13Q3 Supplemental Answers

Connected Nation, Inc. – Alaska
Grant Number 02-50-M09071
Reporting Period End Date 09-30-13

14 a Data Collection Project

2. Describe any additional project milestones that have been accomplished over this reporting period (Ex. Updates to state broadband maps and websites, map outreach activities)

Connect Alaska continues to maintain the interactive mapping web application, called My ConnectView. The application is housed in a highly available, monitored, and managed environment. My ConnectView is publicly available on the program website (http://www.connectak.org/interactive-map). There were a total of 43 visits to the interactive map between July 1, 2013 and September 30, 2013.

For this reporting period, 218 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 22 companies (out of a universe of 27 viable providers) totaling 81.48% within the state of Alaska.

Based on the release of information by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) related to the Connect America Fund (CAF), a statewide map was developed to visualize proposed areas for subsidized build-out under CAF Phase I, 2013. This map is available online at www.connectednation.org/fcc-maps.

4. Provide any other information or statistics that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your broadband data collection, Validation and publication activities.

Connect Alaska submitted a semi-annual update of the broadband dataset to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) under the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) grant program. The submission included datasets for 100% of the Alaska provider community, or 27 of 27 total providers. Nine of the providers supplied an update to their network or coverage areas, while 17 providers have reported no change. The remaining provider previously supplied data but was non-responsive in the current update effort; therefore, their previous dataset was put forward as part of the submission.

Community Anchor Institution (CAI) data collection efforts continued with an education-focused campaign during the month of September. Program staff worked with the Alaska State Library and the Alaska Department of Education to solicit the participation of local libraries and K-12 schools in order to gain missing or additional CAI data for libraries and educational facilities throughout the state.

14 b Capacity Building Project

2. Describe your progress meeting each major activity/milestone approved in the Project Plan for this project; any challenges or obstacles encountered and mitigation strategies you have employed; planned major activities for next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Broadband Capacity Building Milestones Year 4, Quarter 3 per approved project plan
Milestone: Year 4, Quarter 3 Connect Alaska program office administration
This milestone was met. The program office in Anchorage is fully staffed and interacting with stakeholders. Program staff meets weekly with representatives from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) to discuss the status of the project and provide briefings to the Alaska Broadband Task Force (AKBBTF). Program staff also provided administrative support to the Task Force this quarter in the editing, finalization, and release of the Task Force's Broadband Plan.

Milestone: Year 4, Quarter 3 Meeting of the Alaska Broadband Task Force/Advisory Committee complete
This milestone was met. Connect Alaska staff worked closely with the Task Force and DCCED during the quarter in preparation for the release of the Alaska Broadband Plan. The report was reviewed, updated, edited, and formatted by program staff. The report, titled "A Blueprint for Alaska's Broadband Future," includes specific recommendations for deploying high-speed broadband across the state, saying that to be competitive in a global environment every Alaska household should have access to 100 Megabits per second of broadband speed by 2020. A press release was issued, a blog post was made, social media postings were created announcing the release of the plan, and a link to the broadband plan was posted on the program's website. The plan can be viewed and commented on at
www.akbroadbandtaskforce.com.

Now that it has fulfilled its primary mission of creating a broadband plan, the Alaska Broadband Task Force may not have another meeting. Connect Alaska will work closely with DCCED to identify individuals or groups and conduct outreach necessary to assemble an Advisory Committee. The Committee will serve as a body to review program progress and offer recommendations for the program and other related initiatives.

Q3 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:
No major challenges were encountered during the quarter.

Capacity Planning Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:
Year 4, Quarter 4 Connect Alaska program office administration
Year 4, Quarter 4 Meeting of the Alaska Broadband Task Force/Advisory Committee complete

4. Provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses this project's progress.

Program outreach and awareness staff created and sent 3 monthly e-newsletters to subscribers and stakeholders providing updates on the progress to expand broadband access, adoption, and use. Copies of these newsletters are enclosed within the "13Q3_Project Attachment_Question 5" document.

