

14Q3_Supplemental Answers_Iowa

Connected Nation, Inc.

Grant Number 19-50-M09047

Reporting Period End Date 09-30-14

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)

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 786 visits to the interactive map between July 1 and September 30, 2014.

During this quarter, the project received four broadband inquiries. Additional information received through a consumer e-mail was used for verification purposes for this quarter. Users can also request non-confidential mapping data produced for the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) grant program; 3 such data requests were received between July 1 and September 30, 2014.

For this reporting period, 220 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 188 companies (out of 202 viable providers) totaling 93.07% within the state of Iowa.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff assisted providers with the development of deployment files for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Form 477 filing. Also, the GIS staff created maps of eligible areas for Rural Broadband Experiments based on data released by the FCC.

The final data update submission under the SBI program included datasets for 100% of the Iowa provider community, or 202 total providers. There were 201 participating providers and 1 additional non-participating provider whose estimated coverage areas were submitted. Of the 201 participating providers, 69 supplied an update to their network or coverage area(s), while 102 reported no change. The remaining 30 represent providers who previously supplied data but were non-responsive in the semi-annual update effort; therefore, their previous dataset was put forward as part of the final submission.

This final submission also included business/commercial providers; of the 323 residential datasets represented in this submission, including providers that offer multiple technology types, 249 were broadband datasets that did not distinguish between serving primarily residential or primarily non-residential users (end user category 5). There were 42 business-only broadband datasets (end user category 2) also included in this final submission.

In addition to the facilities-based and middle-mile broadband providers tracked above, this final submission 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.

Connect Iowa continued efforts to collect and review Community Anchor Institution (CAI) data. Information received in this quarter included libraries and K-12 data. The latest CAI data was submitted as a piece of the final data submission.

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 3 per approved Project Plan:

Milestone: Year 5, Quarter 3 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: Participate in the quarterly meetings of the Iowa STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Council Broadband Committee

This milestone was met. The Iowa STEM Advisory Council Broadband Committee met for the first time in 2014, on September 25. The purpose of the meeting was to continue efforts towards satisfying the remaining goals set forth by Iowa Governor Terry Branstad under the Connect Every Iowan initiative. These goals include the development of a long-term broadband strategy to be delivered by January 1, 2015, plus research and possible identification of public-private partnerships for funding. The committee reviewed the current broadband landscape including maps and business and residential survey data from the state's SBI project, discussed the broadband bills put forth during 2014 legislative session, received updates on current federal broadband initiatives, and organized next steps for planning. Nine committee members and fifteen guests attended the meeting, which included representation from the following sectors: education, broadband providers, healthcare, and state and local government.

Milestone: Conduct the meeting(s) of the Connect Iowa Advisory Committee in Year 5, Quarter 3

This milestone was met. The Year 5, Quarter 3 Connect Iowa Advisory Committee meeting was held on September 10, 2014, with eleven members or member representatives and three guests attending. During the meeting, a presentation on Iowa FirstNet education and outreach efforts was provided by the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board broadband outreach specialist. Program staff also provided attendees with an overview of the June 2014 Broadband Summit, and updates on the Connected community engagement program, the STEM Advisory Council Broadband Committee, federal initiatives, and the 2014 business survey. The Committee was also updated on the closeout status of the Iowa SBI federal grant, which will finalize on January 31, 2015. No final programmatic report was requested by the Advisory Committee who will convene again on December 10, 2014.

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

Year 5, Quarter 2 Milestone: Participate in the quarterly meetings of the Iowa STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Council Broadband Committee

This milestone was met as the Iowa STEM Advisory Council Broadband Committee met for the first time in 2014, on September 25. The STEM Advisory Council Broadband Committee will continue to meet on a recurring basis throughout 2014, and program staff will continue to support the Committee's efforts through the presentation of mapping and research data.

Capacity Building Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q4 2014)

- Year 5, Quarter 4 Connect Iowa Office Administration
- Participate in the quarterly meeting(s) 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 4

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

Stakeholder relationships are key to the success of the Iowa SBI program. During Q3 2014, the program manager held follow-up meetings with leadership of Iowa Library Services and the Iowa Communications Network to provide updates on program activities. Additionally, meetings were held with John Deere to discuss the Federal Communications Commission Rural Broadband Experiments program.

Staff continued to build relationships with the Governor's office during Q3 2014, meeting several times with the new point of contact for broadband within the Governor's administration. Staff has provided information on program offerings to the new contact such as statewide mapping, research surveys, and the Connected program. Information on federal broadband initiatives has also been provided.

