

13Q4_Supplemental Answers_Texas

Connected Nation, Inc.

Grant Number 48-50-M09064

Reporting Period End Date 12-31-13

For Q4 2013, the program's match percentage based on total expenditures was 20.23%. Thus the program will fall short of the required match percentage by 0.54%. Connected Texas currently has a cost share waiver in place with its granting agency through Q4 2013. Moreover, in Q4 2013 and in conjunction with a submitted budget modification request, program staff sought approval of an extension to the cost share waiver through Q1 2014 in an effort to provide time for the budget modification to be considered and resolved.

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)

Updates to the following maps occurred, based on the newest semi-annual submission to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA):

- a) Broadband Availability Maps
- b) Unserved Density Maps
- c) Broadband Availability at 3M/768K Maps
- d) Maximum Advertised Download Speed Maps
- e) Underserved Area Maps
- f) Multi-Single Platform Maps
- g) Provider Density Maps
- h) My ConnectView Interactive Map
- i) Broadband Growth Maps
- j) Congressional District Maps

The program 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 (www.connectedtx.org). There were a total of 830 visits to the interactive map between October 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013.

During this quarter, the project received a total of 5 broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that was also used for verification purposes totaled 1 for this quarter.

For this reporting period, 911 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 190 companies (out of 211 viable providers) totaling 90.05 percent within the state of Texas.

Program staff began outreach to the provider community regarding the April 2014 semi-annual data submission, both soliciting the data from providers for the upcoming submission, as well as outlining pertinent dates.

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.

In October, program staff reviewed provider challenges to the price-cap carrier filings to provide confirmation of the provider service area offering 3 megabytes per second (Mbps) download/768 kilobytes per second (Kbps) upload broadband within the challenged census blocks, or indicated the alternate situation as necessary. A copy of the filing can be found at the following link: http://www.connectednation.org/sites/default/files/connected_nations_reply_comments_caf_phase_1_challenge_process.pdf. For convenience, this document has also been provided as a part of the "13Q4_Project Attachment_Question 5_Texas" response.

In December, program staff created a statewide map of Connect America Fund authorization areas at the census block level; this was based on a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) dataset released on December 5, 2013, on the total number of locations authorized for funding and the total funding authorized based on location type. This map can be found at the following link: <http://www.connectednation.org/fcc-maps>. For convenience, this document has also been provided as a part of the "13Q4_Project Attachment_Question 5_Texas" response.

The program's Community Anchor Institution (CAI) team has engaged the Texas Education Agency regarding new state legislation that mandates the gathering of broadband connectivity data for all Texas K-12 schools. The data will be shared with the Texas State Broadband Initiative (SBI) program. As a result of this legislation and partnership, a significant amount of K-12 CAI data is expected to be received in 2014.

A broadband availability analysis of the latest mapping data was conducted this quarter and released on the program website. Additionally, outreach and awareness staff issued a press release illustrating the broadband availability in Texas. A key finding of the analysis showed a significant increase in fixed broadband availability at 10 Mbps download speeds and 1.5 Mbps upload in the past six months.

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 4 per approved project plan:

Milestone: 2013, Quarter 4, Connected Texas program office administration

This milestone was met. The program office in Austin remains fully staffed and interacting with stakeholders, such as the Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Public Utilities Commission, Texas

State Library and Archives Commission, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Education Association, Texas Computer Education Association, Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Economic Development Council, 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 4, Stakeholder Group meeting

This milestone was met. Stakeholder group meetings occurred throughout the quarter, through group settings and/or individual meetings with stakeholders from Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Public Utilities Commission, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Education Association, Texas Computer Education Association, Texas Workforce Commission, and Texas Economic Development Council. 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. Notable updates are communicated publicly via blog posts on the program website, Facebook page, and Twitter feed. Stakeholder meetings have allowed staff to continue highlighting program successes with SBI projects such as local community engagement.

Broadband Capacity Building Annual Outcomes per approved project plan:

Year 4 Annual Outcome: The Connected Texas Program Office, run by the Connected Texas Program Coordinator, will administer the Connected Texas program of activities and become a clearinghouse and resource for broadband deployment efforts within the state. Activities and deliverables from the program office include a variety of tasks that involve administering the project plan, preparing weekly program status reports, managing workflow and the timeline, verifying work quality, documenting and evaluating recommendations, gathering documentation in support of community projects, and gathering other information as required by TDA, Texas PUC, the Texas Broadband Task Force and/or other Texas stakeholders. Program office activities also include providing weekly project status reports and initiative updates to the Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas PUC, the Texas Broadband Task Force and/or other Texas stakeholders, attending the Texas Broadband Task Force meetings conducted quarterly, reporting on Connected Texas activities, documenting Task Force recommendations for Connected Texas, and supporting the meeting as needed and requested by TDA.

