

14Q2_Supplemental Answers_Minnesota

Connected Nation, Inc.

Grant Number 27-50-M09043

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) broadband 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.

The 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 1,263 visits to the interactive map between April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

During this quarter, the project received a total of 37 broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that was used for verification purposes totaled 4 for this quarter. Users can also request non-confidential mapping data produced for the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) grant program; 5 such data requests were received between April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

In Q2 2014 program staff continued to work with state staff to respond to broadband inquiries from citizens across the state. State staff works with Connect Minnesota staff, including mapping and engineering personnel, to respond to these inquiries by providing details to citizens about broadband services available to them and how to contact providers. In addition, the program 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

program website and maps in advance of making an inquiry. State staff utilizes access to maps, data, and program staff as they responds to inquiries throughout the year.

For this reporting period, 336 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 121 companies (out of 124 viable providers) totaling 97.58% within the state of Minnesota.

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 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 program website and released publicly via press release, blog posts, and social media posts. Some of the key findings include:

- 74.93% of Minnesota households can access fixed broadband at speeds of at least 10 Mbps (megabytes per second) download/6 Mbps upload – the minimum speed threshold for Minnesota’s goal of ubiquitous broadband availability; when mobile broadband is included, 82.78% of households have access at the state’s speed goal (excludes satellite). However, only 57.07% of rural households can access these broadband speeds (62.70% including mobile), illustrating the gap in Minnesota rural broadband availability.
- 89.27% of Minnesota households can access broadband at speeds of at least 10 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload (excludes mobile and satellite services); when including mobile, the percentage increases to 99.51% availability at this speed tier. However, only 75.99% of rural households can access these broadband speeds (excluding mobile and satellite services), indicating a disparity between the urban and rural broadband landscape in the state; when including mobile, rural availability jumps to 98.85%.
- 96.66% of Minnesota households can access fixed broadband at speeds of at least 3 Mbps download/768 Kbps upload – the speed threshold used by the FCC in making Connect America Fund determinations; if mobile is included, 99.89% of households have access at this speed tier (excludes satellite). Fixed broadband availability at these

speeds decreases to 92.36% when examining just rural households; if mobile is included, 99.73% have access (excludes satellite).

- Broadband at higher download speeds is now available to more households; 50 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload is available to 81.36% and 100 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload is available to 79.78% of Minnesota households (excludes mobile and satellite services).

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.

The past three months have seen significant gains in library data collection through a partnership with the Minnesota State Library Services. The State Librarian approached SBI program staff asking if a survey could be used to capture mutually meaningful broadband connectivity. Excited to partner, the Librarian distributed the Community Anchor Institution (CAI) survey and Connect Minnesota provided organized responses to the State Library Services.

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 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 across the state. Program staff continues to support the Governor's Task Force on Broadband and the state's Office of Broadband Development 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 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 in support of legislative initiatives that were debated during the 2014 Legislative Session, which included the establishment of a \$20 million infrastructure grant program. Program staff continued to provide administrative

oversight to 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.

Milestone: Conduct Year 5, Quarter 2 Task Force Meetings

This milestone was met. Three (3) meetings of the Governor’s Task Force on Broadband were held in Q2 2014. The program manager continues to serve a variety of roles in supporting the activities of the Task Force. Together with the staff of our state partner and the Office of Broadband Development (OBD), the state program manager participates in monthly Task Force meetings and frequent member conference calls. In addition, the program provides data, mapping, and research that assist the Task Force with their work. Q2 2014 saw the Minnesota Legislature debate the Task Force’s policy recommendations, including establishment of a state broadband infrastructure grant program, and the Minnesota SBI program’s mapping, research, and data were used by Task Force members as they advocated for passage of the legislation.

Capacity Building Major Activities for Next Quarter (Q3 2014)

Year 5, Quarter 3 Connect Minnesota Office Administration and Task Force Support
Conduct Year 5, Quarter 3 Task Force Meetings

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

In Q2, Connect Minnesota released the results of the 2013 Residential Broadband Adoption Survey and the results of the latest broadband availability data from the April 2014 semi-annual data submission process. Press releases documenting these milestones are included within “14Q2_ Project Attachment_ Question 5_ Minnesota” response.

