

13Q3_Supplemental Answers_Nevada

Connected Nation

Grant Number 32-50-M09056

Reporting Period End Date 9-30-13

14a_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).

Connect Nevada submitted broadband provider mapping data updates in accordance with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) semi-annual requirement on September 27. The submission included datasets for 100 percent of the Nevada provider community.

Connect Nevada continues to maintain the interactive mapping web application, called My ConnectView. The application is housed in a highly available, monitored, and managed environment. My ConnectView is publicly available on the program website (<http://www.connectnv.org/interactive-map>). There were a total of 30 visits to the interactive map between July 1, 2013 and September 30, 2013.

No field verification tests were conducted this quarter; however, from program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 49 companies (out of a universe of 59 viable providers) totaling 83.05% within the state of Nevada.

Geographic Information Systems staff created maps to show the status of the active and certified communities within the state for the Connected Community Engagement Program.

Based on the release of information by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) related to the Connect America Fund (CAF), a statewide map was developed to visualize proposed areas for subsidized build-out under CAF Phase I, 2013. This map is available online at www.connectednation.org/fcc-maps.

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.

Program staff focused Community Anchor Institution (CAI) efforts on the education sector during the quarter in an effort to collect new or updated data.

As a result of program staff implementation efforts, many successes have been made. In White Pine County, the community of Lund, Nevada, partnered with Arizona Nevada Tower

Corporation (ANTC) to apply for a Community Connect grant which would utilize a new tower in town and deliver high speed access with download speeds up to 6 Megabits per second (Mbps) for every business and residence in the town of Lund. Provided the grant is awarded, ANTC will construct and operate a public computing center containing 10 computers for the community for no less than 24 months providing, in addition to a free local Wi-Fi hotspot, free Internet access to those residents who do not elect to subscribe to the commercial service. Further, all local Community Anchor Institutions will receive free basic Internet service during the same 24-month period.

Connect Nevada's planning efforts resulted in the rural counties of Humboldt, Lander, and Pershing collaborating to form a consortium. The consortium, when formed, would commit to a contract guarantee for a service provider to serve these three counties. The guarantee would allow these communities to break into currently inaccessible fiber running through the I-80 corridor. By creating the consortium-backed guarantee, the incentive is in place for a true broadband investment to be made. Thus, the local anchors are better capable of serving their citizenry. Local retail providers are given access to an alternative provider.

As a result of a relationship with Commnet (Connect America Mobility Fund awardee) in Humboldt County, program staff helped secure Highcroat Mine Man Camp, located outside of Winnemucca, Nevada and the location in which all the workers live, as part of Commnet's build-out plan for 2014. It is currently anticipated that this unserved area will have broadband availability once the build-out plan has been implemented.

As a result of a local technology team meeting, program staff helped secure a more reliable/affordable provider for the local county government offices in Storey County, saving the county thousands of dollars a year.

As a result of education and outreach provided to the Department of Education by program staff, Esmeralda County, in partnership with Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation, will now be able to implement a 10 Mbps Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) for the (3) K-8 schools (Goldfield, Silver Peak, and Dyer) which is to replace outdated T1 connections for the school. This will allow for distance learning in one of Nevada's most rural counties.

14b_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 4, Quarter 3 per approved project plan:

Milestone: State broadband program office administration complete

This milestone was met. Program staff maintained office space at the Nevada State Library and Archives in Carson City, Nevada. The state program manager oversaw meeting deliverables including managing progress toward finalization of 14 local technology plans, verifying accuracy of information supplied by the communities, educating the communities on upcoming initiatives/opportunities, creating agendas and post-meeting follow-up documentation, and gathering additional information for the communities such as demographic data, broadband availability information, etc. Program representatives also supported the logistical and administrative needs of the Nevada Broadband Task Force including scheduling presentations, drafting agendas, coordinating locations and IT support for videoconferencing, and adhering to Nevada's Open Meeting Law.

The Connect Nevada program is a standing agenda item whereas project status updates were presented at the August 20, 2013 meeting of the Task Force. Updates included information about the 2013 broadband summit, regional planning initiatives, and involvement in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Smarter Communities initiative.

At the direction of the Task Force, program staff also planned and hosted an all-grantee meeting in Carson City, Nevada, to develop an updated master construction timeline for projects in Nevada with the goal of coordinating efforts across the state projects.

Milestone: Meeting of the Year 4, Quarter 3 Nevada Broadband Task Force complete

This milestone was met. The Nevada Broadband Task Force met on August 20, 2013. During the meeting, project updates were provided by stakeholders relating to work with FirstNet (SONNet Board), the Nevada Hospital Association, Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation, and the Nevada Health Information Exchange. Connect Nevada reported on several items including the status of the local/regional planning initiatives and technology action plans, the annual broadband summit, and the USDA Smarter Communities roundtables initiative.

