

12Q4_Supplemental Answers_Iowa

Connected Nation, Inc

Grant Number 19-50-M09047

Reporting Period End Date 12-31-2012

14 a_Project Attachment_Data Collection

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 Iowa continues to maintain the interactive mapping web application called My ConnectView. The application is housed in a highly available, monitored, and managed environment. New feedback features allow consumers to send comments directly to program Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff; a screenshot of the user's current interactive map view is also attached to the feedback to provide additional details.

Consumer feedback in the form of broadband inquiries is also collected. These inquiries represent any type of communications 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 State Broadband Initiative (SBI) 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; and 3) residents who do not have broadband, but the broadband inventory maps indicate that they do. 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.

My ConnectView is publicly available on the Connect Iowa website (<http://www.connectiowa.org/interactive-map>). There were a total of 576 visits to My ConnectView between October 1, 2012, and December 31, 2012.

During this quarter, the project received a total of 3 broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that can also be used for verification purposes totaled 5 for this quarter.

For this reporting period, 118 field verification tests were conducted. In some cases, field validation tests were completed on "then current" viable, qualifying providers that were subsequently acquired by another company or tests were completed on a viable, qualifying company that has since gone out of business. Accordingly, the following text will reflect certain deletions, additions and mergers that have occurred during this reporting period. Following this section, any activity that has been identified under a merger and acquisition category will be called out independently.

To date, program staff have conducted on-site validation tests in Iowa on the following providers: Ace Telephone Association; Algona Municipal Utilities; Alliance Communications; Alpine Communications; Ambercomm; Arcadia Telephone; AT&T Inc.; Atkins Telephone; Aventure Communications; Ayrshire Farms Mutual Telephone Company; BEVCOMM; Bitwind Communications LLC; Brooklyn Mutual

Telecommunications Cooperative; Butler-Bremer; Cable ONE Inc.; Casey Mutual Telephone Company; Cedar Falls Utilities; Central Scott Telephone; CenturyLink (acquired Qwest Corporation); Chat Mobility; Circle Computer Resources (d.b.a. Cramer IT); Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative; City of Hawarden; Clarence Telephone Company; Clear Lake Independent Telephone; Clearwire Corporation; CML Telephone Cooperative Association of Meriden, Iowa; Colo Telephone Company; Comelec Services Inc.; Communications 1 Network; Community Cable Television Agency of O'Brien County; Community Digital Wireless; Complete Communication Services; Coon Rapids Municipal; Coon Valley Cooperative Telephone; Cooperative Telephone Company; Cooperative Telephone Exchange; Cornbelt Telephone; Cumberland Telephone; Danville Mutual Telephone Company; Dumont Telephone; East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative; Ellsworth Cooperative Telephone Exchange; Evertek Enterprises; Farmers & Merchants Mutual Telephone Company; Farmers Cooperative Telephone Company-Dysart; Farmers Mutual Cooperative Telephone Company – Harlan; Farmers Mutual Telephone Company-Jesup; Farmers Telephone Company-Essex (also d.b.a. Heartland Net); Farmers Mutual Telephone of Stanton; Fenton Co-Op Telephone Company; FiberComm LC; Frontier Communications Corporation; Goldfield Access Network; Grand Mound Cooperative; Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation; Griswold Cooperative Telephone; Grundy Center Municipal Utilities; Harlan Municipal Utilities; Hickory Tech; Hubbard Cooperative Telephone Association and Cable; Huxley Communications Cooperative; I-35 Telephone Company; IAMO Telephone Company; ImOn Communications; Internet Consulting Services LLC; Internet Solver, Inc.; Iowa Network Services; Iowa Telecom Service Inc.; JAB Wireless (formerly d.b.a. KeyOn Communications, Dynamic Broadband); Jefferson Telephone Company; Junction Telephone; Kalnet; Kalona Cooperative Telephone Company; KDSC Inc.; Killduff Telephone; La Motte Telephone Company Inc.; LaPorte City Telephone Company; Laurens Municipal Communications Utility; Leap Wireless International; Lehigh Telephone; Lenox Municipal Utilities; LoganNet; Lone Rock Cooperative Telephone Company; Long Lines; Lost Nation-Elwood Telephone Company; Mabel Cooperative Telephone; Mahaska Communications Group; Manning Municipal; Marne and Elkhorn Telephone; Martelle Telephone; Massena Telephone Company; MCC Iowa (d.b.a. Mediacom Iowa LLC); Mediapolis Telephone Company; MidIowa Net; Miles Cooperative Telephone Association; Milford Cable TV Inc.; Minburn Communications; Minerva Valley Telephone Cablevision, Inc.; Monarc Technologies; Muscatine Power & Water (d.b.a. MachLink); Mutual Telephone Company; Mutual Telephone Company of Morning Sun Iowa; NetConx; Nexgen Integrated Communications, LLC; Northern Iowa Telephone Company; Northwest Telephone Company; Ogden Telephone Company; OmniTel Communications; Osage Municipal Communications Utility; Palmer Telephone; Panora Communications Cooperative; Partner Communications Cooperative; Prairie iNet; Premier Communications; Radcliffe Telephone Company, Inc.; Readlyn Telephone; Reasnor Telephone; RingTel Communications; River Valley Telecommunications Cooperative; Rockwell Cooperative Telephone Association; Royal Telephone Company; Ruralwaves Wireless Internet; Sac County Mutual Telephone; Scranton Telephone Company; Sharon Telephone Company; SpeedNet LLC (d.b.a. Speed Connect); Spencer Municipal Utilities; Sprint Nextel Corporation; Sully Telephone Association; Superior Telephone Cooperative; Swisher Telephone; Templeton Telephone Company; Terril Telephone Cooperative; Titonka Telephone; T-Mobile USA; Traer Municipal Utilities; U.S. Cellular; USA Communications (d.b.a. Farmers Mutual Telephone Cooperative-Shellsburg); Van Buren Telephone Company Inc.; Verizon Communications Inc.; Villisca Farmers Telephone Company; Walnut Telephone Company; Webster-Calhoun-Cooper Telephone Association; Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association; West Liberty Telephone Company (also d.b.a. Cloudburst 9 LLC and Liberty Communications); Western Iowa Networks; Western Iowa Telephone Association; Windstream (d.b.a. Iowa Telecom Services); Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association; Woolstock Mutual Telephone; and WTC Communications, Inc.

