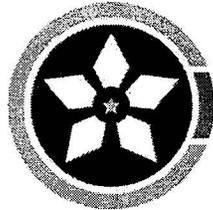


**OFFICIAL SUBMISSION TO
THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE STATE BROADBAND DATA AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM
FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA**



CONNECT
ALASKASM

**STATE BROADBAND DATA AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM
AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION**

PROJECT NARRATIVE

July 1, 2010

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Current Funding: \$1,912,855 (\$1,420,811 mapping + \$492,044 planning)

Approved Activities: Connect Alaska, in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development applied for and received federal funds to support broadband mapping and planning activities in Alaska. Approved activities include collection and development of datasets as required by the NTIA as well as implementing a web-based, interactive tool to inform state and local government officials, consumers, broadband providers, community development organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders of broadband availability including location, available speed and type of technology delivering the service. The interactive website is critical to ensure accessibility of the broadband data, but is also key to increasing awareness of the mapping program and broadband's benefits, playing an important role in ensuring local verification of the mapping data. Funds were also allocated to support existing state spatial development projects to collect address-level data. Validation of data through survey and web-based tools is included in the planning activities.

Connect Alaska proposes funding for four projects:

\$1,959,326: Data Gathering, Mapping, Verification, & Leading Practices Incorporation Total

Year 2: \$72,282 Year 3: \$604,365 Year 4: \$628,729 Year 5: \$653,950

Description: Data Gathering will be undertaken to ensure that datasets for mapping are complete and up-to-date during the remainder of the 5-year program period. Data integrated will be verified using several verification methodologies to ensure map accuracy, and Leading Practices will be identified and incorporated into the project as it progresses. The Connect Alaska online map portal will be enhanced via this project to provide more information to map stakeholders.

\$2,326,490: State Broadband Capacity Building Total

Year 2: \$559,945 Year 3: \$563,943 Year 4: \$592,685 Year 5: \$609,917

Description: A central program office will be established to ensure that statewide stakeholders are engaged and involved. This category will support program staff, the establishment of the Connect Alaska Broadband Task Force, support the work of Regional Planning Teams, support various broadband initiatives by and in the state, and support application usage and development.

\$1,746,357: Technical Assistance Program Total

Year 2: \$444,941 Year 3: \$377,513 Year 4: \$395,706 Year 5: \$528,197

Description: Activities in both the broadband capacity building and applications usage and development categories will be supported by local benchmarking and assessments funded through the technical assistance function. Connect Alaska will conduct digital literacy/outreach and education through technical assistance, and the GIS cataloging of broadband related best practices.

\$ 998,887: Applications Usage and Development Total

Year 2: \$369,344 Year 3: \$370,596 Year 4: \$128,513 Year 5: \$130,434

Description: Connect Alaska, at the behest of the State of Alaska, will undertake a "bow to stern" assessment of e-Government service availability and usage in the state, with particular focus on how Alaskans with access to varying broadband speeds are able to utilize e-Government services. Based on recommendations from this assessment phase, Connect Alaska and the State of Alaska will then utilize funds from the Alaska Broadband Application Fund (established by this grant) to fund the development and implementation of new e-Government applications by Alaska state government agencies.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Current Award: \$1,912,855
New Award: \$7,031,060
Total Award: \$8,943,915

Currently Funded Activities: Connect Alaska, in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development applied for and received federal funds to support broadband mapping and planning activities in Alaska. Approved activities include collection and development of datasets as required by the NTIA as well as implementation a web-based, interactive tool to inform state and local government officials, consumers, broadband providers, community development organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders of broadband availability including location, available speed and type of technology delivering the service. The interactive website is critical to ensure accessibility of the broadband data, but is also key to increasing awareness of the mapping program and broadband's benefits, playing an important role in ensuring local verification of the mapping data. Funds were also allocated to support existing state spatial development projects to collect address-level data. Validation of data through survey and web-based tools is included in the planning activities.

