Q2 2013 Supplemental Answers

Connected Nation, Inc. – Texas
Grant Number 48-50-M09064
Reporting Period End Date 06-30-13

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)

Connected Texas (CTX) unveiled new broadband availability figures this quarter. Key findings of the report show more than an 11% increase in fixed wireless broadband availability at 768 kilobytes per second (Kbps)/200 Kbps across Texas compared to six months ago. The increase is due to several factors including network expansion, increased provider participation, and field validations that led to data inclusion for several non-participating providers.

Connected Texas 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.connectedtx.org/interactive-map). There were a total of 919 visits to the interactive map between April 1, 2013, and June 30, 2013.

During this quarter, the project received a total of 4 broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that can also be used for verification purposes totaled 2 for this quarter.   Users can also request non-confidential mapping data produced for the State Broadband Initiatives (SBI) grant program; 4 such data requests were received between April 1, 2013, and June 30, 2013.

For this reporting period, 1,945 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 179 companies (out of a universe of 211 viable providers) totaling 84.83% within the state of Texas.

Several broadband maps were updated and published on the program website this quarter including:
- Broadband Growth
- Broadband Service Inventory
- Broadband Service Inventory (Advertised Speeds of at Least 3 Mbps Downstream and 768 Kbps Upstream)
- Broadband Service Inventory by Congressional District
- Density of Households Unserved by a Broadband Provider
- Density of Providers
- Maximum Advertised Download Speed
- Multiple/Single Platform
- Underserved Areas
- Underserved Areas with Mobile

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 use of Mobile Pulse as a performance measurement tool for mobile broadband was introduced as a field validation methodology in Q1 2013 and significantly expanded during Q2 2013. Of the 1,945 total field verifications conducted on all platforms across Texas, Mobile Pulse represented 1,855 of these validations.

The Engineering and Technical Services (ETS) team has formulated a plan to conduct crowd sourcing and field validation testing to ascertain satellite broadband performance under specific conditions. With regard to crowd sourcing, an e-mail has been developed to respond to all broadband inquiries with known satellite connectivity to request they run speed tests on the program website during a specified window of time so we can capture and identify such tests.

During the second quarter, the program's efforts in communities across the state resulted in a wide array of completed surveys from different Community Anchor Institution (CAI) sectors. In order to drive CAI data collection, Connected Texas participated in a Digital Learning campaign in order to recognize efforts across the state that encourages increased technology adoption. This is a comprehensive approach to CAI data collection, but we continue to reach out to statewide and regional agencies and organizations that can provide support in large data numbers.

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 next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Broadband Capacity Building Milestones Year 4, Quarter 2 per approved project plan:

Milestone: 2013, Quarter 2 Connected Texas program office administration.
This milestone was met. The program office in Austin remains fully staffed and interacting with stakeholders, broadband providers, broadband-related partners, and other representatives throughout the state through periodic status reports, continual direct interactions, addressing requests for information or data, and publicizing broadband-related news and information through a variety of media. Connected Texas is a go-to resource within the state as a primary champion of broadband as it relates to adoption, access, and use.

Milestone: Conduct 2013, Quarter 2, Stakeholder Group meeting.
This milestone was met. Stakeholder group meetings occurred each month throughout the quarter. The program manager set the agenda, met with the stakeholders, and utilized these recurring meetings in order to present state partners with programmatic updates and solicit feedback. More notable updates are communicated publicly via blog posts on the program website, Facebook page, and Twitter account.

As a direct result of the Q1 Stakeholder meeting, Connected Texas was invited by the Texas Department of Agriculture and other stakeholders to discuss the program at the Texas Rural Challenge event held in San Marcos, Texas in June. The program manager spoke on the state of the project, including the Connected community engagement effort, at the event. Known as the state's premier rural economic

development event, this presentation generated interest in the Texas SBI efforts and community engagement program. Interest came from City Managers, Economic Development Directors, and County Judge Executives. Staff will follow-up with each of the individuals expressing interest to further engage them in the program.

Q2 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:

No major challenges occurred during the quarter.

Capacity Building Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

2013, Quarter 3, Connected Texas program office administration
Conduct 2013, Quarter 3, Stakeholder Group meeting

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

The Texas Connects Coalition, a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) awardee, presented the second annual Broadband Across Texas (BAT) Week, with support from the Connected Texas initiative, during the week of June 23-29. The Texas Connects Coalition offered free Internet and computer training classes at more than 90 Public Computing Centers (PCCs) across the state and used SBI program broadband information to add value to the classes and the locations.

A representative of the program participated in the 2013 Broadband Communities Summit in Dallas, Texas, as a presenter. The presentation revolved around a variety of broadband-related topics including the Connected community engagement program, the My ConnectView interactive broadband map, and FirstNet planning and deployment within the state.

Program staff attended the official Google announcement that Google Fiber, the company's gigabit Internet service and digital cable package, is coming to Austin, Texas in 2014**.** Google Fiber provides customers with broadband Internet speeds of one gigabit per second, roughly 100 times faster than the average U.S. connection!

