectionPoint_MiddleMile	Broadband Service Infrastructure Middle-Mile and Backbone Interconnection Points.
Appendix A: 4	BB_Service_CAInstitutions	Community Anchor Institutions-Listing.

The provider data collected by Connected Nation on behalf of the state of Alaska have been formatted per the given specifications and uploaded into the appropriate feature classes of the SBDD Data Transfer Model. Wireline availability is contained within census blocks and road segments, wireless availability is contained as polygons of coverage areas, and middle-mile connections and community anchor institutions are contained as point data. All speed data is contained at the census block, road segment, or wireless polygon level of availability. All efforts have been made to comply with formatting, domain, and metadata requirements to include as much information as possible.

Connected Nation has continued outreach to satellite providers on their availability, technology, and speed information, but it is not included in this submission dataset. Additional information is necessary to be able to show where service satisfactorily exists in the state, rather than submitting the entire boundary of the state as the serviceable area. Analysis information distributed and discussed with the satellite providers, as well as any additional guidance from the Program Office on the desired analysis for satellite-serviceable areas, will be implemented for the October 2011 data submission.

### **ALASKA FIELD VALIDATION NARRATIVE**

Connected Nation focused a portion of its time on specific validation processes such as:

- conducting random spectrum analysis studies throughout the state using an Avcom PSA-37-XP spectrum analyzer;
- conducting mobile speed tests throughout the state using an iPhone, Android (or other smart phone) as well as provider-specific aircards (Sprint 3G/4G, Clearwire et al);

- identifying pre-selected, provider-submitted wireless transmit tower sites and cross-referencing data about that tower against the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) databases such as Antenna Structure Registration and/or the Universal Licensing System;
- cross-referencing Federal Registration Number data against available FCC Form 477 data as well as the FCC **CO**mmission **RE**gistration **S**ystem (CORES);
- validating provider submitted data (for example: latitude/longitude) using a handheld Garmin eTrex Summit GPS unit or GPS enabled software such as Microsoft Streets and Trips;
- locating physical wire-line attributes (such as remote terminals, CATV plant, etc.) and comparing them against provider submitted data; and
- conducting on-net and off-net speed tests using the FCC portal at <http://www.broadband.gov/qualitytest/about/> or using the Ookla Net Metrics enabled speed test utility located on each of Connected Nation's state specific websites.

Additionally, Connected Nation cross-referenced numerous public documents in order to ensure that all known broadband providers were located and contacted. This included searching membership logs from the trade associations (WISPA, WCAI, PCIA, etc.), the Cable Television Fact Book, Public Utility Commission records, Public Service Commission records, Chamber of Commerce, etc.

To date Connected Nation's staff conducted on-site validation tests in Alaska on the following providers: Ace Tekk Wireless Internet, AlasConnect Inc., Alaska Telephone Company, AT&T, Borealis Broadband, Clearwire Corporation, Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative Inc., GCI Internet, Ketchikan Public Utilities, Matanuska Telephone Association, SPITwSPOTS LLC, and TelAlaska Long Distance Inc.

From program initiation through this reporting period, Connected Nation has completed in-the-field validation testing against 12 companies (out of a universe of 22 viable providers) totaling 54.55 percent within the state of Alaska.

## **ACCURACY AND VERIFICATION: METHODOLOGY - PROVIDER VALIDATION**

Broadband providers maintain their service area data in many different formats, all in varying levels of complexity and granularity. In order to ensure that the data required by the NTIA is standardized across all providers and that it is as accurate as possible, Connected Nation translates and formats the data that providers are able to supply into a GIS shapefile and produces maps for the provider to review. The resulting map(s) and review process allow for providers to see their service area in a geographic format – for some providers, this is the first time they have seen maps of their broadband service area. Having the mapped service area allows providers to quickly identify any issues that appear in the data representation, whether the issue is in the data translation into a GIS format or from the original data collection and submission. Often data is provided from various sources and through the review and revision process, local engineers who operate the networks and work in the field are able to ensure that the tabular data that has been submitted is accurate and represents the real-world network extent. Any issues in how the service area is represented on the map(s) are remedied by Connected Nation, whether they are additions, removal of service, or any

other revisions. Revised maps of service area representations are sent to the provider for review and approval; Connected Nation will revise data and return maps as many times as necessary until the provider is in agreement that the map represents their service area as accurately as possible. Once the review process has been completed and final approval of the data is provided, the data is deemed ready for NTIA submission.