DATA COLLECTION, INTEGRATION, VERIFICATION AND DISPLAY (DATA COLLECTION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES)

Current Award: \$ 1,420,811
New Award: \$1,959,326
Total Award: \$3,380,137

On June 30, 2010, Connect Alaska in partnership with the State of Alaska's Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development submitted the state's initial SBDD dataset representing participation from approximately 90% of the Alaska provider community, or 18 of 20 total providers identified at the time of submission. Of the 2 providers that were not represented in the source data, neither have either refused to participate in the voluntary program or have remained unresponsive to the numerous attempts at contact by Connect Alaska. The remaining 2 providers are currently in some form of progress toward data submission but were not able to either submit or verify coverage areas at the time of this submission.

In compiling this initial data set, Connect Alaska and all its principals expended all commercially reasonable efforts to account for 100% of the known Alaska broadband provider community.

Data Gathering Methodology

Beyond the initial broadband data collection and submission to NTIA, provider outreach will continuously occur to ensure that the most up-to-date and accurate service area information is being collected and displayed on inventory maps. For each semi-annual update period, each viable broadband provider in the state will be contacted, via e-mail, phone, etc. to inquire about infrastructure or system updates and expansion. In some cases this may include, but would not be limited to, providers who offered services below the FCC's definition of broadband but have since upgraded their facilities.

For providers who have previously submitted data to the mapping project, pre-populated information spreadsheets, electronic copies of the provider's footprint (pursuant to the initial data submission) and the most recent version of the provider's service area map can be returned to them for their review and approval. Any changes that have occurred since the last update can be indicated spatially on the map or through the information spreadsheet.

Providers who have not participated before can fill in a new information spreadsheet and supply data to Connected Nation. Service area data can be submitted in a variety of formats, including but not limited to ESRI shapefile, CAD file, PDF, spreadsheet, hard-copy maps, text files and several others. Providers that have previously refused to participate or were non-responsive will be contacted again. Refusing providers will be directed to the state's broadband website so they can view the published maps and see how service data is used and displayed for the project. This map view also allows providers to visually understand the impact of the refusal to participate.

Connected Nation will also continue to review broadband documents, including the FCC 477 reports, Directory of Round 2 BIP Applications and Public Notice Responses and other relevant public documents to ensure that any new providers are also accounted for and contacted. Additionally, Connected Nation received data sets from providers that were unable to provide "approval" of the coverage plots and confirm the validity of the data in time to meet the initial submission. Pending approval, these data sets will be incorporated in subsequent submissions.

Process for Data Integration

Connected Nation will employ the tactics described in the "Data Gathering Methodology" section to continuously seek out new information from providers that participated in the initial submission to NTIA, process the data from providers that submitted information but were unable to provide approvals before the initial submission to NTIA, and will strive to break the barriers with those providers that were non-responsive and/or refused to participate in the initial data submissions to NTIA. This will include using the guidelines provided in NTIA's letter of June 10, 2010, titled "State Broadband Data & Development Program – Initial Submission – Technical Notes".

Connected Nation will continue to collect and process any data format available, as broadband providers maintain their service area data in many different formats, all in varying levels of complexity and granularity. In order to ensure that the data required by the NTIA is standardized across all providers and that it is as accurate as possible, Connected Nation translates and formats the data that providers are able to supply into a GIS shapefile. While several data formats have been submitted by providers and successfully translated up to this point, there is always the possibility of new data formats being introduced; in that case, Connected Nation will work closely with the provider(s) to ensure the supplied data is correctly translated into a GIS format. All provider data supplied to Connected Nation will be processed and maps returned to the providers for their review and approval. Following the NTIA requirements for provider data submission, Connected Nation will format and structure the spatial data into the appropriate feature classes of the NSGIC Model version 2.0. The geodatabase of provider information will make up the bulk of the data submission to NTIA.

Verification Methodology

Connected Nation's Engineering & Technical Services staff will be devoting a portion of their time on validation processes such as (a) random spectrum analysis studies, (b) identifying pre-selected vertical assets and cross referencing provider submitted data against the Federal Communications Commission databases such as Antenna Structure Registration and/or the Universal Licensing System, (c) validating site information against data collection such as the physical coordinates using a handheld Garmin eTrex Summit GPS unit, (d) locating physical wire-line attributes (such as remote terminals, CATV plant, etc); and (e) digital photography which would capture images of transmit locations, head-ends, remote terminals, central office equipment, etc.

Time will be allocated for cross referencing public documents such as the Federal Communications Commission Form 477 data and conducting "on site" visits with pre-selected providers in order to both validate broadband distribution platforms and to build upon the relationships developed during the initial submission period to ensure continuous provider support and participation.