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 next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Technical Assistance Milestones Year 4, Quarter 2 per approved project plan:

Milestone: Analyze 2013 business survey research results
This milestone was partially met. The 2013 business broadband survey was completed. Program research staff received data from the 2013 business survey and began analyzing the results during the quarter. Preliminary results from the surveys were generated, and those results were sent to Dr. Mingjie Sun at Iowa State University for peer review. Additional analysis may be necessary after Dr. Sun provides program staff with her results.

Milestone: Finalize 2013 residential survey script
This milestone was partially met. Conversations were held with state stakeholders regarding opportunities to adjust the 2013 residential survey script. Received recommendations are being incorporated into the survey script, and Connected Texas is reviewing its contract with a Quantitative Data Provider (QDP) to collect the survey data for us. The residential survey will be conducted in 2013.

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

Outstanding Milestone: Peer Review of the 2013 business survey
This milestone was partially met. Dr. Mingjie Sun at Iowa State University was contracted to serve as the peer reviewer for the 2013 business survey data, and she has received the data for review. Dr. Sun is reviewing the results, methodology, and survey script from the 2013 Business survey, and it is expected that the peer review will be complete in Q3 2013.

Q2 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:

No major challenges occurred during the quarter.

Technical Assistance Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

Finalize and distribute 2013 business survey research results
Peer Review of the 2013 residential survey
Initiate 2013 residential survey research

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

Connected Texas conducted and unveiled new research during the quarter describing how broadband affects the Texas economy by showing various ways that Texas broadband adopters save money by using broadband. The value saved by each Texas broadband adopter is estimated at approximately $3,161 per year, meaning that the total residential savings from broadband adoption in the state is estimated to be $40.9 billion annually. This study also shows that with a one percentage point increase in broadband adoption, Texans could expect to save an additional $700 million per year. Other key findings of the research include:

- Texas broadband subscribers report that finding healthcare information online saved them an average of 2.4 trips to the doctor, and 2.4 trips to the emergency room in the past year. This translates into a statewide savings of $7.6 billion annually.
- Texas broadband subscribers report that they drive an average of 165.6 fewer miles per month as a result of subscribing to home broadband service. This results in an estimated annual savings of $11.2 billion in driving costs, plus a reduction of 17.8 billion pounds of CO_2 emissions.
- Texas broadband subscribers are able to do things faster with broadband, resulting in an estimated 15 hours per month that can be spent in other ways such as interacting with family, developing a small business, or helping in their communities. Statewide, Texas broadband subscribers save an estimated 2.1 billion hours per year, worth approximately $22 billion annually.
- On average, each Texas broadband subscriber saves an estimated $3,161 per year as a result of driving fewer miles, doing things faster, and making fewer trips to the doctor or emergency room.

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 Teams Milestones Year 4, Quarter 2 per approved project plan:

Milestone: Conduct Year 4, Quarter 2 planning team meetings
This milestone was met. Program staff conducted 18 community planning meetings across Texas to advance broadband adoption, access, and use on a local level. These meetings discussed the Connected community engagement program and broadband resources in the communities, conducted local broadband planning, and gathered information to assemble a Technology Action Plan. Currently, there are 15 communities actively engaged in the local/regional planning process.

During the quarter, San Augustine County, Sabine County, McMullen County, Young County, and Stamford, through the Connected program, each unveiled Technology Action Plans designed to make way for greater technology use and brighter economic futures in each community. Public announcements of these plans were posted on the program website, Facebook page, Twitter account, and disseminated via press releases. A total of six Texas communities now have completed Technology Action Plans through the community engagement program. Program staff will continue to work with these community officials in an effort to assist in implementing some of the recommendations that were made in the report.

Milestone: Plan the 2013 Annual Statewide Strategic Broadband Planning Meeting
This milestone was met. Connected Texas finalized planning and conducted a Statewide Strategic Broadband Planning Meeting in partnership with the University of Texas at Austin and the Texas Connects Coalition, a BTOP PCC awardee. Invitations were distributed to Connected Texas stakeholders and publicized on the Connected Texas and Texas Connects Coalition websites. The planning meeting titled "Digital Inclusion in Texas Conference and Colloquium" was held at The University of Texas at Austin, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, on April 26-27, 2013 and brought together some of the nation's top scholars, policymakers, and state stakeholders to discuss ways to make Internet technology available to everyone. Over 100 people attended the two-day meeting that included panelists from several Universities in Texas and across the country, officials and policymakers representing local communities and the State of Texas, and representatives from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Federal Communications Commission. Updates from the conference were published on the program website, Facebook, and Twitter accounts. Press releases were also issued prior to and after the conference.

During the conference, Connected Texas unveiled new research describing how broadband affects the Texas economy by showing various ways that Texas broadband adopters save money by using broadband. Additional details of the report can be found within the Technical Assistance section of this report.

Q2 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:

No major challenges occurred during the quarter.

<u>Planning Teams Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:</u>

Conduct Year 4, Quarter 3 planning team meetings