This annual outcome was met. The program office in Austin remained fully staffed and interacted 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. The Program Manager administered the project plan, prepared and delivered status reports, managed workflows, verified work quality, documented and evaluated recommendations, gathered documentation in support of community projects, and supported other information as requested. Connected Texas continues to be a go-to resource within the state as a primary champion of broadband as it relates to adoption, access, and use.

Year 4 Annual Outcome: Connected Texas will work in tandem with TDA, the Texas PUC, the Texas Broadband Task Force, and members of the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) to convene a Stakeholder Group. It is projected that the Stakeholder Group will meet quarterly to review program

progress and offer recommendations for the program and other related programs. Stakeholder Group meeting outcomes and recommendations will be communicated with all stakeholders via the Connected Texas website updates, blogs, press releases, reports or as required by Stakeholder Group. The Stakeholder Group will provide for and support outcomes such as: outreach and collaboration with experts, non-profits, and trade associations and assessing current programs and laws/regulations that may be used to overcome broadband growth and adoption barriers.

This annual outcome was met. Stakeholder group meetings occurred each month throughout the year. 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 feed.

As a direct result of these Stakeholder meetings, program representatives were invited to speak about the Texas broadband landscape at the Texas Department of Agriculture's Rural Economic Development Roundtable and the Texas Rural Challenge event held in San Marcos. Also, as a direct result of these Stakeholder meetings, Connected Texas was able to partner with Intel and the Texas Computer Education Association to hold an event during the SXSWedu Conference in Austin to support broadband adoption within Texas.

Q4 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:

No major challenges were encountered during the quarter.

Capacity Planning Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

- 2014, Quarter 1, Connected Texas program office administration
- Conduct 2014, Quarter 1, Stakeholder Group meeting

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

Connected Texas participated in the Texas Economic Development Council 2013 Annual Conference "2020 Vision" convened in San Antonio on October 16-18, 2013. Staff spoke with economic development coordinators and local leaders from across the state about the Texas SBI program, its mission, and its offerings. Several new communities were introduced to the Connected community engagement program and have expressed interest in participating in the same in an effort to gain a deeper understanding of the state of broadband within their communities.

Outreach and Awareness staff created and sent two e-newsletters to subscribers and stakeholders providing updates on the progress to expand broadband access, adoption, and use in Texas. The newsletters can be found attached to this report by way of the "13Q4_Project Attachment_Question 5_Texas" document.

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 4 per approved project plan:

Milestone: Analyze 2013 residential survey research results.

This milestone was not met. Survey data collection was delayed due to a minor shift in scheduling. While data collection was completed late in the quarter, the subsequent analysis of the data was not completed during the quarter. The results will continue to be weighed, analyzed, and compiled during Q1 2014.

Milestone: Finalize 2014 business survey script

This milestone was partially met. State stakeholders were provided the opportunity to offer input and make requests related to the 2014 business survey. The creation of the survey instrument is underway, with these requests and input in mind; however, the survey script was not completed during the quarter. Writing continues on the 2014 business survey script and it is expected to be finalized in Q1 2014.

Technical Assistance outstanding milestones (not met or partially met) from previous quarters:

Outstanding Milestone: Finalize and distribute 2013 business survey research results

This milestone was met. The business survey research results were finalized in the previous quarter; however, updates to the program website (designed to display the results and graphical information from the survey) were not completed as of the end of last quarter. Rather, updates to the website were completed and the results of the 2013 business survey, along with graphical information designed to highlight key findings of the survey were released publicly during this quarter. Notifications were made to our stakeholders regarding the findings and public release of the same. Blog posts and social media announcements were made to raise awareness of the survey results.

Outstanding Milestone: Peer Review of the 2013 residential survey

This milestone was not met. Data collection for the residential survey was not complete until late Q4 2013; therefore, the analysis and compilation of the survey results were not completed by the end of the quarter. As a result, the 2013 residential survey data was not ready for peer review in Q4 2013. A peer reviewer has been secured and the subsequent peer review of the 2013 residential survey is anticipated to take place in Q1 2014.

Technical Assistance Annual Outcomes per approved project plan:

Year 4 Annual Outcome: Initiate the currently proposed 2013 residential survey research and the 2013 business survey research or modified research, if changes are recommended. Corresponding primary activities include writing survey instrument (script with appropriate programming notes), collecting respondent data, and creating data file with weighted results. Once surveys are complete they will be analyzed in consultation with the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas PUC, the Texas Broadband Task Force, and/or other Texas stakeholders as appropriate.