In Q2 2014, the latest data related to broadband adoption and availability in Minnesota was publicly released. These data included progress toward the state broadband speed goal of not less than 10 Mbps download and not less than 5 Mbps upload for all households in the state. In addition, in support of the Task Force policy 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. Legislation was passed and signed into law that established a \$20 million infrastructure grant fund and directed the OBD to continue mapping and research work with an independent organization with experience working with Minnesota broadband providers.

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: Facilitate 2014 Quarter 2 Minnesota Broadband Summit planning efforts

This milestone was met. Program staff met with Blandin Foundation representatives in Q2 to discuss co-hosting a Broadband Summit in 2014. The two organizations co-hosted Summits in 2011 and 2012, but due to logistical issues, Connect Minnesota solely hosted a 2013 Summit. Both organizations agreed to co-host this year and commenced initial conversations related to the timing of the event; deciding on a Q4 (likely mid-November) timeframe. Also in Q2, a Summit planning schedule was developed that will commence in Q3 with conference calls intended on setting event location, dates, and agendas. Initial conversations regarding potential summit speakers were held, but formal agenda setting and speaker determinations will be made in Q3.

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

The milestone was met. Program representatives met with and received approval from Minnesota stakeholders and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to conduct the 2014 non-adopter oversample survey. In Q2 2014 the survey was initiated. The survey is currently in the field being conducted.

Milestone: Peer review of the 2014 business survey research completed

This milestone was partially met. Research staff finished the initial analysis and provided these results along with the survey methodology document and survey script to the peer reviewer, Dr. Jack Geller from the University of Tampa. Dr. Geller accepted a contract agreement to peer review the 2014 business survey. Peer review is still underway and is expected to be completed in Q3 2014.

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

This milestone was partially met. Multiple analyses were conducted on the 2014 business survey by business type, size, and sector and data files with weighted results were generated in terms of technology adoption and use. The initial analysis and research results were provided to the peer reviewer. Research staff anticipates receiving feedback from the peer reviewer in Q3 2014, at which time they will finalize the results and present them to NTIA and state stakeholders as well as release the results publicly. This milestone will be met in Q3 2014.

Milestone: Commence development of the 2014 residential survey script

This milestone was met. During Q2 2014, staff began development of the survey script with appropriate programming notes for the 2014 residential survey. The script will continue development in Q3 2014 by holding conversations with state stakeholders to include their feedback on topics to focus on in the survey.

Milestone: Initiate 2014 non-adopter oversample survey peer review

This milestone was met. The 2014 non-adopter oversample survey was initiated in Q2 2014. The script for the survey was developed in Q2 2014 with input received from state stakeholders. The finalized survey script was sent to Dr. Jack Geller, University of Tampa, to begin the peer review process prior to the end of Q2 2014.

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

Year 5, Quarter 1 Outstanding Milestone: Initiate 2014 business survey peer review

This milestone was met. The 2014 business survey peer review was initiated in Q2 2014. Dr. Jack Geller, University of Tampa, is serving as peer reviewer for the 2014 business survey. Dr. Geller was provided initial results, survey methodology, survey instrument, and survey data file of the 2014 Minnesota business survey.

Year 5, Quarter 1 Outstanding Milestone: Commence development of the 2014 non-adopter oversample survey

This milestone was met. The script for the 2014 non-adopter oversample survey was developed in Q2 2014 with input received from state stakeholders. The finalized survey script was sent to the program's survey contractor to begin data collection prior to the end of Q2 2014.

Technical Assistance Major Activities for Next Quarter (Q3 2014)

Initiate 2014 residential survey research

Initiate 2014 residential survey peer review

Finalize and distribute 2014 business survey research results

Analyze 2014 non-adopter oversample survey results

Facilitate 2014 Quarter 3 Minnesota Broadband Summit planning efforts