

14Q4_Supplemental Answers_Nevada

Connected Nation, Inc.

Grant Number 32-50-M09056

Reporting Period End Date 12-31-14

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).

Following the final semi-annual broadband data submission, maps were updated on the program website and were provided to stakeholders during the quarter. Items updated with the October 1, 2014, datasets include the following:

- Broadband Availability Maps at 768 Kbps (kilobytes per second) Download/200 Kbps Upload
- Unserved Density Maps
- Broadband Availability Maps at 3 Mbps (megabytes per second) Download/768 Kbps Upload
- Maximum Advertised Download Speed Maps (Residential)
- Providers by County Lists (PDF and XLS)
- Underserved Area Maps
- Multi-Single Platform Maps
- Provider Density Maps
- My ConnectView Interactive Map
- County Availability Statistic Maps

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff created various maps and availability data tables for inclusion in the Nevada Technology Action Plan.

The interactive mapping web application, called My ConnectView, continued to be maintained. The application is housed in a highly available, monitored, and managed environment. My ConnectView is publicly available online at <http://www.connectnv.org>. There were a total of 85 visits to the interactive map between October 1 and December 31, 2014. One e-mail was received this quarter from a consumer that was used for verification purposes.

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.

GIS staff created Connect America Fund maps that displayed census blocks challenged by both price-cap and non-price cap carriers.

Engineering and Technical Services (ETS) staff continued working with providers this quarter in an effort to maintain relationships that might further assist the state as well as the provider community. In conjunction with other program resources, ETS staff helped providers to process their service data and maps. Furthermore, as a result of the providers' comfort level with the program staff, ETS representatives responded to a number of varied questions and requests.

Special effort was made to keep providers and state stakeholders informed of broadband data collection activities. This included distributing materials and discussing information regarding the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Form 477, and changes that were implemented by the FCC for the State Broadband Initiatives (SBI) final semi-annual data submission. Staff kept providers up-to-date on the various changes that took place between October and December. ETS staff also assisted many providers in obtaining and formatting the necessary data for the deployment portions of the Form 477, as much of this data paralleled the SBI data collection activities.

Since the October submission of Community Anchor Institution (CAI) data, staff completed outreach to contacts that previously submitted data through the online survey in an effort to ensure we have the most current broadband speeds.

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 4 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 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.

A major staffing transition occurred in Q4 2014 when the incumbent program manager resigned her position. The Partnership Manager, who provided a considerable amount of support to the project in its early days, assumed the leadership role on an interim basis in late October 2014.

Lastly, the outreach and awareness team drafted and distributed monthly newsletters during the quarter. These newsletters aim to communicate technology issues impacting the state, share success stories, and raise awareness of the access, adoption, and use of broadband.

Milestone: Meeting of the Year 5, Quarter 4 Nevada Broadband Task Force complete

This milestone was met. The Nevada Broadband Task Force meeting was held in Reno, Nevada on November 6, 2014, in which the Nevada Broadband Action Plan was presented in final draft form by members of the program staff. The group supported the Plan's release at the Nevada Association of Counties conference held on November 19, 2014. The Task Force meeting scheduled for December 4, 2014, was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. The Task Force will reconvene again on January 6, 2015.

Year 5 Annual Capacity Building Outcomes per Approved Project Plan:

Annual Milestone: Connect Nevada will demonstrate successful execution of the comprehensive and detailed project plan in an effort to successfully meet the objectives of the SBDD Grant Program. Each quarter, Connect Nevada will report progress toward activities and milestones outlined in the plan.

This milestone was met. In adherence to the approved project plan and in an effort to successfully meet objectives of the grant program, program staff reported on the process of the local regional planning team efforts including execution of Technology Action Plans, as well as other program initiatives at bi-monthly Task Force meetings, weekly team meetings, and the annual Nevada Broadband Summit.

Annual Milestone: The Connect Nevada broadband program office will administer the program of activities under the guidance of the Task Force. At the close of 2014, Connect Nevada will demonstrate administration of project plans, management of workflow and timelines, support of community projects, and preparation and distribution of reports. Additionally, Connect Nevada will confirm work has been completed to requirements and begin project closure activities.

This milestone was met. Program staff maintained office space at the Nevada State Library and Archives in Carson City, Nevada. The program manager oversaw activities, managed workflow and timelines in adherence with the approved project plan, supported local project implementation, and supported the logistical needs of the Task Force.