Program staff managed and created the agenda for the Task Force meeting in collaboration with the Chair. Sign-in sheets and meeting minutes were collected to ensure proper tracking of in-kind match. As a standing item on Task Force meeting agendas, program staff ensured the review and follow-up of action items from previous meetings, garnered recommendations for future meeting agenda items, and scheduled future meeting dates. Recommendations provided by the Task Force were immediately communicated to program staff and were incorporated into media releases, mapping updates, and future research initiatives.

Input was garnered from the Task Force and then implemented relating to the third Nevada broadband summit themed, "Learning in the Digital Space," to be held on November 18, 2013, at the University of Nevada, Reno. More specifically, the Task Force provided input on potential speakers and panelists and their placement on the agenda. They were also asked to present on the progress of the work of the Task Force including information about infrastructure improvements, the success of public computing centers in Nevada, and developments and future initiatives of the Task Force moving forward.

Broadband Capacity planned major activities for the next quarter:

- State broadband program office administration complete
- Meeting of the Year 4, Quarter 4 Nevada Broadband Task Force complete

14b_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 4, Quarter 3 per approved project plan:

Milestone: Initiate peer review of 2013 residential survey

This milestone was not met, as program staff has not yet identified a suitable candidate for the peer review process. Once that has been accomplished and the data has been collected, the peer review will commence. It is anticipated that the program will have identified a peer reviewer in Q4 2013.

Milestone: Initiate 2013 residential survey research

This milestone was partially met. The 2013 residential survey began in Q3 2013. The survey is designed to assess technology adoption of households in Nevada. It is expected that this survey will be completed in the field and initial results provided to the state client by the end of Q4 2013. The survey will be trended with previous residential surveys in 2010, 2011, and 2012 to measure the change in technology adoption and usage by race/ethnicity, income, age, and urban/rural residency.

Milestone: Successful completion of community broadband summit 3

This milestone was not met. In response to input from the Nevada Broadband Task Force, the broadband summit, themed, "Learning in the Digital Space," is scheduled to take place in Q4 2013. Planning for the summit continued, in coordination with the Task Force, this quarter.

Outstanding Technical Assistance milestones per approved project plan:

Year 4, Quarter 2 Milestone: Finalize planning activities for the community broadband summit 3

This milestone was met. The Connect Nevada broadband summit is scheduled for Q4 2013. Through input from the Nevada Broadband Task Force, details have been finalized regarding speakers and panelists. The summit, themed, "Learning in the Digital Space," will focus on technology integration in education. The panels and presenters have been segmented by technology type including social media, interactive devices, and broadband in education. Program staff will announce results of Education Superhighway's "Speed Test Month," discuss

ConnectEd/recent policy updates, and will feature experts in the field of broadband. Invitations and marketing items were distributed and RSVPs were being tracked.

Technical Assistance planned major activities for the next quarter

- Successful completion of the Nevada broadband summit
- Analyze 2013 residential survey research results
- Finalize and distribute 2013 statewide residential survey research results
- Peer review of 2013 residential survey research completed
- Develop 2014 business survey script

14b_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 Teams milestones for Year 4, Quarter 3 per approved project plan:

Milestone: Facilitate Year 4 Quarter 3 local broadband planning team activities

This milestone was met. As of the end of Q3 2013, the project team had identified champions in 14 counties and had coordinated community kick-off meetings to initiate the planning process in all 14 counties. Two community tech team consultants supported the training and planning activities for the community planning teams and supported the implementation of projects to address challenges and opportunities. The consultants managed the logistics of planning team meetings which included scheduling, creating agendas, recording minutes, following up on action items, and recording attendance adding any new contacts to the contact database. The state program manager met weekly with the consultants to ensure local community issues were addressed at the state level and were incorporated into media announcements, stakeholder engagement, and future research initiatives.

The project team supported local planning teams as they implemented train-the-trainer activities and provided assistance in utilizing the Connected community web portal available via the program's web page. They also contributed to the development of local training curriculum and tools via suggestions for enhancements to the Connected community web portal as recommended by community members or identified through their personal use.

As a result of the planning efforts and as of the end of the quarter, three (3) assessments were in process, five (5) assessments were completed awaiting presentation to the team, and two (2) plans were finalized in addition to four (4) in the previous quarters, each of which was tailored specifically for the communities' unique challenges and opportunities. There are currently 149 active planning team members across the state. Additional data has also been collected resulting in the identification of:

- 77 public computing centers with 662 public computers
- 57 digital literacy programs with 2,942 digital literacy graduates
- 56 broadband awareness programs
- 48 programs addressing vulnerable populations
- 95 economic development applications
- 107 educational applications
- 75 government applications
- 94 healthcare applications for the State

Planning Teams planned major activities for the next quarter:

- Facilitate Year 4, Quarter 4 local broadband planning team activities
- Transition from planning activities to implementation

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

Program staff worked with various communities through its community engagement program to facilitate additional access to broadband through local providers. Communities impacted are Lund, Humboldt County, Pershing County, Lander County, Esmeralda County, and Storey County. Details regarding each community's improvements are included in the answers to question 4 of the Data Collection section above.