There were no mergers or acquisitions identified during this time period.

From program initiation through this reporting period, in-the-field validation testing has been completed against 153 companies (out of a universe of 202 viable providers) totaling 75.74 percent within the state of Iowa.

For Q4 2012, Connect Iowa's match percentage based on total expenditures was 18.12%. Thus the program will fall short of the required match percentage by 1.92%. Program staff is working with the Iowa Economic Development Authority and Iowa Utilities Board to try and identify additional sources of match. Additionally, Connect Iowa is engaged in conversation with the NTIA Program Office regarding this obstacle. A non-federal cost share waiver was filed and granted through Q3 2012.

Capacity Building Attachment

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.

Q4 2012 Broadband Capacity Building Milestones per approved Project Plan:

Year 3, Quarter 4 Connect Iowa Office Administration and Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board support

This milestone was met. Connect Iowa continued to provide administrative project oversight involving a variety of tasks that encompass administering the project plan, managing workflow and timeline, verifying work quality, gathering documentation in support of community outreach/projects, and preparing reports as required by the Iowa Economic Development Authority and other stakeholders. This quarter the office was able to benefit from the addition of two consultants to work on Community Planning projects which has been very valuable to the program operation.

Conduct the meeting(s) of the Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board in Year 3, Quarter 4

This milestone was met. While the Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board (IBDGB) has not been reinstituted with new members assigned to carry out the work of broadband adoption in the state, Connect Iowa, in partnership with the Iowa Economic Development Authority, convened a quarterly meeting of the Connect Iowa Advisory Committee during Q4 2012. The meeting agenda included discussion concerning the conclusion of the contract with Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC) and the use of two consultants to conduct community planning outreach. Additional items discussed were concerning the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Reform Updates surrounding the Phase 1 of Mobility Fund, and First Net.

Year 3 Annual Goals – Capacity Building:

The program coordinator will continue to support the Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board by scheduling, planning, and facilitating IBDGB meetings at the Iowa Department of Public Safety Building or via webinar. Activities include preparing meeting invitations, creating agendas, sending information packets for IBDGB members, developing bi-monthly IBDGB reports, compiling meeting notes, and documenting IBDGB recommendations and action items for the program and other broadband initiatives in Iowa. The coordinator will also create an annual report and document program success from previous year.