Program staff consistently met with the Task Force and the chair of the Task Force, scheduling meetings, tracking time, and coordinating statewide efforts including economic development, other grantee projects, and community projects. As a standard practice, Connect Nevada consistently sought guidance and collaboration with Task Force members and state/local stakeholders.

Annual Milestone: The program coordinator will demonstrate successful support for the Task Force by assisting with meeting scheduling, tracking state staff time toward the in-kind match contribution, documenting action items for follow-up by Connect Nevada, contributing to the successful coordination of other broadband and economic development-related state initiatives, and updating the project plan where needed in an effort to align to Task Force needs and recommendations.

This milestone was met. Program staff facilitated bi-monthly Task Force meetings which the program manager is responsible for scheduling, drafting the agenda, scheduling presentations, tracking time for match, and following up on all Task Force action items. Program staff also coordinated efforts for state agencies including economic development opportunities to present at Task Force meetings.

Capacity Building Planned for Next Quarter (Q1 2015):

Planned activities for Q1 2015 include state broadband program office administration and a successful convening of the Nevada Broadband Task Force. Connect Nevada will at that time gain confirmation that work has been completed as required and begin project closure activities.

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

The interim program manager met with the Nevada Broadband Task Force Chair in Carson City, Nevada, to discuss the roll-out strategy for the Nevada Broadband Plan, as well as the schedule and strategy for their upcoming meetings with various members of the Governor's cabinet regarding the formation of the Office of Broadband Coordination, as called for by the Broadband Plan. Other meetings were held with the Director of the Nevada Governor's Office for Economic Development, the Nevada Commission on Education Technology, and the Nevada Association of Counties. Each meeting included discussions regarding the creation of the Office of Broadband Coordination, as recommended within the Nevada

Broadband Action Plan, to which reception has been overwhelmingly supportive. Lastly, efforts were made to provide updates to the Plan's executive summary in an effort to create custom versions with locally relevant project information for Nevada's 14 rural counties. These custom executive summaries will be used to garner local champion support from the communities impacted by the SBI grant for the creation of and funding support for the Broadband Action Plan's goals and objectives.

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 4 per approved Project Plan:

Milestone: Finalize, distribute, and release publicly 2014 residential survey research results

This milestone was met. The analyzed data were peer reviewed by Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University. Upon confirmation from Dr. Sun, the results were finalized and shared with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and state stakeholders before being released publicly by updating the program website and incorporating the findings into the Nevada Broadband Action Plan.

Milestone: Analyze 2014 residential survey research results

This milestone was met. Research staff prepared a structured data file using the collected responses and conducted initial analyses based on the interest of various stakeholders and current hot issues regarding technology adoption and use in Nevada. Meanwhile, a methodology report detailing how the data were collected and analyzed was generated. These, along with the proof of these documents, were peer reviewed by Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University, after which finalized results were provided to NTIA and various stakeholders.

Milestone: Peer review of 2014 residential survey research completed

This milestone was met. Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University peer reviewed the survey instrument, the cross-tabulated results, and the methodology used in the 2014 residential survey. Dr. Sun noted that she was able to replicate the cross-tabulated survey results and noted the improved response rate over surveys in previous years, and made recommendations for improving the response rate in subsequent surveys.

Milestone: Successful completion of community broadband Summit 4

This milestone was met. Originally listed as a milestone to be completed during Q4 2014, the successful completion of community broadband Summit 4 took place during Q3 2014. Instead of one large summit event, two smaller workshop sessions were conducted to draw a more focused audience concerned with the expansion of broadband access, adoption, and use within the state. The events were held in two areas of the state – Las Vegas on September 15, 2014 and Reno on September 17, 2014. More than 70 people from the public and private sectors participated. Stakeholders discussed sector and geographic issues and challenges preventing broadband availability, adoption, and use. After discussing these topics, attendees participated in brainstorming sessions and discussed ways to overcome the obstacles identified to encourage increasing broadband expansion in areas of access, adoption, and use. Discussions ranged from implementing computer programming efforts in middle schools thus

encouraging digital literacy and developing technology-centered higher education curriculum to support technology in all sectors, to changing the mindset of broadband from a luxury and to an essential infrastructure for improved quality of life, economic development, and cost savings. Additional discussion focused on public safety, economic development, education, healthcare, and local government. Takeaway discussion items from both events will be incorporated into a statewide broadband plan designed to educate and motivate broadband policy planning in communities, regions, and the state.