Once the data collection has been aggregated a statewide level, static maps of statewide and county-level availability are produced and made publicly available. In addition, consumers can visit the interactive online tool, BroadbandStat, to create customized views of broadband service areas and analyze corresponding demographic information. Leveraging broadband service data on various platforms allows for public users, providers, and other stakeholders to review, scrutinize, and provide feedback on the represented data. This feedback becomes a validation method in itself as consumers submit inquiries to Connected Nation either affirming where service is not available or identifying areas where broadband service is shown on the map, but in actuality is not available. This allows for a follow-up to providers regarding revisions to the data as it is represented; it also allows for Connected Nation to identify locations where on-site visits may be necessary to complete field validation of available services. Public feedback on all forms of mapping products serves as a localized validation method for provider-supplied information and allows Connected Nation to resolve inaccuracies as they are identified to ensure that only the highest quality information is provided to stakeholders.

Estimates derived from provider-validated data indicate that approximately 13.64 percent of Alaska households do not have terrestrial fixed broadband service available, and approximately 8.78 percent<sup>1</sup> of Alaska households have neither mobile nor fixed broadband service available.<sup>2</sup>

Within rural areas of the state, results derived from provider-validated data indicate that approximately 23.85 percent of rural Alaska households do not have terrestrial fixed broadband service available, and approximately 15.37 percent<sup>3</sup> of rural Alaska households have neither mobile nor fixed broadband service available.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with NTIA's definition of available broadband service as specified in the SBDD NOFA, this estimate includes both terrestrial fixed *and* mobile broadband service, if the service offers download speeds of at least 768 Kbps and upload speeds greater than 200 Kbps.

<sup>2</sup> Due to the nature of the SBDD data collection methodology as defined by the NTIA and based on both census block geographic units and street segment data, the estimates of broadband availability derived from provider-validated data may include an overstatement of the actual number of households with broadband availability. Under the census block-based data collection method, a provider will typically report broadband availability for an entire census block whether its network is present across the whole or only a subset of that census block. This potential overestimation at the census block level can be amplified as the data is aggregated across the entire state.

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 1.

<sup>4</sup> See footnote 2.

## WIRELESS METHODOLOGY

### **Broadband Service Availability in Provider's Service Area Wireless Services Not Provided to a Specific Address**

Data solicited from a fixed wireless provider to create propagation models include, but are not limited to:

1. The name of the structure
2. Whether the transmitting device is operational or proposed
3. The maximum advertised downstream speed, the maximum advertised upstream speed
4. The typical downstream speed, the typical upstream speed (peak periods for both)
5. The frequency range of spectrum being used (as prescribed by NTIA)
6. The primary population center(s) being served (for geopolitical boundary reference)
7. The physical address of the transmit site (in the event latitude/longitude is unavailable from the provider this allows a quick reference point for geocoding)
8. Latitude in either Degrees, Minutes and Seconds and/or in Decimal Degrees (typically received as NAD 27 or NAD 83)
9. Longitude in either Degrees, Minutes and Seconds and/or in Decimal Degrees (typically received as NAD 27 or NAD 83)
10. Antenna pattern (e.g. omni-directional, 180°, 120°, 90°, etc.)
11. Azimuth of antenna (e.g. 360° with magnetic declination if known)
12. Approximate transmit radius (in feet, miles, or kilometers)
13. Polarity of transmit antenna (Vertical or Horizontal)
14. Transmit antenna gain (in dBi)
15. Line loss (applicable only to providers using coax, heliax, waveguide or other forms of cabling – excludes power-over-Ethernet devices)
16. Mechanical and/or Electrical beam tilt (if applicable)
17. Equipment Manufacturer (allows easy cross-reference against manufacturer's specification sheet)
18. Power output of the transmitting device (if unknown, FCC standards or manufacturer specifications are applied)
19. AMSL at base of tower site
20. Antenna centerline AGL (height of antenna above ground level measured at the centerline of the actual antenna)
21. Foliage factors (Evergreens/Deciduous and percent of ground cover)
22. Ground Clutter (primarily used in rural areas to account for foliage and in metropolitan areas to account for types and heights of buildings if known)
23. Average gain of receive antenna
24. Receive antenna is estimated at height above average terrain (HAAT) of 6.2 meters/20 feet.

25. Federal Registration Numbers (if applicable) which may allow opportunities to cross-reference and/or obtain additional data from the Federal Communications Commission Universal Licensing System and the **CO**mmission **RE**gistration **S**ystem.

Propagation modeling is an empirical mathematical formulation for the characterization of radio wave propagation as a function of frequency, distance, and other conditions. Propagation software(s) typically use the Irregular Terrain Model (also known as Longley-Rice) of radio propagation for frequencies between 20 MHz and 20 GHz. This model is based on electromagnetic theory and statistical analyses of the combination of terrain features and radio measurements, then predicting the median attenuation of a radio signal as a function of distance and the variability of the signal in time and in space. For metropolitan areas, the software can typically be adjusted to use the Okumura-Hata model which accounts for predicting the behavior of cellular transmissions in areas where buildings are the primary obstructions. The resulting product from either model depicts a graphical illustration of the theoretical propagation characteristics of a selected frequency range based on defined variables (receiver sensitivity of the home/mobile device, foliage factor, and digital elevation terrain input).