Connect Alaska staff will be working closely with DCCED representatives to promote and inform state stakeholders about the Alaska Broadband Task Force report and its specific recommendations for deploying high-speed broadband across the state.

14 b Technical Assistance Project

2. Describe your progress meeting each major activity/milestone approved in the Project Plan for this project; any challenges or obstacles encountered and mitigation strategies you have employed; planned major activities for next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Technical Assistance Milestones Year 4, Quarter 3 per approved project plan:
Milestone: Year 4, Quarter 3 Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Technical Assistance Activities
This milestone was met. In rural areas of Alaska, the school is the center of the community and a point through which information can be easily disseminated throughout the community. The Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB), as a sub-recipient of the State Broadband Initiatives program, worked with program staff to plan upcoming community technology planning and research projects. Four rural communities - Haines, St. Paul, Manokotak, and Seldovia - were identified and have agreed to participate in community engagement activities this fall and winter. Workshops revolving around broadband access, adoption, and use will be conducted. AASB personnel will also conduct localized research in the communities, utilizing a survey instrument created by program research staff, during the quarter. The primary mission of the survey is designed to explore rural Alaskan community members' broadband usage patterns and barriers to that broadband usage. The first engagement will begin in Haines, Alaska, in early October.

Connect Alaska has received positive feedback from individuals and persons within state government regarding the awareness the media has generated for the community engagement workshops held in the remote Alaskan native communities of Metlakatla and Chevak. Blogs, social media posts, and videos highlighting the community engagement activities through the AASB program were created and distributed by program staff.

Milestone: Finalize and distribute AASB local survey research results
This milestone was not met. A preliminary analysis of the surveys was completed and the results were provided to the Association of Alaska School Boards for review prior to finalization. Due to a lesser number of significant survey responses than expected the preliminary results will be held until additional data collection can be completed through upcoming AASB engagements in additional rural Alaskan villages. The survey instrument was modified by the research team with lessons learned from the prior surveys to elicit a more statistically significant sample. Results will then be analyzed and distributed via website postings, blog posts, and social media postings.

Technical Assistance outstanding milestones (not met or partially met) from previous quarters:
Year 3, Quarter 4 Outstanding Milestone: Plan Alaska Broadband Summit
Year 4, Quarter 1 Outstanding Milestone: Conduct Alaska Broadband Summits
These milestones were not met; however, discussions have taken place regarding a broadband summit with DCCED and the Alaska Broadband Task Force. A decision was also made by DCCED and AKBBTF to

delay a broadband summit until the broadband plan could be completed. Now that the plan has been released to the public, discussions are being held to determine the form and venue for a summit. The focus is being placed on early 2014 in partnership with another organization and event. A determination is expected during Q4.

Q3 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:
DCCED would like to receive more significant feedback from the public in regard to the Alaska Broadband Task Force report before making the determination on the specific form of a summit. Should there be a significant amount of feedback, DCCED would like to make the broadband report the centerpiece of a summit and not miss an opportunity to further highlight and discuss the information and recommendations within the plan in a meaningful format. As of now, the amount of feedback has been less than expected. This makes DCCED and program staffs lean toward a partnership style of summit where the broadband report can be discussed among several primary topics. DCCED is currently exploring opportunities to partner with other organizations on summit production with the broadband report being one of several key topics to be addressed. A determination on the summit style is expected to be made in Q4.