Milestone: Initiate closure activities

This milestone was met. Research staff summarized research findings in a report to showcase progresses made by Nevada businesses and residents in terms of technology adoption and use across various subgroups since 2010. In addition, these findings such as age and business size, examined adoption issues in the state as well as how these issues evolve over time, identified some evidence-based practices on the promotion of technology adoption and use, and highlighted challenges faced by the state that need long-term efforts to be addressed.

Year 5 Annual Technical Assistance Outcomes per Approved Project Plan:

Annual Milestone: Finalize and distribute 2014 business survey research results, incorporating stakeholder recommendations. Research results will be delivered to the Task Force and other stakeholders.

This milestone was met. Project staff opened dialogue with state stakeholders and provided opportunities for stakeholders to assist with the survey instrument creation. Connect Nevada completed the data collection for the 2014 business survey, analyzed the results, and subsequently had the survey instrument, methodology, and cross-tabulated results peer reviewed by Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University. Upon confirmation from Dr. Sun, the business survey results were shared with NTIA, state stakeholders, and the public through a website update, a statewide press release, and presentations to stakeholders.

Annual Milestone: Finalize and distribute 2014 residential research results, incorporating stakeholder recommendations. Research results will be delivered to the Task Force and other stakeholders.

This milestone was met. Staff opened dialogue with state stakeholders and provided opportunities for stakeholders to assist with the survey instrument creation. Data collection for the 2014 residential survey was completed, the results analyzed, and subsequently the survey instrument, methodology, and cross-tabulated results were peer reviewed by Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University. Upon confirmation from Dr. Sun, survey results were shared with NTIA, state stakeholders, and the public through an update of the program website, a press release, and by incorporating the results into the Nevada Broadband Action Plan.

Annual Milestone: Initiate the 2014 residential survey research by creating spreadsheets with census-defined quotas and weights for 2014. Respondent data will be created.

This milestone was met. A spreadsheet was created with quotas based on age, gender, and county of residence, using the most recent United States Census estimations of the adult population in the state as targets for the quotas. The survey results were subsequently weighted using a rim weighting process to compensate for any discrepancies between the target sample goals and the actual sample that was surveyed. Those weights were applied to the respondent data file and used to cross-tabulate survey results.

Annual Milestone: After analysis and review that includes collaborating with the Task Force, the 2014 residential survey will be delivered to the Task Force and other stakeholders as appropriate.

This milestone was met. Project staff opened dialogue with state stakeholders and provided opportunities for stakeholders to assist with the survey instrument creation. After the survey results were peer reviewed, they were shared with NTIA, state stakeholders, and the public via update of the program website, a statewide press release, and by incorporating the results into the Nevada Broadband Action Plan.

Annual Milestone: Facilitate year 4 peer reviews of survey results and resulting analysis. Review peer recommendations and apply updates as required.

This milestone was met. Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University served as peer reviewer for the 2014 business survey and the 2014 residential survey. Dr. Sun reviewed the survey instruments, the cross-tabulated results, and the methodology used in each survey. Dr. Sun noted that she was able to replicate the cross-tabulated results, saw no issues with the methodology that could cause response biases, noted that the response rate in the residential survey had increased from previous years, and provided recommendations for further improving the response rates in each survey.

Annual Milestone: Successful completion of community broadband Summit 4

This milestone was met. The successful completion of community broadband Summit 4 took place during Q3 2014. Instead of one large summit event, two smaller workshop sessions were conducted to draw a more focused audience concerned with the expansion of broadband access, adoption, and use within the state. The events were held in two areas of the state – Las Vegas on September 15, 2014 and Reno on September 17, 2014. More than 70 people from the public and private sectors participated. Stakeholders discussed sector and geographic issues and challenges preventing broadband availability, adoption, and use. After discussing these topics, attendees participated in brainstorming sessions and discussed ways to overcome the obstacles identified to encourage increasing broadband expansion in areas of access, adoption, and use. Discussions ranged from implementing computer programming efforts in middle schools thus encouraging digital literacy and developing technology-centered higher education curriculum to support technology in all sectors, to changing the mindset of broadband from a luxury and to an essential infrastructure for improved quality of life, economic development, and cost savings. Additional discussion focused on public safety, economic development, education, healthcare, and local government. Takeaway discussion items from both events will be incorporated into a statewide broadband plan designed to educate and motivate broadband policy planning in communities, regions, and the state.