## **BROADBAND INQUIRIES METHODOLOGY**

Connected Nation collects consumer feedback in the form of broadband inquiries. These inquiries represent any type of communication received from the public regarding broadband service. Once broadband inquiries are received across the state, this information is overlaid with the broadband availability information which was collected through the SBDD program. This allows for a real-world comparison of the broadband landscape to the information received from broadband inquiries. Broadband inquiries are able to provide three types of information: 1) Residents who do not have broadband but want it. 2) Residents who have broadband but want a different provider. 3) Residents who do not have broadband, but the broadband inventory maps indicate that they do.

Through the collection of broadband inquiries, a visual demand for broadband is presented. This visualization allows Connected Nation the ability to validate broadband availability maps for accuracy. If residents within a region state that they are without broadband, but the broadband inventory maps show otherwise, this allows Connected Nation to approach the providers within that area in an effort to trim down their coverage to more accurately represent real-world availability on the ground. On the other hand, if there is a region in the territory in which broadband is not available, the broadband inquiries allow providers close to that region to see where they can successfully expand their broadband networks, leading to a high return on investment. In short, the higher number of inquiries leads to a higher level of certainty in regard to the broadband availability maps. Since the initial data collection and release of corresponding maps, feedback in the form of broadband inquiries has allowed Connected Nation to identify additional areas that are in need of field validation, which are scheduled as soon as possible. Additional information on field validation can be found in the Field Validation Narrative.

The broadband inquiry process has been implemented in each of the Connected Nation state programs with successful results. Altogether Connected Nation has received over 16,000 broadband inquiries since 2007, allowing the state programs to evaluate each inquiry for broadband demand and

data verification. These inquiries are continuously examined against current broadband availability, updated every six months, to determine if previously unserved households have been expanded to and can now receive broadband at their residence. This database of broadband inquiries has also allowed the Connected Nation state programs to aggregate demand in concentrated areas to show providers the exact locations where the population has made it clear that they would purchase broadband if it was made available to them. Providers in the states have responded to this process and have expanded to areas knowing that their investment will be worthwhile. Data verification methods have also proven successful, as the state programs have been able to show those inquiries that indicate the broadband service areas are misrepresented on the map to providers, who then verify where service cannot reach in regard to that residence(s). The broadband coverage in these states has been altered to create a more accurate map based on the inquiries submitted by the public.

During this reporting period, the Connect Alaska project has received a total of 9 inquiries (31 grant inception to date). As more inquiries are submitted to Connect Alaska, a more thorough validation of the broadband landscape can be performed, while also allowing providers to see which areas have a high demand for broadband adoption.

## **BROADBANDSTAT METHODOLOGY**

BroadbandStat is an online, interactive mapping tool for viewing, analyzing, and validating broadband data. Developed through a partnership with ESRI, the market leader in geographic information system (GIS) software, BroadbandStat is a multi-functional, user-friendly way for local leaders, policymakers, consumers, and technology providers to devise a plan for the expansion and adoption of broadband.

First and foremost, BroadbandStat allows consumers to locate their residence and identify providers that offer broadband Internet service to that location. The interactive platform allows for users to build and evaluate broadband expansion scenarios using a wealth of data, including education and population demographics, broadband availability, and research about the barriers to adoption.

New functionality in BroadbandStat allows the consumer to provide feedback on the broadband data displayed on the interactive map. Through the collection of this feedback, a visual demand for broadband is presented. This visualization allows the Connected Nation state programs the ability to validate the broadband availability for accuracy. If residents within a region state they are without broadband, but the interactive map shows otherwise, this allows Connected Nation to approach the providers within that area in an effort to trim down their coverage to more accurately represent real-world availability on the ground.

The Connect Alaska project launched BroadbandStat on September 1, 2010, and has received a total of 810 visits to date, of which 432 occurred this reporting period.



## **SPEED TEST METHODOLOGY**

The 412 speed tests that are represented in the Connect Alaska Speed Test Report during this reporting period (781 grant inception to date) are the result of a partnership between Connected Nation and Ookla Net Metrics. Utilizing this relationship increases the level of confidence in the data being collected and provides for a far greater sample size than could be collected by a single testing site.