During the validation efforts and on-site visits, certain common and consistent denominators will be used to ensure the highest quality of validation techniques. These may include wireless signal testing (using a spectrum analyzer) at Wi-Fi locations, at the transmit site of fixed wireless providers and at randomly selected sites for WiMAX and mobile providers. All locations will be subjected to speed tests using the test site (provided by Ookla Net Metrics) which is commonly available on every respective state's website.

Another verification methodology encompasses consumer feedback with regards to the publicly available maps and analysis on broadband service areas. The primary mechanism of consumer feedback is in the form of broadband inquiries. These inquiries represent any type of communication received from the public regarding broadband service. Consumers are encouraged through the website and other outreach activities to provide feedback on the maps through the map website, e-mail, or by phone. Once broadband inquiries are received across the state, this information is overlaid with the broadband availability information collected through the SBDD program. This allows for a real-world comparison of the broadband landscape to the information received from broadband inquiries. Broadband inquiries are able to provide three types of information: 1) Residents who do not have broadband service available and want it. 2) Residents who have broadband service available but want a different provider. 3) Residents who can offer localized information to help verify the accuracy of the broadband maps.

Through the aggregation of broadband inquiries in GIS format, a visual demand for broadband is presented. This form of "crowd-sourcing" allows for the ability to adjust broadband availability maps for accuracy. If information from residents differs from the broadband inventory maps, this allows Connected Nation to approach broadband service providers within a particular area to refine the data and map representation.

Finally, Connected Nation will access and use the aggregate data collected by FCC Form 477 that is being made available to the designated entity in each state or territory for purposes of broadband data verification. FCC Order 10-71, released on April 26, 2010, interprets P.L. 110-385 (the Broadband Data

Improvement Act) to require the FCC release of this data to each state or territory participating in the BDIA.

Leading Practices

A number of leading practices identified in the Grant Guidance have been implemented by Connect Alaska in the first year of the SBDD program. These include practices such as submission of data in geodatabase format, submission of speed information at a census block or wireless footprint level, integration of public data sources, provider feedback, direct assistance to small providers, “crowdsourcing” through the Connect Alaska online interactive map, and detailed descriptions of methodology. Moving forward, Connect Alaska proposes to implement a number of additional leading practices, with associated budget funding, including:

- Pricing – publicly available pricing data will be gathered through provider websites and phone calls to randomly selected addresses across a distributed sampling of the state. Per the suggestions contained within the Grant Guidance, pricing data sought will include price points per tier, required bundles, equipment rebates or costs, and incentive offers.
- Data Confidence Scales – this area will be explored for potential development and implementation, in coordination with the NTIA as future federal guidance on data confidence scales is released.
- Ongoing Verification Activities – ongoing verification will focus on areas of concern, based on information garnered from prior data collection and verification. Within these targeted areas of concern, a focus will be placed on field validation of platform availability and the promotion of online crowdsourcing tools such as interactive maps and web surveys.
- Surveys – in an effort to create cost-efficiency gains, state-level survey research conducted as a means of data verification in Year 1 will be transferred to a related project within the program, combining state level data collection with local level data collection into one survey, for enhanced data and reduced fixed costs across the program. These local-level surveys will continue to verify broadband availability among a statistically significant sample of all households as well as a statistically significant sample of rural households, in accordance with NOFA requirements, while targeting verification among a statistically significant sample of addresses in each Alaska borough. Meanwhile, these surveys will capture data on technology usage and barriers to adoption at the local level, in support of a number of BDIA purposes.
- In-person community engagement – meetings with community leaders and residents to verify and discuss the results of the data collection will be conducted through the local and regional technology teams proposed as a complementary project within this program, at no additional costs to the data collection project.

Display

The expanded opportunity of the State Broadband Data and Development grant program positions the state of Alaska to improve upon its original vision for SBDD grant in terms of data accessibility as well as its utility in aiding planning and collaboration efforts.

The current Connect Alaska website (www.connectak.org) supports several stakeholder groups in the advancement of the programmatic goals of the SBDD program in Alaska. To the most general program stakeholder, the portal facilitates access to the broadband state-level map through the online

broadband mapping application, as well as other salient information pertinent to the SBDD effort within the state. In addition to serving the accessibility need as prescribed in the original NOFA, it is an integral part of the data acquisition as well as the accuracy and verification methodologies employed in the mapping effort.



