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Connected Nation, Inc.

Grant Number 19-50-M09047

Reporting Period End Date 03-31-14

For Q1 2014, Connect Iowa's match percentage based on total expenditures was 17.90%. Thus the program will fall short of the required match percentage by 2.14%. In Q1 2014 Connect Iowa submitted a budget modification request that included additional sources of match. This budget modification request is currently under review by NTIA/NIST. Resolution of the budget modification should result in the program realizing its required match percentage.

14 a_Project Attachment_Data Collection

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

Engineering and Technical Services (ETS) staff conducted and completed provider outreach in support of the April 2014 semi-annual data submission. The submission under the State Broadband Initiatives (SBI) program included datasets for 100% of the Iowa provider community, or 201 total providers. There were 200 participating providers and 1 additional non-participating provider whose estimated coverage areas had been submitted. Of the 200 participating providers, 162 supplied an update to their network or coverage area(s), while 22 reported no change. The remaining 16 represented providers who previously supplied data but were non-responsive in the current update effort; therefore, their previous dataset was put forward as part of the compilation. The submission also included business/commercial providers; twenty-eight business-only providers (end user category 2) were included in the submission.

Of the 196 residential providers represented in the above section, 151 are providers that do not distinguish between serving primarily residential or primarily non-residential users (end user category 5).

In addition to the facilities-based and middle-mile broadband providers tracked above, the submission also contained datasets for 3 resellers that were able to provide sufficient information on their service area(s) to be included in the data transfer model.

An interactive mapping web application, called My ConnectView, continues to be maintained. The application is housed in a highly available, monitored, and managed environment. My ConnectView is publicly available on the program website (www.connectiowa.org). There were a total of 797 visits to the interactive map between January 1, 2014 and March 31, 2014.

Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that was also used for verification purposes totaled 2 for this quarter. Users can also request non-confidential mapping data produced for the SBI grant program; four such data requests were received between January 1, 2014 and March 31, 2014.

Maps of broadband availability for each State House and State Senate district were completed in January. Custom maps of 25M/200K broadband service were also created. SBI mapping detail and speed tier information was used by the state's executive office as it drafted a broadband bill for consideration by the 2014 legislature.

For this reporting period, 6 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 179 companies (out of 201 viable providers) totaling 89.05% within the state of Iowa.

In an effort to provide the most accurate validation information available, project to date validation numbers are in the process of being reviewed and recalculated to consider the impact on the total percentage of providers validated when removing companies that have gone out of business and/or have been merged with or acquired by other companies. As this review will continue in Q2, the validation numbers presented for this quarter are preliminary and conservative reflecting an adjustment to the percentage of providers validated in an effort to account for this variance.

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.

Based on information released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on the Rural Broadband Experiments, Connected Nation created maps of the eligible census tracts and assisted states, broadband providers, and other stakeholders with reviewing and understanding the information provided to help with expressions of interest as possible.

Tabular information on Community Anchor Institution (CAI) connectivity was updated using October 2013 datasets in an effort to assist with information being reviewed and prepared by Policy and Research Development staff.

During Q1 2014, program representatives nurtured a strong partnership with Iowa Library Services in an effort to capture library information through the Connect Iowa CAI survey.

14 b_Project Attachment_Capacity Building

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.

Capacity Building milestones for Year 5, Quarter 1 per approved Project Plan:

Milestone: Year 5, Quarter1 Connect Iowa Office Administration

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 (IEDA) and other

stakeholders. The program office continues to serve as a viable resource from which many communities, institutions, and the state Governor's office seek advisory input concerning broadband availability and access throughout the state.

Milestone: Conduct the meeting(s) of the Connect Iowa Advisory Committee in Year 5, Quarter 1

This milestone was met. The Year 5, Quarter 1 Connect Iowa Advisory Committee meeting was held on March 12, 2014, with thirteen members or member representatives and one guest attendee present. During the meeting, Connected Nation's Chief Policy Counsel presented via Skype an update of current federal initiatives that could affect the state of Iowa, including the FCC Rural Broadband Experiments and E-rate modernization. Program staff also provided members with an update of the two broadband bills that are currently being discussed in legislation and were informed about the 2014 broadband summit to be held on June 16 in Des Moines. This summit will take the place of the Year 5, Quarter 2 Advisory Committee Meeting.