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

Year 4 Annual Milestone: Finalize and distribute 2013 residential survey research results, incorporating stakeholder recommendations. Research results will be delivered to the Task Force and other stakeholders.

This milestone was met. The data collection for this survey was initially delayed; however, in Q1 2014, the survey results were weighted, analyzed, and presented to Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University for peer review. Upon approval from Dr. Sun, the peer reviewed results were shared with NTIA, state stakeholders, and the public via the program website and a statewide press release.

Year 4 Annual Milestone: After analysis and review that includes collaborating with the Task Force, the 2013 residential survey will be delivered to the Task Force and other stakeholders as appropriate.

This milestone was met. In Q1 2014, the survey results were weighted, analyzed, and presented to Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University for peer review. Upon approval from Dr. Sun, the peer reviewed results were shared with NTIA, the Nevada Broadband Task Force, state stakeholders, and the public.

Year 4 Annual Milestone: Facilitate Year 4 peer review of survey results and resulting analysis. Review peer recommendations and update the program as required.

This milestone was met. Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University served as peer reviewer for the 2013 residential survey. Dr. Sun was able to replicate the cross-tabulated results, reported that she did not note any methodological issues that would create a bias among the respondents, and made recommendations on ways to increase response rates. Dr. Sun's comments were taken under consideration and as a result, the program experienced a higher response rate in 2014's residential survey than in prior years.

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

The state's 2014 residential survey revealed that 80% of adults in the state subscribe to home broadband service, up from 78% in 2010. In addition, more than three out of five Nevada adults (61%) use mobile broadband service, up from 39% in 2010 when Connect Nevada began measuring this trend. Still, more than 423,000 adults in the state do not subscribe to home broadband service. These Nevadans cite many different reasons for not subscribing, including cost, the belief that broadband is not relevant or beneficial to them, and a lack of digital literacy skills. Nearly one in four parents of school-age children in Nevada (23%) say that their children's school provides them with a laptop or tablet computer; the majority of those parents (55%) report that receiving a computer from the school had a positive impact on their child's grades. In addition, nearly one-half of working-age Nevada adults (46%) rely on the Internet to seek or apply for jobs, while one in three (33%) go online to further their educations by taking online classes.

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 Teams Milestones for Year 5, Quarter 4 per approved Project Plan:

Milestone: Wrap up local technology growth and development implementation activities

This milestone was met. During Q4 2014, staff provided limited assistance to communities that previously completed technology assessments and continue to seek certification status, as a Connected community, through the implementation of priority projects identified in their community Technology Action Plan. Wrap-up efforts have convened, and the final assessments are being completed in an effort to close the activities of the local technology growth and development implementation effort.

Year 5 Annual Planning Outcomes per Approved Project Plan:

Annual Milestone: In partnership with the Nevada Broadband Task Force, Connect Nevada will provide oversight and management of the development and sustainment of local technology planning

teams. In Year 5 of the project, facilitation of team activities will continue via the provision of support, development and re-development of training curriculum, meeting coordination and documentation, and the application of continuous improvement.

This milestone was met. Program staff assisted on a limited basis in guiding the completion of community Technology Action Plans as well as implemented initial priority projects throughout the state. The training and certification process was adapted to meet the needs of local teams as the project progressed. Additional work was performed at the state and regional level to support these efforts.

Ultimately, the completed Technology Action Plans served to inform future initiatives at the state level as well as through regional economic development efforts. Community teams will continue to meet and receive support from program staff through identification of resources and meeting coordination until January 31, 2015.

Annual Milestone: Connect Nevada will support the closeout of local technology growth and development implementation activities with primary activities including the collection of project overview material, presentation of final project documents to stakeholders, and archival of all project documents for future reference.

This milestone was met. Program staff supported the closeout of local technology growth and development implementation activities through the collection of project overview material and the presentation of final project documents to stakeholders for communities seeking certification status. Technology Action Plans currently in process will be completed and feedback will be provided to stakeholders on their certification status.

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

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: 77
- Digital literacy programs: 58
- Broadband awareness programs: 56
- Broadband programs focused on vulnerable populations: 48
- Planning Team Members: 180
- Engaged Communities: 16

These assets are inventoried during each community's assessment of local broadband access, adoption, and use and can be leveraged to develop locally relevant digital inclusion strategies during the community team's planning process.