

14Q1_Supplemental Answers_Minnesota

Connected Nation, Inc.

Grant Number 27-50-M09043

Reporting Period End Date 3-31-14

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)

Engineering and Technical Services (ETS) staff conducted and completed provider outreach in support of the semi-annual data submission. The data update submission was completed under the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) program that includes datasets for 99.19% of the Minnesota provider community, or 123 of 124 total providers. There were 119 participating providers and 4 additional non-participating providers whose estimated coverage areas have been submitted. Of the 119 participating providers, 73 supplied an update to their network or coverage area(s), while 41 had reported no change. The remaining 5 represented providers who previously supplied data but were non-responsive in the recent update effort; therefore, their previous dataset was put forward as part of this compilation. The additional viable provider not represented in the datasets was non-responsive to multiple contact attempts. The submission also included business/commercial providers; of the 115 residential providers represented in the above section, 97 were providers that did not distinguish between serving primarily residential or primarily non-residential users (end user category 5). Also included in this submission were 18 business-only providers (end user category 2).

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.Connectmn.org). There were a total of 1,290 visits to the interactive map between January 1, 2014 and March 31, 2014.

During this quarter, the project received a total of 7 broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that was also used for verification purposes totaled 5 for this quarter. Users can also request non-confidential mapping data produced for the SBI grant program; 10 such requests were received between January 1, 2014 and March 31, 2014.

Several deliverables were produced for the Minnesota Broadband Task Force, including, but not limited to running availability statistics for areas served by 10 Megabytes (M)/3M and 10M/6M speeds, assisting with feedback on the broadband task force report, creating a custom map on the top thirty unserved clustered hot spots in the state, creating custom map of areas that do not meet the state speed goal, creating maps of broadband service initiatives and areas expressing interest in broadband services, and creating maps detailing areas of 10M/6M growth since October 2011 and custom 10M/3M platform availability. Additionally, maps of broadband availability for each State House and State Senate district were completed in January.

For this reporting period, 202 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 115 companies (out of 124 viable providers) totaling 92.74% within the state.

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, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff created maps of the eligible census tracts and assisted state stakeholders, 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 to assist with information being reviewed and prepared by Policy and Research Development staff.

CAI data collection efforts included information from the Minnesota schools and libraries. The Minnesota State Library Services is using the program's CAI website to collect connectivity data for all their libraries.

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, Quarter 1 Connect Minnesota Office Administration and Task Force support

This milestone was met. The program office in St. Paul is fully staffed and interacting with stakeholders, broadband providers, and other representatives in the state. Program staff continues to support the Governor's Task Force on Broadband by serving as a reference point for all mapping and research related data and other reference material.

Additional support provided by program staff this quarter included scheduling, planning (preparing invitations, creating agendas and sending meeting information), and facilitating Task Force meetings at locations in St. Paul. Other activities included creation of project status reports delivered to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and other stakeholders.

Program staff worked with the Office of Broadband Development (OBD) and members of the Governor's Task Force on Broadband to finalize the Task Force's 2013 Annual Report and submit it to the Governor and all broadband stakeholders. Program staff continued to provide administrative oversight for milestones included within the project plan by managing workflow and timeline demands to ensure the highest quality of service is provided to the state.

Program representatives maintain attendance at various stakeholder events and continue to document meetings with key stakeholders influencing increasing levels of broadband adoption, access, and use throughout the state. Lastly, the program continues to serve as an invaluable resource to the state of Minnesota on issues related to broadband access, adoption, and use.

As noted in the Q3 and Q4 PPRs, the new OBD was established by the state during the 2013 Legislative Session. The OBD was created to be located within DEED and the new Director of the ODB filled the position in January 2014.

Milestone: Conduct Year 5, Quarter 1 Task Force Meetings

This milestone was met; as there were two meetings of the Governor's Task Force on Broadband in Q1 2014. A third meeting was scheduled but cancelled due to scheduling conflicts with a majority of the Task Force members. The program continues to serve a variety of roles in supporting the activities of the Task Force. Together with our state partner staff and the OBD, our state program manager participates in the monthly Task Force meetings and frequent member conference calls. As noted above, the state created the new Office of Broadband Development within DEED, and as a result the primary responsibility for the Task Force has moved to the OBD. Program staff's role in supporting and staffing the Task Force will continue as it has been since the Task Force's inception. In addition, the program provides data, mapping, and research that assist the Task Force with its work. Q1 2014 saw the completion of the Task Force's 2013 Annual Report on Broadband to the state and program staff played an integral role in writing the report, supplying mapping and data for inclusion in support of Task Force findings and policy recommendations, and distributing the report to key broadband policymakers and stakeholders throughout the state. A copy of the 2013 Annual Report on Broadband can be found in the "14Q1_Project Attachment_Question 5_Minnesota" response.