STATE BROADBAND CAPACITY BUILDING

NAME: Connect Alaska Office and Connect Alaska State Broadband Task Force

FUNDS AWARDED: \$0

FUNDS REQUESTED: \$2,342,196

PROBLEM: Alaska faces unique broadband challenges that set it apart from the other U.S. states and territories. The extreme remote nature of many villages and towns, coupled with legacy barriers to broadband deployment (such as backhaul challenges), presents great opportunity for broadband to improve quality of life and also difficulties that require an organized and cohesive statewide effort to improve high-speed Internet service and adoption in Alaska.

To begin, the state of Alaska needs to establish and implement the necessary framework (a public-private partnership) to develop and lead a coordinated initiative for broadband capacity building, inventory mapping, data-gathering, planning, technical assistance, digital literacy, and application usage and development.

SOLUTION: Working through the Connect Alaska initiative, which is already established in the state and conducting broadband mapping activities, the state of Alaska will establish a Connect Alaska program office to create a public-private partnership that will, with guidance from and in partnership with the State of Alaska's Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, lead Alaska's broadband improvement efforts.

Connect Alaska will work with the state to create the Connect Alaska State Broadband Task Force. Working with the Connect Alaska Program director and staff, the Connect Alaska State Broadband Task Force will be comprised of relevant stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, including representatives from sectors specifically named in the Broadband Data Improvement Act.

Connect Alaska and its Task Force will coordinate and leverage the work of several different activities currently underway (such as broadband mapping and the Connect Alaska portal, which functions as a point of public information about broadband for Alaskans) or proposed as part of this application (broadband capacity building, statewide and local benchmarking that collect and analyze detailed market data concerning the use and demand for broadband service and related information technology services, a statewide broadband summit, digital literacy, application usage and development, and other activities identified by the public-private partnership), ensuring that all activities are developed as part of a cohesive and comprehensive statewide initiative.

The State of Alaska also will ensure that the Connect Alaska initiative includes a regional planning effort in partnership with the 13 Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORs), which are locally driven initiatives, which work to effectively stimulate economic development.

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS: In addition to the Connect Alaska program office functioning to manage the entire Connect Alaska initiative, including but not limited to all activities proposed in this grant submission, the Connect Alaska Task Force will, at a minimum:

- Collaborate to identify and help provide guidance and solutions for Alaska's evolving broadband challenges.
- Develop and maintain ongoing strategic plans with specific goals and recommended action for increasing the availability and adoption of broadband statewide, utilizing work being done under the SBDD Round I Planning Initiative.
- Assess current programs to improve broadband growth and adoption, and making recommendations on program improvements and creation of new programs in Alaska.

As a part of these activities, Connect Alaska and its Task Force will fulfill most of the activities laid out by the grant guidance document including state and local benchmarking, current program assessment, coordination of broadband adoption activities, a broadband summit to include both public and private, for-profit and nonprofit Alaska stakeholders, and aggressive engagement of consumers and the public through the use of media, events (working in conjunction with local planning teams), and the Connect Alaska web portal. As part of the regional planning process, the 13 ARDORs will conduct annual regional broadband summits and train-the-trainer activities to spread digital literacy and broadband demand aggregation across the State.

COST: Impact studies of similar programs conducted in other states demonstrate that the funds expended over four years for state broadband capacity building, in conjunction and harmony with resources provided for broadband mapping, planning, technical assistance, and application usage and development, will strengthen and enhance the technology and broadband landscape of Alaska, which will in turn allow broadband to spur the growth and expansion of Alaska's small-business driven economy.