Capacity Planning Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter
Year 4, Quarter 4 AASB Technical Assistance Activities

14 b Application Usage & Development Project

2. Describe your progress meeting each major activity/milestone approved in the Project Plan for this project; any challenges or obstacles encountered and mitigation strategies you have employed; planned major activities for next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Application Usage & Development Milestones Year 4, Quarter 3 per approved project plan
Milestone: Year 4, Quarter 3 Administration of the Application Development Fund
This milestone was met. Program staff participated in several meetings with stakeholders to discuss viable application development fund uses. Results of the e-government assessment will factor into the ongoing administration of the Application Development Fund when the results are finalized. Staff has been working with DCCED on two application development proposals. One proposal is focused on improving rural economic activity by means of an e-government mobile phone app and/or a web portal that highlights DCCED business databases to assist Alaskan manufacturers in marketing their products in the various commercial sectors, such as the seafood industry sector or the tourist industry sector. Staff also worked with DCCED and a third-party consultant to draft a scope of work and create a draft Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the mobile phone app and/or web portal. The RFQ was reviewed within several departments at DCCED, but a final approval has not been given due to concerns over the internal resources needed within the state of Alaska. Discussions continue within DCCED to reach an acceptable outcome.

Milestone: Year 4, Quarter 3 Monitor application development projects
This milestone was met. Working with DCCED and a third-party consultant, program staff drafted a scope of work and created a draft Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the mobile phone app and/or web

portal. The RFQ is awaiting approval from DCCED departmental personnel. Discussions continue with DCCED regarding options for other application development projects should talks over the currently planned projects fail.

Application Usage & Development outstanding milestones (not met or partially met) from previous quarters
Milestone: Finalize the E-Government Assessment
The milestone has been partially met. The e-government survey is being used to examine how Alaskans, both urban and rural, utilize and perceive government services online in order to determine and inform future application development projects. Connect Alaska has initiated the survey online though the program website. The Association of Alaska School Boards, as part of its technical assistance activities, also conducted the e-government surveys in person in the rural communities of Chevak and Metlakatla, Alaska. A preliminary analysis of the results found that a statistically significant sample was not achieved in order to finalize the assessment or compile results during the quarter. Further AASB engagements will occur in additional villages during Q4. The survey will be conducted during these engagements, and it is expected that a statistically significant sample will be achieved and the survey results can be finalized and distributed during the quarter.

Q3 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:
DCCED personnel are still actively evaluating options for the Application Development Fund. Connect Alaska had originally worked with DCCED on a project proposal to incorporate an Alaska purchase preference program run by DCCED with the goal of creating a mobile application or a mobile-optimized web application for this government service. This particular applications development proposal commenced over two years ago and continued to be discussed internally at DCCED. A second major project proposal from DCCED revolved around a mapping e-government application that could collectivize the disparate mapping exercises conducted by various state of Alaska agencies, especially DCCED and the Department of Natural Resources. Connect Alaska conducted numerous meetings with DCCED on this second proposal over the past year, but it, too, is stalled at the moment due to concerns regarding the amount of information technology (IT) resources and responsibility necessary to execute these two applications development project proposals. Connect Alaska is optimistic that internal IT concerns can be overcome through talks proposed for this October, but we are nonetheless searching for other options just in case those negotiations do not meet expectations. Either way, the DCCED is excited about the potential for the applications development fund and does not want to see this opportunity evaporate, so we anticipate that extra effort will be put forth in the remaining quarters of the SBI program to ensure that the applications development fund is a success in Alaska.

Application Usage & Development Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:
Year 4, Quarter 4 Administration of the Application Development Fund
Year 4, Quarter 4 Monitor application development projects

4. Provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses this project's progress.

Connect Alaska was a sponsor of the third Alaska Hackathon. Computer programmers and developers gathered over a 2-day period at the new Anchorage Community Works to collaborate and develop applications to improve communities in a process known as civic hacking. The group developed applications that ranged in purpose from public safety to avalanche modeling and food truck locating. An example of one application with the potential to greatly improve the community was the It Takes A

Village (iTAV) app. The idea was proposed by a 20-year veteran of the Anchorage Police Department who specialized in missing person cases. The app would allow emergency responders or family members of missing persons to ask people in the area to assist in searches and would track what had already been searched.