

14Q1_Supplemental Answers_Iowa

Connected Nation, Inc.

Grant Number 19-50-M09047

Reporting Period End Date 06-30-14

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)

The following maps were updated using the semi-annual State Broadband Initiative (SBI) datasets:

- Broadband Availability at 768K (kilobyte)/200K
- Density of Unserved Households
- Broadband Availability at 3M (megabyte)/768K
- Maximum Advertised Download Speed
- Multi-Single Platform
- Provider Density
- Underserved Areas
- Broadband Growth
- Broadband Availability at 3M/768K by Congressional District

In addition, the interactive map was also updated with the datasets and analyzes listed above.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff updated the state community engagement map to reflect the status of counties/communities engaged in the Connected program. This map has been included in the "14Q2_Project Attachment_Supplemental Answers_Iowa" document.

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 706 visits to the interactive map between April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

During this quarter, the project received one broadband inquiry. Additional information received through a consumer e-mail was also used for verification purposes this quarter. Users can also request non-confidential mapping data produced for the SBI grant program; 4 such data requests were received between April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

For this reporting period, 138 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 197 companies (out of 201 viable providers) totaling 98.01% within the state of Iowa.

Engineering and Technical Services (ETS) staff began the semi-annual data collection process, by soliciting data and providing pertinent deadlines to ensure the highest level of participation during the submission cycle. ETS staff also worked with providers to give them information regarding the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 477, in order to help providers become more familiar with the data collection process in the future and to help safeguard against issues that could arise between the SBI submission and the new FCC submission process.

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.

The list of providers by county, along with the maximum advertised download/upload speeds and websites, were updated and published online; the list is available in both PDF and spreadsheet formats.

Broadband availability numbers were calculated at various speed tiers and technology types based on the most recent SBI datasets. This research was posted on the www.connectiowa.org website and shared with the public via press release, blog posts, and social media posts. Some of the key findings include:

- Broadband availability at speeds of at least 25 Mbps (megabytes per second) download/1.5 Mbps upload increased from 54.29% in October 2013 to 72.78% in April 2014, excluding mobile wireless services.
- Broadband availability of speeds of at least 50 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload increased from 47.35% in October 2013 to 70.94% in April 2014, excluding mobile wireless services.
- Broadband availability at speeds of at least 100 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload increased from 42.86% in October 2013 to 59.35% in April 2014, excluding mobile wireless services.
- Fiber broadband availability increased from 10.9% in October 2013 to 12.01% in April 2014.

Based on information released by the FCC, maps were created of price-cap carriers and eligible census blocks after review and comparison of the information.

Local, community-level engagements have resulted in increased Community Anchor Institution (CAI) information. In addition Connect Iowa's partnership with the state library has allowed for gains in CAI data collection.

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 2 per approved Project Plan:

Milestone: Year 5, Quarter 2 Connect Iowa Office Administration

This milestone was met. Program staff continued to provide 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 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 2

This milestone was met. In lieu of holding a separate Connect Iowa Advisory Committee meeting in Quarter 2, committee members were asked to attend the June 16 Connect Iowa Broadband Summit. Sixteen committee members were present at the Summit, including representatives from public safety, education, e-health, tribal, providers, economic development, and state government.

Milestone: Participate in the quarterly meetings of the Iowa STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Council Broadband Committee

This milestone was not met. The Iowa STEM Advisory Council Broadband Committee held no meetings during Q2. The committee has scheduled to reconvene meetings, beginning in August 2014, with the date to be determined.

Milestone: Successful completion of the 2014 Connect Iowa Broadband Summit

This milestone was met. The second statewide broadband summit was held at the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Enrichment Center in Ankeny on June 16, 2014. This summit built on the success of the 2013 event, and saw an increase in participants and sponsorship. Both the content and target audience was strategically diverse, in order to provide education on a variety of broadband related content to which a general audience might not otherwise readily have access.

Overall, the summit attracted 155 attendees including representatives from the following sectors: broadband providers, education, public safety, healthcare, libraries, community leaders, economic development, federal, state and local government, and business and industry.