Research indicates that projects proposed by Connect Alaska the Alaska Broadband Task Force will result in significant increases in broadband adoption at levels above what otherwise would have occurred absent these projects. For example, between 2008 and 2010 in Ohio, where Connect Alaska's sister program Connect Ohio has operated since 2008, home broadband adoption has increased by eleven percentage points,¹ more than double the national growth rate of five percentage points during a similar time period.² In Tennessee, the Connected Tennessee program has resulted in a nine percentage point increase in statewide home broadband adoption between 2008 and 2010, with even higher broadband adoption growth measured among Tennessee's vulnerable populations, including an 11 percentage point growth among minorities, 13 percentage point growth among elderly residents, 16 percentage point growth among households with children, 17 percentage point growth among adults with disabilities, 18 percentage point growth among rural residents, and 20 percentage point growth among low-income households.³

Connected Nation research has also directly linked broadband adoption increases to overall strengthening of the economy, and expects that similar increases will yield similar economic benefits in Alaska. In Alaska, based upon this research, a broadband adoption increase of 7 percentage points would result in an annual positive economic benefit of \$317 million, with 4,800 jobs created or saved

¹ 2008 and 2010 Connect Ohio® Residential Technology Assessments, www.connectohio.org

² Pew Internet and American Life Project, *Home Broadband 2008*, released 6/2/2008. Pew Internet and American Life Project, *Internet, Broadband, and Cell Phone Statistics*, released 1/5/2010.

³ 2008 and 2010 Connected Tennessee® Residential Technology Assessments. www.connectedtn.org

annually.⁴

A number of other research studies⁵ have directly linked broadband adoption increases to overall strengthening of the economy, and it is expected that similar increases will yield similar economic benefits in Alaska.

By linking the activities of state broadband capacity building with broadband mapping, technical assistance, and application usage and development, the funds expended in this program category will yield greater efficiency and effectiveness. The Program Office and Task Force will direct and enhance activities in other program categories, and activities in other categories will inform and strengthen the ability of the Program Office and Task Force to craft the state's technology plan, assessments, and solutions.

SBDD PURPOSE: The activities undertaken in the state broadband capacity building portion of the Connect Alaska initiative will directly address the following SBDD-related purposes:

"... (2) to identify and track the areas with low levels of deployment, the rate at which residential and business users adopt broadband service and other related information technology services, and possible suppliers of such services;

(3) to identify barriers to the adoption of broadband service and information technology services;

... (6) to collaborate with broadband service providers and information technology companies to encourage deployment and use;

... (8) to collect and analyze detailed market data concerning use and demand for broadband service;

(9) to facilitate information exchange regarding use and demand for broadband services between public and private sector users; ..." (source: P.L. 110-385)

And will indirectly assist other program activities to address these SBDD-related purposes:

"(1) To develop and provide a baseline assessment of broadband deployment in each State;

(4) to identify the available speeds for broadband connection;

(5) to create and facilitate by county or designated region in a State, local technology planning teams; ...

and (10) to create within each State a geographic inventory map of broadband service." (Source: P.L. 110-385)

⁴ 2008, Connected Nation, "The Economic Impact of Stimulating Broadband Nationally"

⁵ For example, Gillett, Sharon; Dr. William Lehr; Carlos Osorio; and Marvin Sirbu, "Measuring the Economic Impact of Broadband Deployment." Feb 2006. Also, *The Economic Impact of Stimulating Broadband Nationally*. Connected Nation. February 2008.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

NAME: Connect Alaska Technical Assistance

FUNDS AWARDED: \$0

FUNDS REQUESTED: \$1,746,173

PROBLEM: Detailed and area specific benchmarking data regarding the barriers to broadband technologies and applications in a community is essential in the development of broadband capacity building, broadband planning, application development and demand aggregation, and can be utilized along with broadband availability data to provide better information to policy makers and consumers about the comprehensive state of broadband development in a state, region, or borough through the Connect Alaska interactive broadband map.

State level research cannot provide granular enough information to effectively and efficiently inform the tactical technology strategy in each community. Alaska has learned from the experiences of other states that a “one size fits all” approach is not effective for creating local broadband plans if communities intend to fill the broadband gaps and improve technology literacy and use in a sustainable manner. Even regional level research is not granular enough for a community based effort. Technology usage and barriers often vary widely from one borough to the next. For example, broadband adoption rates are starkly different across three contiguous Tennessee counties that would typically be grouped in the same region. Home broadband adoption is 74% in Williamson County, while it stands at 53% in neighboring Dickson County and significantly lower at 38% in neighboring Hickman County. Local, borough-level benchmarking that collects and analyzes detailed market data concerning the use and demand for broadband service and related information technology services provides critical technical assistance necessary for Alaska’s broadband initiative to effectively guide, support, and empower local efforts. This need for borough-level research is especially great for Alaska, where boroughs are geographically large compared to most other states.