This annual outcome was partially met. The residential survey and business survey were both initiated, the survey instruments were written, spreadsheets were created with census-defined quotas, and respondent data was collected. Results from the 2013 business survey were released publicly in Q4 2013. Because the data collection for the residential survey ended in late Q4 2013, data analysis and peer review of the results from this survey were not completed, and results were not provided to state stakeholders or a peer reviewer, both of which are anticipated to be completed in Q1 2014.

Year 4 Annual Outcome: After the analysis and review process that includes collaborating with the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas PUC, the Texas Broadband Task Force, and/or other Texas stakeholders, the 2012 statewide residential survey research results will be finalized and submitted to the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas PUC, the Texas Broadband Task Force and/or other Texas stakeholders. Data will be released via in-person presentations, press releases, webinars, or website updates.

This annual outcome was met, as the 2012 statewide residential survey results were finalized in 2013 and provided to NTIA, state stakeholders, and were released to the public through the program website. The results were discussed during in-person meetings, stakeholder updates, and during the 2013 summit. Press releases, blog posts, and social media announcements were also made at the time of release.

Year 4 Annual Outcome: After the analysis and review process that includes collaborating with the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas PUC, the Texas Broadband Task Force, and/or other Texas stakeholders. The 2013 statewide residential survey research results will be finalized and submitted to the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas PUC, the Texas Broadband Task Force and/or other Texas stakeholders. Data will be released via in-person presentations, press releases, webinars, or website updates.

This annual outcome was not met. Data collection for the 2013 residential survey was delayed by a minor shift in scheduling during Q4 2013. As a result, the data collection process did not finish until late Q4 2013, providing insufficient time for analysis or peer review prior to releasing the data to the public or to state stakeholders and NTIA.

Year 4 Annual Outcome: Finalize and distribute 2013 statewide business survey research results. Activities include incorporating stakeholder requests and create final report detailing results of 2013 statewide business survey, delivering in-person presentation of 2013 statewide business research results to the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas PUC, the Texas Broadband Task Force and/or other Texas stakeholders and announcing the release of data via press release, website update and meetings with stakeholders.

This annual outcome was met. Results from the 2013 business survey were finalized, distributed to our stakeholders, and released to the public in Q4 2013. The results of the 2013 business survey, along with graphical information designed to highlight key findings of the survey, were released publicly on the website. Blog posts and social media announcements were also made to raise awareness of the survey results.

Year 4 Annual Outcome: Facilitate peer review of 2013 residential survey and 2013 business results and resulting analysis. Review peer recommendation and update program as required.

This annual outcome was partially met. Data from the 2013 business survey was peer reviewed by Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University and no substantial changes were made. However, data collection for the 2013 residential survey was delayed as the data collection process did not finish until late in Q4 2013, providing insufficient time for analysis or peer review. The 2013 residential survey will be peer reviewed and ultimately released publicly during Year 5.

Outstanding Technical Assistance Annual Outcomes (not met or partially met) from previous years:

Year 3 Outstanding Annual Outcome: Analyze the research plan for years 3 through 5 through collaboration with the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas PUC, the Texas Broadband Task Force, and/or other Texas stakeholders and make modifications deemed necessary and appropriate. Connected Texas along with TDA, the Texas PUC, and the Texas Broadband Task Force will reevaluate research efforts after the Year 2 research is complete to determine whether to proceed with scheduled research or refocus funding on target areas determined in previous years. Connected Texas will seek NTIA approval of new research plans. Primary corresponding activities include developing research plan and seeking NTIA approval for Years 3 through 5.

This annual outcome was met. An amended project plan was approved by the SBI program office in 2013. Furthermore, program staff met with state stakeholders to evaluate research efforts and coordinate planned research to address issues of interest to state stakeholders. Feedback from our stakeholders is accepted on an ongoing basis, evaluated, and incorporated into the surveys where feasible. Business and residential surveys were conducted in 2013.

Year 3 Outstanding Annual Outcome: After the analysis and review process that includes collaborating with the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas PUC, the Texas Broadband Task Force, and/or other Texas stakeholders, the 2012 statewide residential survey research results will be finalized and submitted to the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas PUC, the Texas Broadband Task Force and/or other Texas stakeholders. Data will be released via in-person presentations, press releases, webinars, or website updates.

This annual outcome was met. The 2012 statewide residential survey was peer reviewed and finalized. Results were submitted to state stakeholders and publicly released on the program website. A press release, blog posts, and social media announcements were made to raise awareness of the release of the survey results.