Highlights of the summit included opening comments provided by Iowa Governor, Terry Branstad, which reinforced his dedication to increasing Iowa's broadband access, adoption, and use. Keynote presentations provided attendees with information on wireless (primarily mobile)

broadband, with one presentation focusing on agricultural needs. The content was not as well-received by wired broadband providers, as it was by others in attendance. However, the summit provided a neutral venue to inform.

Other sessions during the summit provided information on digital job creation, FirstNet education and outreach across Iowa, e-Health innovations and applications, broadband use in schools and libraries, and community broadband solutions.

Capacity Building Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q3 2014)

- Year 5, Quarter 3 Connect Iowa Office Administration
- Participate in the quarterly meetings of the Iowa STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Council Broadband Committee
- Conduct the meeting(s) of the Connect Iowa Advisory Committee in Year 5, Quarter 3

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

The program manager participated in the Q2 Iowa Rural Development Council (RDC) meeting, and provided the program for the meeting, which included an update on the broadband bills in session, as well as an overview of the FCC's Rural Broadband Experiments program.

The program manager also served as a panel moderator for a breakout session on community broadband initiatives during the annual SMART Conference. This conference is the state's premier economic development conference and is co-sponsored by the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

Stakeholder relationships are key to the success of the Iowa SBI program. During Quarter 2, the program manager initiated meetings with new leadership with Iowa Library Services and the Iowa Communications Network. Both state agencies are currently being operated under the guidance of new interim directors, and the meeting provided an opportunity to orient the directors to the Iowa SBI program and resources available.

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 attended a broadband committee meeting focusing on the FirstNet consultation process for Iowa.

Staff participated in a teleconference with a representative from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) in an effort to discuss the successes of the Connected community engagement program, including case studies; stakeholder engagement efforts; best practices and lessons learned; effective utilization of SBI mapping, research, and policy efforts in the growth of the Connect Iowa program; and sustainability efforts.

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 2 per approved Project Plan:

Milestone: Develop residential survey script and discuss with state stakeholders

This milestone was partially met. Development of the 2014 residential survey script began during Q2 2014. The survey script will be discussed with state stakeholders in Q3 2014 in an effort to seek input regarding the design of the script and to receive recommendations for edits or additions.

Milestone: Analyze 2014 business survey research results

This milestone was met. Initial results of the 2014 business survey were analyzed during Q2 2014 before being provided to the peer reviewer. Research staff conducted analyses on 2014 business survey by business type, size, and sector, generated some data files with weighted results in terms of technology adoption and use, and provided its initial analysis research results to the peer reviewer. Upon receiving feedback from the peer reviewer, staff will finalize the research results and present them to as well as release the results to the public.

Milestone: Finalize and distribute initial findings of the business survey research results

This milestone was partially met. Data from the 2014 business survey was finalized in Q2 2014 and peer review of the survey conducted. Updates to the website releasing the results publicly were not completed during Q2 2014. This milestone will be completed in Q3 2014 when staff finalize the research results and present them to the state stakeholders and release the results publicly.

Milestone: Peer review of 2014 business survey research completed

This milestone was met. Research staff finished the analysis of initial findings and provided these results along with the survey methodology document and survey script to the peer reviewer, Dr. Mingie Sun of Iowa State University. The peer review of the 2014 business survey was completed in Q2 2014. No recommendations were made by Dr. Sun.

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

Year 5, Quarter 1 Outstanding Milestone: Business survey instruments sent to peer reviewer

This milestone was met. Connect Iowa completed the analysis of initial survey findings, and sent these results along with the survey script and methodology document to the peer reviewer, Dr. Mingjie Sun from Iowa State University.