Staff continued 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 the state. Iowa's FirstNet consultation meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2014.

The Iowa Partnership for Economic Progress (IPEP) – the state's CEO-level, industry-led advisory board co-chaired by Governor Terry Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds – has commissioned the Battelle Technology Partnership Practice (Battelle) to re-examine and re-envision Iowa's economic development roadmap. Working with the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and regional economic development organizations around the state, Battelle will draft a comprehensive study reviewing Iowa's industry drivers and potential growth opportunities. The study will also look at how the state has fared in advancing innovation, job attraction, and retention. Detailed information on statewide broadband status relating to access, adoption, and use was provided to Battelle, by the program manager, for use in the study. As a result, Battelle included a section in the draft report which relates specifically to broadband and encourages the state to invest in ongoing community broadband planning.

The program manager participated in the regional SBI meeting held in Minneapolis on September 4, 2014. Information from this meeting has been shared with the STEM Advisory Council Broadband Committee for best practices and consideration when looking to long-term strategic planning in Iowa.

A delegation of Malaysian government officials, visiting the United States for the Fourth Annual Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council meeting in New York, travelled to Louisville, Kentucky to meet with representatives of Connected Nation's eight SBI programs. Meetings, which took place at various sites across Kentucky and Ohio, provided a forum for Malaysian representative to orient Connected Nation leadership to their benchmark based goals for increasing access, adoption and use of broadband. Connected Nation program representatives shared information about broadband mapping best practices, community engagement for technology planning, and capacity building for technology growth at the community level. The comparison and contrast of national practices with regard to technology planning and expansion provided an opportunity to showcase Connected Nation programs locally. Local media where Connected Nation has programs took note of the Malaysian guests and inquirers. This media coverage brought favorable attention to Connected Nation programs and increased awareness to stakeholders.

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 3 per approved Project Plan:

Milestone: Initiate 2014 residential survey research

This milestone was met. Research staff finalized the residential survey script and offered state stakeholders the opportunity to provide input on the survey instrument, including survey design and questions asked. Staff then created a spreadsheet outlining sample quotas based on 2013 United States Census population estimates, finalized the survey instrument, and provided the survey instrument to the sub-contractor who began the data collection process. Data collection is currently underway and is anticipated to be finished in Q4 2014.

Milestone: Release 2014 business survey results publicly

This milestone was met. In September 2014 results from the 2014 business survey were released publicly via press release, updates to the program website, and a PDF infographic highlighting major findings from the survey.

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

Year 5, Quarter 2 Milestone: Develop residential survey script and discuss with state stakeholders

This milestone was met. Research staff informed state stakeholders of the planned upcoming residential survey and offered opportunities for discussion and input related to the survey instrument, sampling design, and questions asked. The state partner had no recommended changes, did not offer any additional input, and approved the survey script. After those discussions, research staff completed the design of the residential survey script and provided it to the sub-contractor to begin data collection.

Year 5, Quarter 2 Milestone: Finalize and distribute initial findings of the business survey research results

This milestone was met. Research staff finalized the initial findings from the 2014 business survey, which were peer reviewed by Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University. Dr. Sun was able to replicate the

findings from Connect Iowa within the margin of error and found no fault or strong potential bias within the survey instrument. She noted the response rate being lower than she anticipated and offered suggestions as to ways in which that rate could be improved upon, though she did note in conversations that it was not so low as to invalidate the results. Once the results were peer reviewed, the initial findings were shared with the National Telecommunications Administration (NTIA) and with state stakeholders prior to public release via the program website.

Technical Assistance Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q4 2014)

- Finalize and distribute 2014 residential survey research results
- Analyze 2014 statewide residential survey research results
- Peer review of 2014 survey research completed
- Wrap up Technical Assistance Activities

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

Planning Team milestones for Year 5, Quarter 3 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. In Q3 2014, 21 communities were actively engaged in some component of the assessment process, and 3 communities finalized their broadband assessment and received final Technology Action Plans outlining broadband programs customized for each community to help turn current broadband weaknesses into opportunities. The cities of Creston and Fairfield both scored high enough on the assessment to be designated as Iowa's fifth and sixth (respectively) certified Connected communities. Union County also was honored for completing the assessment and will be using findings presented in the technology action plan to advance broadband efforts in the county.

Early in Q4 2014, at least six additional communities will finalize their assessments, with the majority of them also gaining certification designation. It is anticipated that prior to the end of Q4, at least an additional six communities will finalize technology assessments, for an approximate total of 16 communities completing the assessment program in 2014. More detailed community updates are below.