This milestone was met. The position of Program Manager continues to support the Iowa Economic Development Authority as the reporting entity in Iowa with regard to the SBI program. Since the disbanding of the IBDGB in 2011 the program office administration has worked with and reported to the Iowa Economic Development Authority on the operation and administration of the Connect Iowa program. The Program Manager has been active in administering the program office which has involved the scheduling, planning, and facilitating of meetings pertaining to the projects status, community planning activities, and meetings to review research data. Due to the disbanding of the IBDGB, monthly reporting procedures have been directed to the Iowa Economic Development Authority and any requests for information have been supported and will continue to be supported by the Program Manager and project team. In efforts to maintain the focused activities initiated by the IBDGB towards the expansion of broadband in Iowa, the Connect Iowa Advisory Committee was established in 2012. The program has been able to work with and assist with leading its assembly and facilitating the quarterly meetings of the committee through preparing meeting invitations, creating agendas, sending information packets for members, developing any reports requested, compiling meeting notes, and documenting Advisory Committee recommendations and action items for the committee and any other broadband initiatives in the state.

The IBDGB will continue to meet bi-monthly to review program progress and offer recommendation for the program and other related programs. IBDGB recommendations will be communicated with stakeholders via stakeholder meetings, Connect Iowa website updates, blogs, press releases, reports, or as required by IBDGB.

This milestone was met. The IBDGB was disbanded in 2011 and the Connect Iowa Advisory Committee has since been formed in efforts to expand the community outreach programs to further expand broadband adoption, access, and use. The committee meets on a quarterly basis and reviews community outreach broadband expansion activities in the state and other issues related to broadband programs in the state of Iowa. Meeting information is communicated to stakeholders, via Connect Iowa website updates, blogs, press releases, reports, and any other requests from the committee. The committee also is supported by membership of the Project Champion from the Iowa Economic Development Authority. During the Advisory Committee's Q4 2012 meeting, held in November 2012, the committee discussed the Connected Community Assessment process and the future action items needing to be implemented to assist communities seeking to attain the status of Certified Connected Community. Additional discussion was held concerning the FCC Reform on the Phase I of Mobility Fund - where in Iowa only one applicant received an award for buildout covering 52 road miles in Lucas County. Discussion was also held concerning the FirstNet program and its purpose in the construction and development of a public safety broadband network and its relevance to the state of Iowa's economic development. The primary takeaways from the meeting were the discussion of the vision for the committee to take on increased activity by the forming of sub-groups to focus greater attention on items such as broadband expansion funding, provider assistance, and educating the general public on the benefits of broadband access, adoption, and use. The committee will continue to meet on a quarterly basis.

Q4 2012 Challenges and Mitigation:

Nothing to report.

Capacity Building Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

2013, Quarter 1, Connect Iowa program office administration
Conduct 2013, Quarter 1 meeting(s) of the Connect Iowa Advisory Committee

Technical Assistance Attachment

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.

Q4 2012 Technical Assistance Milestones per approved Project Plan:

Finalize and distribute 2012 statewide residential survey research results

This milestone was not met. Connect Iowa is awaiting completion of the peer review and recommendations from the peer reviewer to release the survey results. The 2012 Residential survey will be publicly released in Q1 2013.

Technical Assistance outstanding milestones (not met or partially met) from previous quarters:

Outstanding Milestone from Year 3, Quarter 2: Analyze 2012 statewide residential survey research results

This milestone was met. In Q4 2012, program research staff analyzed the results from the 2012 residential survey and sent the survey instruments and results to Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University to be peer reviewed. Following the conclusion of the peer review, the survey results will be shared with state stakeholders, NTIA, and released publicly in 2013.

Outstanding Milestone from Year 3, Quarter 3: Peer Review of the 2012 statewide residential survey

This milestone was partially met. Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University has been identified as the program's peer reviewer. A contract with Dr. Sun for peer review services has been executed. Further, the program research team provided Dr. Sun with the 2012 residential survey instrument and initial results for review. The peer review is currently underway and will be completed in Q1 2013.

Year 3 Annual Goals - Technical Assistance:

Finalize and distribute 2011 statewide business survey research results. Incorporate stakeholder recommendations and create final report detailing results of 2011 business survey. Deliver in-person presentation of research results to the Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board/Iowa Economic Development Authority and other stakeholders. Announce the release of data via press release, website update, and meetings with stakeholders.

