

14Q2_Supplemental Answers_Nevada

Connected Nation, Inc.

Grant Number 32-50-M09056

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 most recent 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.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff updated the community engagement map illustrating the status of counties/communities engaged in the Connected community engagement program. The updated map has been included in the “14Q2_Project Attachment_Question 5_Nevada” response.

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 program website (www.connectnv.org). There were a total 150 visits to the interactive map between April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

Users can request non-confidential mapping data produced for the SBI grant program; 3 such data requests were received between April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 52 companies (out of 60 viable providers) totaling 86.67% within the state of Nevada.

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 April 2014 semi-annual 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:

- Broadband availability at 768 Kbps (kilobytes per second) download/200 Kbps upload is now at 99.13%, not including mobile wireless services.
- Broadband availability at speeds of at least 10 Mbps (megabytes per second) download/1.5 Mbps upload increased from 91.44% in October 2011 to 95.36% in April 2014, excluding mobile wireless services.
- Broadband availability at speeds of at least 25 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload increased from 89.26% in October 2011 to 92.8% in April 2014, excluding mobile wireless services.
- Broadband availability at speeds of at least 100 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload increased from 0.34% in October 2011 to 91.26% in April 2014, excluding mobile wireless services.
- Cable broadband availability increased from 91.15% in October 2011 to 93.48% 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. Program staff also assisted the state in the development of a map for the purposes of the Governor's Telemedicine Working group. The map shows state assets overlaid with hospitals, clinics, behavioral health facilities, and correctional institutions. This map was used by the state to examine potential gaps in healthcare connectivity and to identify potential solutions for unserved locations.

During the past three months, program staff has focused on follow-up to past agencies and organizations that have supported Community Anchor Institution (CAI) data collection. The most progress was with state healthcare facilities as a result of information received from the Nevada Department of Health & Human 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: 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 program manager oversaw meeting deliverables including managing progress toward implementation of local projects, educating local/state leaders about federal grant initiatives, and participating in and attending various state departmental meetings to assess needs. Program representatives also supported the logistical and administrative needs of the Nevada Broadband Task Force (Task Force) including scheduling presentations, drafting agendas, coordinating locations and IT support for videoconferencing, and adhering to Nevada's Open Meeting Law. Additionally, Connect Nevada supported efforts of the Governor's Telemedicine Working Group and the Nevada 1:1 implementation team, with maps and broadband expertise.

Milestone: Meeting of the Year 5, Quarter 2 Nevada Broadband Task Force complete

This milestone was met. The Connect Nevada program is a standing agenda item whereas project status updates were presented at the April 3 meeting. This meeting of the Task Force included updates on the state education network, the Nevada Hospital Association project, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe project, and a discussion related to the FCC rural experiments opportunity. Connect Nevada's update included a review of the statewide master plan, residential survey results, and an update on summit planning activities.

Program staff supported the June 16 Task Force meeting which included specific education sector issues related to broadband. The meeting included presentations by the Department of Education and the state education technology task force. An educational needs analysis, including a list of at-risk schools for connectivity, was presented, possible short-term and long-term solutions were discussed, as well as action steps moving forward. Steps identified include distribution of the at-risk list and creation of an education specific statewide map to determine gaps and how they overlap with schools. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) used the meeting to discuss broadband loan opportunities immediately following the meeting.

Capacity Building Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q3 2014)

State broadband program office administration complete

Meeting of the Year 5, Quarter 3 Nevada Broadband Task Force complete

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 2014 residential survey script

This milestone was partially met. Research staff discussed the survey design with the project team, but did not conduct meetings with state stakeholders to seek input regarding the design of the 2014 residential survey script during Q2 2014. This meeting, with state stakeholders to obtain recommendations for edits or additions, will be conducted during Q3 2014. Therefore, the development of the survey script is not complete yet and is expected to be complete in Q3 2014.

Milestone: Finalize and distribute 2014 business survey research results

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

Milestone: Analyze 2014 business survey research results

This milestone was met. Staff conducted multiple analyses on the 2014 business survey by business type, size, and sector, and 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. Results of the 2014 business survey have been received from the peer reviewer. Final survey results will be presented to state stakeholders and released to the public via the program's website in Q3 2014.

Milestone: Peer review of 2014 business survey research completed

This milestone was 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. Mingjie Sun, from Iowa State University. Dr. Sun completed the peer review of the 2014 business survey during Q2 2014 and returned the results of the review to the program staff. No changes were recommended by Dr. Sun.

Milestone: Finalize planning activities for the community broadband summit 4

This milestone was met. Suggestions and format changes to the summit were garnered at the April 3, 2014, meeting of the Nevada Broadband Task Force. This included changing the summit into two workshop-based events, with the goal of creating a statewide master plan founded on

the local community engagement plans. This plan will include historical information as well as statewide and local findings from the project as they relate to access, adoption, and use across sectors and regions of the state. The workshops will focus on creating a sector specific needs analysis with additional solutions.

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

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

This milestone was met. Dr. Mingjie Sun, Iowa State University, agreed to review the 2014 Nevada business survey. Dr. Sun was provided initial results, survey methodology, survey instrument, and survey data file of the 2014 Nevada business survey.

Technical Assistance Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q3 2014)

2014 business survey research results released publicly
Initiate 2014 residential survey research

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 milestones for Year 5, Quarter 2 per approved Project Plan:

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

This milestone was met. At the end of Q2 2014, fourteen project teams continue to work toward implementation, with eight actively pursuing projects. There were two additional team meetings, five state specific meetings, and two regional broadband meetings.

Program staff participated in various state meetings to inform, educate and solicit information for improvement of broadband initiatives across the state. This included regional meetings with Stronger Economies Together team and infrastructure committee. Discussion included the integration of broadband into the local planning process, creation of local Wi-Fi networks, and the overlap of broadband projects with the Nevada Department of Transportation.

The program celebrated construction of a tower for the town of Baker, Nevada. The tower was constructed after the program manager brought the needs of the community to the attention of the provider, who won the mobility fund auction. The town of 84 permanent residents now has access to cell phone service and better Internet connection. The town, home to the Great

Basin National Park, now can also provide service for the more than 10,000 tourists who visit the Lehman Caves annually.

Staff helped the Tahoe Prosperity Center scope a project that examines access, adoption, and use around the lake. The plan looks at mapping additional resources and determining future telecommunications assets.

Planning Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q3 2014)

Assist in development and implementation of local technology growth strategies