

2014 Q1 Supplemental Answers

Puerto Rico Governor's Office

Grant Number 72-50-M09040

Reporting Period End Date 03-31-14

14 a Project Attachment Data Collection

2. Describe any additional project milestones that have been accomplished over this reporting period (Ex. Updates to state broadband maps and websites, map outreach activities)

Engineering and Technical Staff (ETS) staff conducted and completed provider outreach in support of the semi-annual data submission. Said data submission, under the State Broadband Initiatives (SBI) program, included datasets for 86.96% of the Puerto Rico provider community, or 20 of 23 total providers. Of the 20 participating providers, 11 supplied an update to their network or coverage area(s), while 6 reported no change. The remaining 3 represent providers who previously supplied data but were non-responsive in this update effort; therefore, their previous dataset was put forward as part of the compilation. The 3 providers that are not represented in the submission are in some form of progress toward data submission but were not able to submit coverage areas at the time of the submission. The submission also included business/commercial providers; of the residential providers represented in the submission, 10 were providers that do not distinguish between serving primarily residential or primarily non-residential users. Three business-only providers were also included in the submission.

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 the program website (www.connectpr.org). There were a total of 686 visits to the interactive map between January 1, 2014 and March 31, 2014.

Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that was also used for verification purposes totaled 2 for this quarter. Users can also request non-confidential mapping data produced for the SBI grant program; 3 data requests were received between January 1, 2014 and March 31, 2014.

Program engineering staff traveled to Puerto Rico to conduct multiple broadband validation tests. For this reporting period, 373 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 18 companies (out of 23 viable providers) totaling 78.26% within the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

In an effort to provide the most accurate validation information available, project to date validation numbers are in the process of being reviewed and recalculated to consider the impact on the total percentage of providers validated when removing companies that have gone out of business and/or have been merged with or acquired by other companies. As this review will continue in Q2, the validation numbers presented for this quarter are preliminary and conservative reflecting an adjustment to the percentage of providers validated in an effort to account for this variance.

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.

Staff traveled to Puerto Rico for the January Puerto Rico Broadband Taskforce (PRBT) meeting and a series of other meetings with stakeholders, including the Chief Information Officer, Telecommunications Regulatory Board, Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company (PRIDCO), the Junta de Planificación, the Aqueduct and Sewer Authority, the offices of Puerto Rico Senators Power and Nieves, and representatives from the broadband provider community. Discussions focused on the current state of broadband on the Island, current program activities and information, and potential future initiatives in order to increase broadband access, adoption, and use.

Staff also participated in the February and March Puerto Rico Broadband Taskforce meetings via teleconference. Presented updates included ConnectEd, E-rate, and the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Rural Broadband Experiment for which an invitation was extended to a Connected Nation hosted webinar providing attendees with additional knowledge on the FCC Rural Broadband Experiment.

Based on the information released by the FCC on the Rural Broadband Experiments, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff created maps of the eligible census tracts and assisted states, broadband providers, and other stakeholders with reviewing and understanding the information provided to help with expressions of interest as possible.

Tabular information on CAI connectivity using October 2013 datasets was updated in an effort to assist with information being reviewed and prepared by Policy and Research Development staff.

Outreach and awareness staff created and sent three monthly e-newsletters during the quarter to subscribers and stakeholders providing updates on the progress to expand broadband access, adoption, and use in Puerto Rico. These newsletters have been included in this report by way of the "14Q1_Project Attachment_Question 5_Puerto Rico" attachment.

14 b Project Attachment Original Planning Grant

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.

In Q1 2014 Connect Puerto Rico worked with Estudios Technicos, a third-party Puerto Rican survey firm, to finalize the data collection portion of the business survey. Research staff weighted the results, analyzed the data, and provided Island stakeholders with a report outlining initial results from the survey, showing trends in technology adoption among Puerto Rico businesses.

Project Challenges or Obstacles:

No major challenges or obstacles were encountered.