In addition, anecdotal evidence (which will be transformed into empirical data by the benchmarking activity described above) denotes significant barriers to broadband adoption among Alaska’s population attributable to digital literacy needs. These barriers impede both the growth of household and small business broadband adoption and the development of local or government applications that can increase broadband’s utility and value to the end-user.

SOLUTION: Funds allocated under the Technical Assistance category will serve to under-gird the broadband capacity building and regional planning efforts described in the previous category, as well as the application development and usage activity described in the following. Both the Connect Alaska Program Office/Task Force and the Connect Alaska Application Usage and Development activities must rely on the Technical Assistance category to provide local benchmarking and assessments as well as local solutions for problems or needs identified by the Alaska Regional Development Organizations.

In addition, the Technical Assistance category will support the GIS Cataloguing of best practices. Connect Alaska will utilize the practice of GIS cataloguing to record local broadband successes and best practices. By utilizing GIS resources this information will be available to all broadband stakeholders and consumers through the Connect Alaska web-portal. The Connect Alaska web-portal will become a tool

not only for the dissemination of detailed information about broadband deployment and technology trends but also a medium for the sharing of information between state, regional, and local program participants and stakeholders. This function of sharing information will allow Connect Alaska stakeholders to take further ownership of the program and ensure that the program is nimble enough to adapt to identified needs and best practices as rapidly as possible, without waiting for information to trickle up and then back down through the program's hierarchy or for in-person meeting or reporting opportunities.

The third part of the Technical Assistance grant activity will consist of a significant state-led effort to improve digital literacy training, with a particular focus on the use of broadband by small businesses and on the use of e-Government services, including train the trainer activities in partnership with the Alaska Regional Development Organizations. This initiative may also include activities to boost the overall digital literacy of Alaskans, and will provide educational information to Alaskan boroughs, communities, businesses, and other stakeholders about the Connect Alaska initiative and how Connect Alaska is working to improve broadband access and adoption in Alaska and its regions, including through the ARDORs.

The Connect Alaska Technical Assistance activities will develop technical assistance tools that include:

- Borough-level broadband benchmarking and assessment as a tool for state and local planning and program development, as well as for measuring and assessing state and local programs to identify best practices, which programs are most effective, and which programs may need assistance to produce greater results.
- The implementation of digital literacy training activities, including a significant small business component and e-Government component, which will include train the trainer activities developed and conducted in partnership with the 13 ARDORs in Alaska. This element of the technical assistance grant is designed to conquer existing digital literacy barriers and legacy resistance to broadband adoption in both business and residential end-users, and may include efforts to highlight or promote existing activities coordinated by the State of Alaska regarding general digital literacy topics.
- An outreach and educational campaign to inform Alaskan boroughs, communities, businesses, and community anchor institutions about the efforts to improve access and adoption across the state, which will include statewide broadband summits in at least two of the four project years, if not annually.

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS: Local benchmarking is called for by the Broadband Data Improvement and is absolutely vital to the ability of the broadband capacity building program, Connect Alaska, the State of Alaska, and regional organizations to assess community needs and resources. Without it, broadband planning staff and volunteers would be forced to make assumptions about what strengths and weaknesses exist in each borough, community, or village.

This borough-level benchmarking and assessment process will, based on Connected Nation's previous experience, provide invaluable data that will assist the Program Office, state task force and local stakeholders/volunteers to identify needs and necessary solutions.

The State of Alaska has tracked significant digital literacy challenges and also requests funding for the

capacity to provide technical expertise to local institutions, non-profits, and governments to develop or implement digital literacy training programs. The program envisions a full-time employee that will function as a project coordinator to develop curricula and disseminate program content to stakeholders within state, local, or Alaska Native governments, or non-profit/non-governmental stakeholders.

Connect Alaska envisions that these digital literacy activities will include, at a minimum, significant attention to small business broadband adoption and the use of e-Government services.. Other digital literacy subject areas may also be explored. Program staff will seek non-governmental support and in-kind contributions for the digital literacy program, as well as established, best-practice curricula available for free or low-cost.

Finally, under the Technical Assistance category, the program plans an educational outreach campaign that will inform boroughs, communities, villages, businesses, community anchor institutions, and other stakeholders about the efforts underway to improve access and adoption of broadband in Alaska. This campaign will include:

Media Channels

The combined experience and connections of the Connect Alaska program will leverage a communications team that conducts various outreach activities to bring awareness to the importance of the program, the Alaska Broadband Task Force, and related activities.