This milestone was met in Q2 2012. Connect Iowa finalized the 2011 statewide business survey research results. The results incorporated stakeholder recommendations which were provided to the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Connect Iowa Advisory Committee, and other stakeholders, and were publicly announced thru multiple media sources.

Develop research plan for years 3 through 5 through collaboration with the Iowa Economic Development Authority and other stakeholders. Primary corresponding activities include developing research plan and seeking NTIA approval for Years 3 through 5.

This milestone was partially met in 2012. Connect Iowa, submitted a revised project plan to NTIA for approval during Q4 2012. Included within the amended plan was a revised research schedule developed in collaboration with the Connect Iowa Advisory Committee and the Iowa Department of Economic Authority.

Upon approval from Iowa stakeholders and NTIA, initiate the 2012 statewide residential survey research by creating a spreadsheet with census-defined quotas and weights for 2012 and collect respondent data.

This milestone was partially met. Connect Iowa initiated the 2012 statewide residential survey. The effort to do so included the drafting of the survey instruments, creating spreadsheets with census-defined quotas and weights for 2012, collecting respondent data, and creating a data file with weighted results. The initial analysis of the survey results has been submitted for peer review prior to release.

After analysis and the review process that includes collaborating with the Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board/Economic Development Authority, the 2012 residential survey will be delivered in-person to the Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board/Economic Development Authority and other stakeholders. Also survey results will be announced via press release, website update, and meetings with stakeholders.

This milestone was not met. Approval from NTIA to initiate the 2012 residential survey was received in Q3 2012 and the survey was initiated in that quarter. As a result, subsequent milestones (analysis, finalization, and distribution) of the results were delayed. The project team submitted an amended project plan reflecting the adjusted timeline in Q4 2012. Connect Iowa will finalize and distribute the 2012 statewide residential survey results to state stakeholders in Q1 2013.

Facilitate Year 3 peer review of survey results and resulting analysis. Review peer recommendation and update program as required.

This milestone was met. A peer reviewer has been retained, and the 2012 residential survey instrument and initial results were provided to the contracted peer reviewer. The program awaits the completion of the peer review process, which it anticipates will conclude in Q1 2013.

Q4 2012 Challenges and Mitigation:

Nothing to report.

Technical Assistance Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

Finalize and distribute 2012 residential survey research results.

Initiate 2013 business survey research.

Peer Review of the 2013 business survey.

Planning Teams Attachment

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.

Q4 2012 Planning Teams Milestones per approved Project Plan:

Transition from planning activities to implementation

This milestone was met. Program staff has trained residents in community planning activities to lead efforts in broadband access, adoption, and use. Connect Iowa has also provided avenues for residents to work with providers in an effort to gain access to areas where broadband has previously not been available. Planning for the first ever Connect Iowa Summit, scheduled to occur in Q2 2013, has

commenced. The summit will focus on assisting in the transition from planning activities to implementation by fostering discussion of the relevance of broadband to Iowa's economy.

Year 3 Annual Goals - Planning Teams:

Assist in development and implementation of local regional technology growth strategies by helping to track local Broadband projects, add to regional database, and bring awareness to projects through Connect Iowa website, blog, press releases, reports, or as required by local regional team and providing technical assistance (research data) and mapping tools to assist teams in implementation of local initiatives. Document meetings with teams.

This milestone was met. Program staff has been working with Iowa communities in the development and implementation of local regional technology growth strategies through the use of the Connected Community Certification process. Through these efforts greater awareness on a local, state and national level has been demonstrated including local broadband projects being publicized through various communication channels such as the Connect Iowa website, blog postings, press releases, or reports. Research data has been provided to communities and Community Technology Advisors have offered technical assistance and mapping tools to assist teams in the implementation of local initiatives. As of the end of Q4 2012 there were approximately 21 communities working to attain the certification status of being a Connected Community. Through the collaborative work with IARC and two in-office consultants, Connect Iowa has facilitated efforts to create awareness of the necessity of broadband expansion and use throughout the state.

Q4 2012 Challenges and Mitigation:

Nothing to report

Planning Teams Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

Conduct Year 4, Quarter 1 Connect Iowa Advisory Committee planning team meetings