Capacity Building Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q2 2014)

- Year 5, Quarter2 Connect Iowa Office Administration
- Conduct the meeting(s) of the Connect Iowa Advisory Committee in Year 5, Quarter 2
- Participate in the quarterly meetings of the Iowa STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Council Broadband Committee
- Successful completion of the 2014 Connect Iowa Broadband Summit

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

Planning activities for the 2014 Connect Iowa Broadband Summit commenced during Q1 2014, and weekly meetings are held to ensure that planning efforts remain on track. As of the end of Q1, the venue has been secured, the agenda formalized, and presenters and sponsors are being solicited. The summit will be held on June 16, 2014, at the Des Moines Area Community College campus FFA Enrichment Center. A broad topic offering is planned to attract attendees from a variety of stakeholder sectors including agriculture, economic development, public safety, business and industry, education, libraries, community leaders, state and local government, and healthcare. Iowa Governor Terry Branstad has endorsed the summit and will be presenting comments during the opening session.

Program staff provided education and broadband updates through several presentations during the quarter, using Connect Iowa research data from the 2012 residential adoption survey and the 2013 business technology survey, as well as current mapping data. Two such presentations were delivered at the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) Spring School with information specifically geared toward the affiliate group of county supervisors. Over 130 attendees were provided information on the Connect Iowa program and the Connected community engagement program. The ISAC county supervisor affiliate group has endorsed broadband planning as part of its ongoing initiative.

Staff participated as a panelist for a legislative broadband forum hosted by several Chambers of Commerce in the Des Moines metro area. Discussion focused on the current broadband landscape in Iowa as well as on the broadband bills currently in legislation.

Program staff attended and moderated at two broadband meetings hosted by the John Deere Corporation. The focus of these meetings was the needs of broadband in the agricultural community. Community attendees included representatives from AT&T, Centurylink, Mediacom, Iowa Farm Bureau, and Dupont-Pioneer.

Program staff continues to attend monthly meetings of the Iowa State Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB), as a member of the ISICSB broadband committee. Representatives also participated in the Q1 Iowa Rural Development Council (RDC) meeting. The Iowa United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Services Director identified broadband as one of the primary issues he heard about during his 40+ roundtable meetings across the state in 2013. RDC members discussed how they might best serve Iowa's rural communities with regard to broadband and other issues. Members also expressed interest in participating in the 2014 Connect Iowa broadband summit.

Program staff presented to the state Area Education Agency district media directors meeting, to provide a third-party overview of the current broadband bills in legislation, and to serve as a resource to many providers interested in learning more about the FCC's Rural Broadband Experiment program.

14 b_Project Attachment_Technical Assistance

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.

Technical Assistance milestones for Year 5, Quarter 1 per approved Project Plan:

Milestone: Release 2013 residential survey results publicly

This milestone was met. Research staff finalized the analysis of the 2013 residential survey, incorporating feedback from state stakeholders and the peer reviewer, and created a spreadsheet and two-page report detailing the results and key findings. Results were presented to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and state stakeholders as well as announced publicly through updating the program website http://www.connectiowa.org/sites/default/files/connected-nation/iowa/files/ia_2013_residential_survey.pdf.

Milestone: Business survey instruments sent to peer reviewer

This milestone was not met. The 2014 business survey was initiated in Q1 2014. Survey data collection must be completed before a review of the methodology and the instrument can be accomplished properly. Once the data collection process is completed, research staff will be able to present the survey results, the survey instrument, and methodology document to the peer reviewer. The peer review of the 2014 business survey is expected to be completed in Q2 2014.

Milestone: Initiate 2014 business survey research

This milestone was met. Research staff created a spreadsheet that includes quotas by business sizes and sectors from the latest census information for weighting purpose, finalized the survey script

incorporating feedback from state stakeholders, and provided this survey instrument to the data collection contractor. The assessment is currently in progress and is scheduled to finish in Q2 2014.

Outstanding (not met or partially met) Technical Assistance Milestones from previous quarters:

Year 4, Quarter 4 Outstanding Milestone: Peer review of 2013 survey research completed

This milestone was met. Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University peer reviewed the 2013 residential survey in Q1 2014. In Dr. Sun's peer review she found that the survey instrument used by Connect Iowa adequately achieved the survey goals of measuring technology adoption.