Cherokee County: The Cherokee County Broadband Team is led by one of the county supervisors, and receives strong contributions from the Cherokee Area Economic Development Corporation, the city of Cherokee Chamber of Commerce, multiple local broadband providers, the Cherokee Public Library, the mayor of Washta, a retired Chief Technology Officer for an Information Technology (IT) firm and local resident, and other county representatives. The team sees participation in the Connected program as a great way to focus on improving the local economy while also positioning the county for future opportunities with grant funding or other assistance in expanding their infrastructure. Cherokee County is very proud of their heritage as a western community and is anxious to preserve and grow this tradition for future generations. The team recognizes the need for technology and connectivity and

wants to provide a supportive local environment to enable current residents and local businesses to remain in Cherokee. They have recently completed their technology assessment and action plan, and are currently reviewing and discussing their plans with mayors from each city/town to enlist their support and gain insight into related projects. The Cherokee County Team expects to be submitting their final assessment and action plan in mid-October.

City of Creston and Union County: With Creston being the county seat of Union County, these two communities shared a common Connected community broadband team, led primarily by the director of the Creston Chamber of Commerce and the executive director of the Union County Development Association. Both have worked with various community members, the local council of governments, and Connect Iowa staff to complete their community broadband assessment and action plans. After a stalled attempt to complete their assessments in 2012, Creston and Union County were re-engaged by the Connected team and together they revised old data, completed the assessment process, and developed separate action plans to continue their progress in expanding broadband access, adoption, and use. Based on its high assessment scores and pervasive broadband availability in the city, Creston was recognized as Iowa's fifth certified Connected community in August 2014. Union County was also recognized for its efforts in completing the assessment and is now actively pursuing their action plan to increase broadband availability in the more rural parts of the county in an effort to improve on its assessment score.

Jones County: Jones County is a re-engaged community that started the process back in 2012. This community held a re-engaged kickoff meeting in late June, but wasn't going to begin working on the process until Q3 2014. As of the end of Q3 2014, the committee was just beginning to gather data for the county with the intention of submitting their assessment by mid to late October 2014.

Manchester: The city of Manchester has a proactive community team of 13 members led by very passionate leaders comprised of business professionals, the district superintendent, chamber and economic development directors, and the city manager. This group set forth a goal to complete gathering data and submitting their assessment in sixty days and will be submitting data early in Q4 2014. In an effort to reach that goal, the team has held several community meetings to collect assessment data. The community had originally begun the Connected program in 2012 as a county-wide project, but has regrouped to begin the process again. They are making a concerted effort to assess the city of Manchester with an ultimate goal of completing an assessment of Delaware County in the future.

Knoxville: Ten people make up this community team including the city manager as champion, along with representatives from the school district, city council, a hospital representative, and business leaders. The Knoxville committee met a number of times after their early July kickoff meeting to discuss and collect the necessary data for the assessment. They are close to completing their assessment process and having it ready for submittal. The city manager of Knoxville was very eager to complete the assessment process in order to provide insight into the city's broadband needs. At first, the reason for completing the assessment was like most communities, to have a better understanding of access. However, as things have progressed, they have come to appreciate adoption and use and the importance of both in having a strong broadband community.

Bremer County: This community team is just a month into the Connected assessment process and there was hesitation that some of the communities in the county would not take part or have a strong interest. However, since they have started working to gather data, the community champion contacted the community technology advisor, stating the following: "At first look I was thinking we would not get

much buy-in on the assessment. I have since learned that the following cities – Readlyn, Sumner, Janesville, and Tripoli are working on the assessment, along with the county. Two of them informed me that [they] just got started, so while our timeline might be a bit slower, progress on a larger scale is being made.” Per the community champion, “Our County is excited to be taking part in the Connect Iowa assessment process. We want to be leaders in broadband technology not just part of the pack when it comes to economic development and quality of life for citizens.”

Grinnell: A wide array of professionals, totaling 18, attended the kickoff meeting held in early September covering all areas of business, chamber, library, city staff, and citizens. The group is in the early stages of collecting data but is showing a strong commitment to complete the assessment so they can have a better understanding of their broadband needs for future growth and community success. They have a committed community champion and a community that wants to see progress made. They view the Connected technology assessment as a great tool and positive step toward expanding their broadband services.

Van Meter: This community launched in late Q2 2014, and upon starting, the discussion was heavily on access and getting better broadband speeds for residential use and business growth. Since that initial meeting, and as the community dives into the data collection process, meeting interests have swung more toward adoption and use, and addressing community weaknesses now, as well as the future.