Technical Assistance Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q3 2014)

- Initiate 2014 residential survey research
- Release 2014 business survey

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

According to the 2013 Residential Technology Assessment, 76% of households in the state subscribe to home broadband service, up from 66% in 2010. Mobile broadband usage has also grown in Iowa. More than one-half of Iowa adults (53%) use mobile broadband service, up from 22% in 2010 when Connect Iowa began measuring this trend. More than 113,000 school-age children in Iowa still may not have broadband access at home. More than 650,000 working-age adults in Iowa would need assistance with tasks that are often required by employers, such as creating a spreadsheet, going online from a mobile device, using a word processor, or sending an e-mail. More than two out of three non-adopters in Iowa say that it would be easier for them to shop, seek out healthcare information, or interact with government offices if they had Internet access at home. Statewide, more than 293,000 households still do not subscribe to home broadband service. For many of these households, the main barrier to home broadband adoption is the belief that broadband is not relevant or beneficial to them.

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 2 per approved Project Plan:

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

This milestone has been met. Program staff continues to work with communities across the state, helping to facilitate broadband visioning efforts via the Connected community engagement program. Currently, 19 communities are actively working on their broadband assessments, with another 16 communities in the informational/interest gauging stage. With several communities working hard to finalize their technology assessments, it is anticipated that there will be many community events scheduled in Q3 to recognize involvement in the

program and deliver final Technology Action Plans. One such example is Howard County. Howard County did not finalize their assessment process in Q2, but should do so in Q3.

Newly engaged in the Connected process, the City of Van Meter is representative of the excitement seen in new participating communities. Van Meter was recently designated by the Iowa Economic Development Authority (SBI program partner), as one of only four 'Certified Industrial Sites' in the state, and city representatives were eager to partner that designation with the Connected community engagement program. Per the community champion, "We are excited to be a part of this important initiative that will put our residents on the information superhighway. As our world becomes increasingly technology-driven, we don't want to be left behind. The Connected community certification process will help us achieve a better business environment, more effective community and economic development, improved healthcare, enhanced education and more efficient government."

Cherokee County is convening a meeting of the mayors of all cities within the county so they will be informed of the work their Broadband Team is doing. It is also an opportunity to get all communities in the county involved in the planning process in an effort to ensure all locations can provide input for the Technology Action Plan being developed. The community team recognizes the importance and strategic nature of the action plan and wants to ensure that the mayors are fully aware and have a significant role in defining and implementing these actions.

The City of Ogden has been undergoing a city-wide fiber rollout (through Ogden Telephone) over the past few months, with expectations to provide 100% fiber-to-the-home access by this fall. With what they learned during the Broadband Summit, Ogden is now interested in becoming a "gigabit-city" and looking for guidance from the Iowa SBI program in how to achieve this designation.

Charles City initiated the Connected program in 2012; however, planning efforts stalled. The community has now rallied, and a community team has been formed. The committee has identified that by taking part in the assessment process, they will gain a better understanding of their broadband needs for today and the future. At the kick-off meeting held June 2, deadline dates for planning efforts were set so team members would stay on course to complete the assessment.

Polk City is a growing community just outside of the Des Moines metropolitan area. The community engaged in the Connected program to obtain guidance from the assessment in an effort to address not only broadband access needs, but to identify better ways to use broadband to grow the community, commercially as well as residentially.

Located in southeast Iowa, the city of Bloomfield has begun their assessment process with an excellent understanding of the program at hand and with a firm grasp of the importance of broadband use and expansion. Committee assignments for data collection were made at the kick-off meeting in June, and the assessment is already well underway.

Unique to the Connected program, Union County and the county seat community of Creston, have both taken part in the Connected program. The communities will both be recognized for their planning efforts at an event on August 5, with Iowa Lt. Governor Reynolds attending. Creston reached certified Connected status.

Planning Team Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q3 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.

During Q2, staff continued to see new interest in community broadband planning and the Connected program. In addition, several communities that had been informed of Connected and had some early activity, but later stalled, have now regrouped and are moving forward with planning efforts. Outreach information provided on Connected at the SMART Conference and at the Connect Iowa Broadband Summit further generated some new community involvement. However, the primary reason for the growth in activity seems to be the community leaders' new awareness of the importance of broadband to their community.

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: 214

Digital literacy programs: 142

Broadband awareness programs: 198

Broadband programs focused on vulnerable populations: 161