
Broadband Florida Q4 2014 PPR Report Details
Project Attachment – Technical Assistance (Grants)

Question 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 the next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Planned Major Activities and Mitigation Strategies for the Next Quarter

The technical assistance team is focusing on broadband-related resource development for healthcare community anchor institutions by maximizing the Federal Communications Commission HealthCare Connect Fund (HCF) broadband discounts to state agency healthcare provider sites. The goal is to return the maximum amount of funding to these healthcare providers. We have two staff members. Michelle Gomez specializes in outreach, data collection, and validation. Jackie Archer is our data manager and expert on the HCF form submission process.

Fourth Quarter Major Accomplishments

The Florida Department of Health's consortium was identified as applicable for the HealthCare Connect Fund. This consortium is moving forward as our largest client. We estimate that about 400 Department of Health sites will require a Form 460 per site to be submitted to determine eligibility. We estimate a savings of over \$1 Million in the first year of the program.

Deliverables

These performance measures listed in Table 1 are tracked and occasionally refined to address unforeseen challenges.

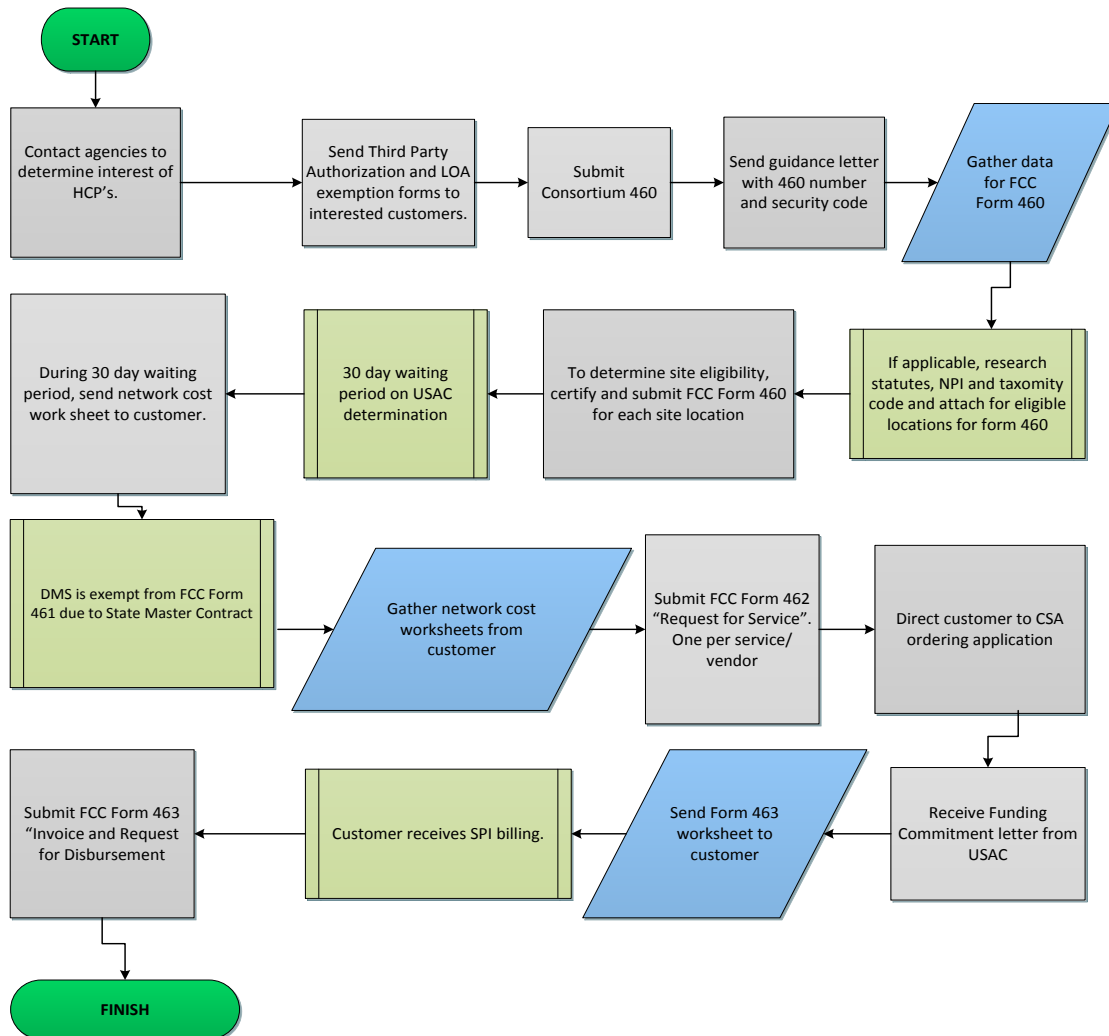
Table 1: Deliverables for the Grants Assistance Team

1. Research, review and documentation of USAC based funding programs
2. Determine Community Anchor Institutional (CAI) grant applicants and needs
3. Communicate grant opportunities to stakeholders
4. Provide technical assistance and program management support to grant applicants
5. Incorporate grant program research results into grant database and web portal
6. Provide quarterly report and newsletter to stakeholders of quarter activities and results
7. Continue grant program outreach and awareness building with public and private institutions
8. Grant program training to CAIs
9. Document funding program requirements for applicants

Research, Review and Document Federal Funding Programs

The team developed and implemented a process to assist healthcare organizations and consortiums with applying for the Universal Service Healthcare Connect fund.

Chart 1: Universal Service HealthCare Connect application process



Determination of Community Anchor Institution Needs

As we prepare the HCF applications for the Florida Department of Health's consortium, the team assesses broadband speeds and evaluates if more bandwidth is needed. The Florida Department of Health reports that their rural sites are in desperate need for additional bandwidth. They have implemented cloud-based enterprise software and electronic health records. These programs are dominating the bandwidth and the rural clinics are anxious for more funding for additional broadband capacity. After the HealthCare Connect Funding becomes available, the Florida Department of Health will increase bandwidth to these rural sites first.

Communicate Grant Opportunities to Stakeholders and Provide Technical Assistance and Program Management Support to Grant Applicants

The team has concluded outreach for the Healthcare Connect Fund. Until the end of the grant, the team will act as a consultant to the Florida Department of Health to assist with their applications.

We will submit forms 460 and train recipients on necessary activities for ongoing program sustainability.

[Incorporate Grant Program Research Results into Grant Database and Broadband Florida Initiative Web Portal](#)

The team is fully engaged in building a portal to host the funding opportunity database, facilitate outreach, store recorded webinars, and enable outreach subscription and dissemination.

[Continue Grant Program Outreach and Awareness Building with Public and Private Institutions](#)

The team concluded our outreach efforts. For the remainder of the grant until November 2014, we are focused solely on the Universal Service Healthcare Connect Program application and management for consulting clients.

[Next Steps](#)

In this quarter, the team finalized entry of all of the Form 460s possible for the individual Florida Department of Health Sites. In the next quarter, the team will assist the Florida Department of Health with transition of the project. This will include training on the project and the Healthcare Connect process.