Urbandale: Urbandale is an urban community that has rallied together to compile a strong assessment covering all aspects of broadband. The development of Urbandale’s assessment data occurred in a timely fashion and they are committed to developing a strong action plan so they can improve broadband for their community.

Charles City: Charles City began the Connected assessment process in 2012, but didn’t realize the benefits of the assessment at that time and the process stalled. After attending an informational meeting held by program staff in Q2 2014, the mayor and the current champion placed a renewed focus on completing the assessment. During Q3 2014, the Charles City team progressed to complete and submit the assessment, and has become a certified Connected community. The Charles City community champion mentioned that the entire process has been of great benefit to him and the committee members. They are already identifying broadband opportunities that, up until this process, had never been considered.

Osceola: Osceola is a shining example of how a community is already benefitting from taking part in the Connected process. The community team originally began its Connected assessment in 2012, but lost momentum and stalled. However, some of the broadband projects that had been identified in the unfinished plan were implemented, and in doing so, the community has seen a vast improvement in broadband adoption programs and applications. The community regrouped and finalized the assessment in Q3 2014. By implementing some of the projects earlier identified, the community improved their overall adoption and use scores. Additionally, while the team originally did not think they would be able to address broadband access issues, by taking part in the assessment process, they were able to identify a provider to bring fiber connectivity to the community. They have since completed and submitted the assessment and, based on benchmarks set forth by the National Broadband Plan, qualify to become a certified Connected community.

Fairfield: Fairfield also was originally engaged in the Connected program in 2012, but for a variety of reasons, did not complete the process. The community re-engaged in Q2 2014, completed the

assessment process, and became Iowa's sixth certified Connected community on September 25, 2014. This is a focused broadband community that has plans to continue building upon an already strong broadband infrastructure and adoption and use programs by continuing to address community needs in all areas. Additionally, one community provider announced intentions of further expand broadband to the nearby city of Libertyville, where they will implement a fiber to the home project throughout the entire community.

Polk City: Polk City began the Connected assessment process early in 2014, with the idea that they need to expand broadband access. Through the assessment, they are learning that access is definitely important but adoption and use are important as well. This is a smaller community that is growing and is gaining a better understanding of their broadband needs through the assessment process.

Bloomfield: This community kicked off the Connected assessment process in Q2 2014, but just started to work on the assessment during Q3 2014. Through working as a community to address their broadband needs, they have identified the importance broadband plays in sustainability and growth, especially for a small community. An example of Bloomfield's commitment to the process was noted through correspondence to Connect Iowa from the Iowa State Coordinator for the Main Street Iowa program: "I was in Bloomfield last night for a Main Street board meeting and a good portion of the conversation revolved around their work and desire to achieve the Connected community designation. No groundbreaking information for you but I did want to make you aware of their passion, desire, and work toward this goal. "

Story County: Story County began the Connected assessment process in 2012, and has been working slowly to complete, but they stalled periodically for several reasons. In Q3 2014 representatives for the county reached out to re-engage, stating the importance of understanding their broadband needs for today as well as tomorrow and the impact it has economically. The community has identified a dedicated person to work on the assessment and plans to complete it early in Q4 2014 so they can identify possible broadband weaknesses and build upon their broadband strengths.

Ogden: Led by a long-time resident and local business owner, the Ogden Broadband Team is comprised of twelve local leaders, including the city administrator, the mayor, local telephone/broadband providers, librarians, school superintendents, and economic development leaders. They are a very closely knit group, well connected with a strong sense of history and family legacy; they champion a common mission to make Ogden a great place to live and work. The City of Ogden has been working closely with Ogden Telephone to expand its recently announced fiber-to-the-home network throughout the city and nearby areas. Having this kind of high speed access is recognized as a great advantage to the community, especially in a generally rural area of the state. The Connected community engagement program kicked off in April of 2014 and the assessment and action plan have just recently been completed. The hope was to be able to announce Ogden's status as a certified Connected community in combination with the completion of the fiber network deployment, but the fiber project is still incomplete. They are expected to attain certification status in Q4 2014.

Planning Team Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q4 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 Q3 2014, staff continued to see new interest in the benefits of community broadband planning. Several communities would like to begin the assessment, but are not able to commence until Q4 2014. New communities will continue to be assisted through the end of Q4 2014 or finalization of the SBI grant, and beyond into 2015 if program funding is identified. The Connected community engagement program continues to be endorsed as a component of Governor Branstad's Connect Every Iowan initiative.

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: 225

Digital literacy programs: 164

Broadband awareness programs: 229

Broadband programs focused on vulnerable populations: 201