Ookla owns and operates Speedtest.net, as well as develops and deploys speed tests, such as the Connect Alaska speed test website, for partners around the world. This network of sites that is developed and run on its testing technology provides Ookla with a vast dataset that, due to the variability of geographic information collected across the varying speed test sites, is geocoded utilizing Geo-IP technology. This technology allows for tests to be geocoded to points of aggregation, typically larger nodes across provider networks. While there are hundreds of thousands of tests that have been conducted, the level of aggregation is only sufficient for county-level detail due to the test results being located at these larger nodes and not at an absolute location for each speed test.

In an effort to validate broadband data from the Connect Alaska project, speed test information is collected throughout the state. Speed tests provide speed information on the path taken through all networks (a provider's network as well as additional networks) a local machine must connect to in order to reach the host test. The benefit of this collection of speed information is two-tiered. First, it allows for a comprehensive dataset of speeds, while also providing Connect Alaska with the information on where broadband services are available. Second, unlike theoretical speed information which was received through the data collection process, the use of speed tests provide real-world information on the speeds that currently exist within the state of Alaska.





## Broadband Provider Log

Complete	25
Non-Responsive/Refused	4
In Progress	2
Count of Datasets by Viable Status	31
Total Unique Providers Represented	22

Provider Name	Platform	Status	NDA Execution Date	Notes
AT&T Corp. Inc.	Mobile Wireless	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	12/16/2009	
Clearwire Corporation	Fixed Wireless	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	3/3/2010	
Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	ILEC/CLEC	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	1/11/2010	
Ketchikan Public Utilities	Fiber	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	1/8/2010	
Ketchikan Public Utilities	ILEC/CLEC	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	1/8/2010	
Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc.	ILEC/CLEC	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	6/15/2010	
SPITwSPOTS LLC	Fixed Wireless	Data Added to Statewide Inventory		
TelAlaska, Inc.	ILEC/CLEC	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	6/7/2010	
Yukon Telephone Company, Inc.	Fixed Wireless	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	6/23/2010	
Kodiak Kenai Cable Company	Backhaul	Backhaul Provider Only Processing Complete	2/7/2011	
Ace Tekk Wireless Internet	Fixed Wireless	No Update to Provide		
Adak Eagle Enterprises, LLC	ILEC/CLEC	No Update to Provide	12/22/2009	
AlasConnect, Inc.	Fixed Wireless	No Update to Provide		
Alaska Telephone Company	ILEC/CLEC	No Update to Provide	2/26/2010	
Alaska Telephone Company	Fixed Wireless	No Update to Provide	2/26/2010	
Borealis Broadband Inc.	Fixed Wireless	No Update to Provide	2/1/2010	
Borealis Broadband Inc.	Backhaul	No Update to Provide	2/1/2010	
Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	Mobile Wireless	No Update to Provide	1/11/2010	
Cordova Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	ILEC/CLEC	No Update to Provide		
Craig Cable TV, Inc.	Cable	No Update to Provide	7/27/2010	
GCI Internet	Backhaul	No Update to Provide	2/25/2010	
GCI Internet	Cable	No Update to Provide	2/25/2010	
GCI Internet	Mobile Wireless	No Update to Provide	2/25/2010	
MCI Communications Services, Inc.	Backhaul	No Update to Provide	12/14/2009	
OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	ILEC/CLEC	No Update to Provide		
Alaska Communications Systems (ACS)	Fixed Wireless	Refused to Participate		[FEB-07-11 Jill Lindgren] Spoke with provider, they have decided not to participate in this round.
Alaska Communications Systems (ACS)	Mobile Wireless	Refused to Participate		[FEB-07-11 Jill Lindgren] Spoke with provider, they have decided not to participate in this round.
Alaska Communications Systems (ACS)	Backhaul	Refused to Participate		[FEB-07-11 Jill Lindgren] Spoke with provider, they have decided not to participate in this round.
Alaska Communications Systems (ACS)	ILEC/CLEC	Refused to Participate		[FEB-07-11 Jill Lindgren] Spoke with provider, they have decided not to participate in this round.
Atcontact Communications, Inc.	Backhaul	Other		[MAR-07-11 Brian Dudek] Provider representative indicated that they are only a satellite backhaul provider in Alaska. At the present, this transport is not required by the
Hughes Network Systems, LLC	Satellite	Other	2/5/2010	[MAR-09-11 Brian Dudek] Satellite data will not be submitted due to additional information being necessary to show where service is available in the state, rather than submitting the entire state boundary as serviceable area.
Cordova Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	Mobile Wireless	Offers Service but Below FCC Definition		
TelAlaska, Inc.	Mobile Wireless	Offers Service but Below FCC Definition	6/7/2010	
TelAlaska, Inc.	Cable	Offers Service but Below FCC Definition	6/7/2010	