Capacity Building Major Activities for Next Quarter (Q2 2014)

Year 5, Quarter 2 Connect Minnesota Office Administration and Task Force support
Conduct Year 5, Quarter 2 Task Force Meetings

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

In Q1 2014, district specific broadband availability maps were distributed to all Minnesota State Senators and Representatives. These maps illustrated broadband availability in their districts at the state statutory speed goal of minimum speeds of 10-20 megabytes per second (Mbps) download and 5-10 Mbps upload. In addition, in support of the Task Force recommendations that include establishment of a Minnesota broadband infrastructure grant fund and continuation of a state-based mapping and data validation program, program staff provided a variety of materials (including requested maps and broadband speed availability analysis) to the Director of the OBD and Task Force members who testified or met with state policymakers to encourage the adoption of the recommendations. Also, program staff

provided the OBD with in-depth analysis of the FCC's "Rural Broadband Experiment Program" that included unique mapping and communication with Connected Nation policy experts.

In Q1 2014 program staff continued to work with state staff to respond to broadband inquiries from citizens across Minnesota. State staff works with program staff, including mapping and engineering staff, to respond to these inquiries by providing to citizens details about what broadband is available to them and how to contact providers. In addition, the program staff team will work with providers as needed to discover additional information that would be beneficial in responding to inquiries. Often, a citizen will mention they had visited the Connect Minnesota website and maps in advance of making an inquiry. State staff uses access to maps, data, and program staff as they respond to inquiries throughout the year.

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: Initiate 2014 business survey research

This milestone was met. In Q1 2014, the 2014 statewide business technology assessment was initiated. This survey seeks to contact 600 business establishments across Minnesota. Business establishments contacted for this survey will be defined as a single physical location at which business is conducted or services or industrial operations are performed. Sample quotas are established by company size (5 brackets) and industry sector (8 sectors). The 2011 United States Census Bureau's County Business Pattern report was used to determine the survey's sample quotas. Program staff created a spreadsheet that includes quotas by business sizes and sectors from the latest census information for weighting purposes, finalized the survey script incorporating feedback from state stakeholders, and provided this survey instrument to the data collection contractor.

Milestone: Initiate 2014 business survey peer review

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

Milestone: Commence development of the 2014 non-adopter oversample survey

This milestone was partially met. Program staff reviewed previous similar surveys and conducted internal discussions regarding the appropriateness of those questions in Minnesota. Discussions have not yet been held with state stakeholders, but are anticipated to be completed in Q2 2014. The goal of this survey is to contact non-adopters of home broadband service and find out reasons why they have decided not to subscribe to home broadband service.

Milestone: Finalize and distribute 2013 statewide residential survey research results

This milestone was met. Updates to the program website were developed and release documents were prepared of the 2013 residential survey's initial results. The initial results were distributed to stakeholders prior to public release. The analysis was finalized on the 2013 residential survey incorporating feedback from state stakeholders and the peer reviewer and a spreadsheet and two-page report were created detailing results and key findings. Program staff presented these results to the NTIA and state stakeholders.

Milestone: Initiate 2014 Quarter 1 Minnesota Broadband Summit planning efforts

This milestone has been met. In Q1 2014, program staff held initial internal planning discussions to review the plans for a 2014 Summit to be held in partnership with the Blandin Foundation. Subsequently, Connect Minnesota participated in a conference call with Blandin Foundation to discuss potential dates and locations for the 2014 Summit. While a firm date and location was not determined, the event will be held in Q3 2014 or Q4 2014. Connect Minnesota's role will be similar to its role in 2011 and 2012, as a partner in planning and hosting the Summit, with Connect Minnesota program staff as presenters. Planning will begin in earnest in Q2 2014, with the selection of a location, date and theme(s).

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

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. The initial results were peer reviewed and then sent to NTIA as well as state stakeholders. The 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. Additionally, a spreadsheet and two-page report containing some key findings were created for distribution.

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

This milestone was met. The survey script, methodology, and initial results were peer reviewed by Dr. Jack Geller of the University of Tampa. Dr. Geller agreed with the manner in which the survey was conducted and the initial results of the survey. Dr. Geller suggested that in future residential surveys include an increase to cell phone sample size from 16.5% of the survey responses to 30% of survey responses. The increase would potentially provide a greater number of responses from cell phone only households. The survey results were verified and the methodology for this survey was found to be scientifically sound and representative of research interest and real issues in Minnesota in terms of technology adoption and use.

Year 4, Quarter 3 Outstanding Milestone: Initiate 2013 residential survey peer review

This milestone was met. Dr. Jack Geller, University of Tampa, provided a peer review of the 2013 residential survey in Q1 2014. Materials provided to Dr. Geller for peer review included the survey scripted, the survey methodology, and the initial results of the survey.

Technical Assistance Major Activities for Next Quarter (Q2 2014)

Facilitate 2014 Quarter 2 Minnesota Broadband Summit planning efforts

Upon approval from Minnesota stakeholders and NTIA, initiate 2014 non-adopter oversample survey

Peer review of 2014 business survey research completed

Analyze 2014 statewide business survey research results and present initial findings to stakeholders

Commence development of the 2014 residential survey script

Initiate 2014 non-adopter oversample survey peer review