Year 4, Quarter 4 Outstanding Milestone: Develop 2014 business survey script and discuss with state stakeholder

This milestone was met. The survey script for the 2014 business survey was developed in Q1 2014. The Iowa Department of Economic Development Authority was included in the process of developing the 2014 business survey script and their feedback was included.

Year 4, Quarter 4 Outstanding Milestone: Analyze 2013 residential survey research results

This milestone was met. The initial results of the survey were generated in Q1 2014. Initial results consisted of computer ownership, home broadband adoption, and mobile Internet usage among demographic groups of age, race/ethnicity, geography of residence, and annual household income. Connect Iowa conducted the initial analysis and finalized these results incorporating recommendations from state stakeholders and the peer reviewer, then created a spreadsheet and two-page report that included key findings for distribution. This report has been included in the "14Q1_Project Attachment_Question 5_Iowa" response.

Year 4, Quarter 3 Outstanding Milestone: Residential survey instruments sent to peer reviewer

This milestone was met. The survey instrument, initial results, and an outline of the methodology used for this survey were sent to Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University for peer review. Dr. Sun was able to verify the survey results and commented on the scientific soundness of the methodology used in the design of the survey questions as they were found to represent research interest and real issues in Iowa in terms of technology adoption and use.

Technical Assistance Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q2 2014)

- Develop residential survey script and discuss with state stakeholders
- Analyze 2014 business survey research results
- Finalize and distribute initial findings of the business survey research results
- Peer review of 2014 business survey research completed

14 b Project Attachment Planning Teams

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.

Planning Team milestones for Year 5, Quarter 1 per approved Project Plan:

Milestone: Assist in development and implementation of local regional technology growth strategies

This milestone has been met. Program staff continues working with communities across the state helping to facilitate broadband visioning efforts via the Connected community engagement program.

Howard County, in northeast Iowa, began working with Connect Iowa staff on the Connected Community Engagement program in January 2014. The community has enthusiastic leadership in both a county supervisor and the Superintendent of Schools. Initial planning meetings have consistently drawn over 30 attendees from across the county and multiple sectors, and by the end of the quarter, the community is nearing finalization of their Technology Action Plan.

Broadband planning has become a priority in this community, as it is recognized that robust access is limited in many areas throughout the county. The county sits approximately 50 miles south of Rochester, Minnesota, home to the famed Mayo Clinic, which is planning a major expansion over the next six years that could result in the addition of 30,000 new jobs to the area. Howard County representatives are being proactive in their planning efforts to try and attract some of the labor market to their community. Telecommuting is a viable option for many of the prospective new hires, but would only be feasible if higher capacity broadband is available.

Howard County's broadband planning efforts were well underway when the FCC announced in February the Rural Broadband Experiments initiative. With a solid foundation of the broadband landscape in hand, county representatives were able to enter into discussions with a local broadband provider, which resulted in a combined filing of an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the FCC. The turn-around time between the initial announcement of the program and the EOI filing deadline was very narrow. By participating in the Connected community engagement program, Howard County was well positioned to immediately pursue options they may otherwise not have been able to attract.

It is anticipated that Howard County's final Technology Action Plan announcement will coincide with the County Fair, in Q2.

Black Hawk County was designated a certified Connected community during Q 1. Governor Branstad attended the event and provided supportive comments for the broadband planning efforts the community has undergone.

Other community planning efforts continued in Manning, Urbandale, Creston, and Union Counties. In addition, interest in the program has been expressed by Sergeant Bluff, Ogden, Decorah, Bloomfield, and Cherokee, Crawford, Chickasaw, Winnebago, and Bremer Counties. The cities of Grimes, Waukee, and Muscatine continue to be involved in the program, but made no forward progress during the quarter.

Planning Teams Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q2 2014)

- Assist in development and implementation of local regional technology growth strategies

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

The ISAC county supervisors affiliate has begun working with program staff on broadband planning efforts. The affiliate has endorsed broadband as an area of interest for 2014, as it aligns with the governor's goals. ISAC has been promoting the Connected community engagement program to its members and has effectively helped garner additional interest in broadband planning on a local level across the state.

Multi-sector technology planning teams participating in the Connected community engagement program have identified the following technology assets within their own communities:

Public computer centers: 199

Digital literacy programs: 126

Broadband awareness programs: 177

Broadband programs focused on vulnerable populations: 143

These assets are inventoried during each community's assessment of local broadband access, adoption, and use and can be leveraged to develop locally relevant digital inclusion strategies during the community team's action planning process.