Year 3 Outstanding Annual Outcome: Facilitate peer review of 2012 residential survey results and resulting analysis. Review peer recommendation and update program as required.

This annual outcome was met. In 2013, Dr. Sharon Strover from the University of Texas at Austin peer reviewed the results from the 2012 residential survey and provided her recommendations for incorporation in future surveys.

Q4 2013 Technical Assistance Challenges and Mitigation:

No major challenges were encountered during the quarter.

Technical Assistance Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

- Finalize and distribute 2013 residential survey research results

- Peer Review of the 2014 business survey
- Initiate 2014 business 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 Teams Milestones Year 4, Quarter 4 per approved project plan:

Milestone: Conduct Year 4, Quarter 4 planning team meetings

This milestone was met. Program staff conducted 11 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 24 communities with a total of 115 planning team members actively involved in some stage of the local/regional planning team process.

During the quarter, Bastrop County became the first certified Connected community in the State of Texas. The certification comes as a result of working with Connected Texas through the Connected community engagement program to assess the local broadband landscape, identify gaps, and establish actionable goals and objectives to increase broadband access, adoption, and use for families, organizations, and businesses throughout Bastrop County. To obtain the Connected certification, Bastrop County met certain benchmark scores based on the National Broadband Plan that demonstrate it is a technologically advanced community. Public announcements of this certification were posted on the program website, Facebook page, Twitter feed, and disseminated via press releases.

Planning Teams Annual Outcomes per approved project plan:

Year 4 Annual Outcome: Connected Texas will continue to facilitate regional planning and training sessions. Activities include scheduling meetings, setting agendas, taking meeting notes and working with regional planning teams to identify target sectors and regional and local subject matters for the train-the-trainer sessions. The Planning Specialist will support each regional planning team in implementing regional broadband plans based on broadband benchmarks and goals established from Connected Texas' broadband mapping, broadband provider data, research, best practices, and existing data from other sources. They will also facilitate a training session, provide training toolkits for team members to use in their own communities, document training session attendance, and add attendees to regional contact database. The Planning Specialist will hold 1 planning meeting for each of the established regions, every quarter, in Year 4. We anticipate having up to 29 regional planning teams.

This annual outcome was met. Connected Texas facilitated 52 community planning meetings across the state in 2013. Program staff scheduled meetings, set agendas, took notes and worked with local and

regional community planning teams from 24 communities. Staff supported these planning teams through the use of the Connected community engagement program where planning teams are led through a process to assess their local or regional broadband landscape through the use of Connected Texas' broadband resources and data from other sources. Planning teams identify gaps and create a Technology Action Plan with specific recommendations designed to make way for greater technology use and brighter economic futures in each community. A total of 10 Texas communities now have completed Technology Action Plans through the community engagement program. Program staff will continue to work with community officials in these 10 communities in an effort to assist in implementing some of the recommendations that were made in the report. Team member attendance is documented at each meeting and contacts are added to a database. There are a total of 115 planning team members actively involved in some stage of the local/regional planning team process.

Year 4 Annual Outcome: Connected Texas, in conjunction with the Texas Association of Regional Councils, Texas Broadband Task Force, and the Texas Department of Agriculture will plan and conduct a state strategic broadband planning session. The activities include preparing an agenda, securing a location, sending invitations, facilitating the meeting and recording meeting outcomes.

This annual outcome was met. Planning was finalized for and a Statewide Strategic Broadband Planning Meeting was conducted in partnership with the University of Texas at Austin, the Texas Department of Agriculture, and the Texas Connects Coalition, a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Public Computing Center (PCC) awardee. Invitations were distributed to program stakeholders, including the Texas Broadband Task Force and the Texas Association of regional Councils, 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, policymakers representing local communities and the state of Texas, and representatives from NTIA and the FCC. 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, program representatives unveiled and discussed new research describing how broadband affects the Texas economy by illustrating various ways that Texas broadband adopters save money by using broadband.

Q4 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:

No major challenges were encountered.

Technical Assistance Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

- Conduct Year 5, Quarter 1 planning team meetings

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

Community planning teams participating in the Connected community engagement program have identified the following technology assets within their own communities:

Public computer centers: 54
Digital literacy programs: 27
Broadband awareness programs: 49
Broadband programs focused on vulnerable populations: 66

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 action planning process.

A community engagement map that displays the status of each community engaged in the Connected community engagement program was maintained. This map shows the most current view of where each community is in the process of becoming a certified Connected community in Texas. The most current version of the community engagement map has been provided as an attachment via the "13Q4_Project Attachment_Question 5_Texas" document.