Public Announcement Events

The program will seek out appropriate broadband related events to highlight with public announcements that will draw positive earned media and media impressions.

Connect Alaska Broadband Summit and Tech Day

Tech Day celebrates the adoption and application of broadband technology from Alaska businesses, government, healthcare companies, educational institutions, and individuals. Technology awareness programs like *Tech Day* are an important way to encourage and motivate citizens to adopt broadband and technology resources to provide significant life-changing benefits while improving their quality of life. *Tech Day* engages technology leaders from across Alaska and the state's technology leaders to share experiences, exchange ideas, and gain knowledge about the importance of technology and its impact on citizens of all ages.

Website

Connect Alaska will leverage consumer and media interaction through its website. The Connect Alaska website will provide consumer-relevant messaging in connection with the sustainable adoption program, success stories, press releases, distribution events, and training opportunities.

Connect Alaska website address: www.connectak.org

e-Newsletter

A quarterly e-Newsletter will be electronically transmitted to members and partnering organizations to bring awareness of local events, success stories, to announce upcoming events, and to highlight grassroots projects. The e-newsletter will also educate readers on project developments and "how to" tips. The e-newsletter will be distributed electronically to partners, local community technology team

members, government officials, economic developers, and local chamber executives with an estimated initial reach of 2,500 individuals each quarter.

Press Outreach

The Program will effectively encourage state and local media's coverage of upcoming events and success stories. An aggressive media approach is imperative, as it will reach a larger audience to communicate important messages about the importance of broadband adoption.

Bolstered by the Connect Alaska broadband mapping and planning program, users will be able to measure the increases in Alaska's broadband adoption rates over time. Data gathered in this project will be presented on the online interactive broadband mapping portal via ConnectAK.org. This interactive application allows users to view and analyze adoption rates at the state level.

The public-awareness campaign will take shape through a multipronged approach of media outreach, online marketing, public presentations, community partner collaboration, and technology training events. The effectiveness of these methods will be assessed on an ongoing basis to increase local participation.

On a quarterly basis, the Partnership will track media awareness results and offer a report highlighting the figures on the following points:

- Number of media references;
- Audience size of media coverage or media impressions;
- Percent increase in the Connect Alaska website traffic including number of unique visits and views of specific program web pages;
- Number of additional subscribers to the e-Newsletter;
- Number of new e-Government websites;
- Number of public events and presentations held;
- Number of broadband inquiries and speed tests performed on the website;
- Number of attendees at online training events.

These program activities will satisfy, wholly or in-part, the following technical assistance activities described in the grant guidance provided by NTIA:

- Provide technical expertise to local institutions, nonprofits, and governments to develop or help sustain deployment and adoption-related initiatives.
- Coordinate and enhance recent and long-standing volunteer and nonprofit programs that provide digital literacy and small business broadband training.
- Support the creation of tribal, regional, or local task forces or advisory boards and strategic plans.
- Provide educational information to communities, businesses, and other stakeholders about the efforts being undertaken to improve access and adoption across a state or region.

COST: The technical assistance provided to communities in this category will bring about more cost-effective local projects, as these tools provide the relevant information for determining the costs and benefits associated with potential solutions for sustainable broadband expansion, deploying targeted and results-oriented broadband applications, and understanding what best practices are most applicable and transferable across communities and regions.

Further, in an effort to create gains in cost-efficiency, state level surveys have been shifted from the Data Collection project (data verification) into the Technical Assistance project. This shift enables state level surveys to be conducted in concert with borough level surveys, thus capitalizing on the natural fixed costs of survey research and realizing economies of scale through survey bundling across geographies. Additionally, borough level surveys have been staggered to allow for micro level data when it is most necessary, as this granular data collection is more costly than state level data collection. To that end, borough level surveys will be administered only at the beginning and the end of the project for cost-efficiency. Interim state level surveys will produce a more macro view of evolving demographic trends in technology usage, which can be extrapolated and applied at a local level using the original borough level data as a comparison, without the higher costs of interim borough level surveys.

Digital literacy and outreach/education activities regarding the adoption of broadband will increase broadband adoption rates in Alaska, translating to an increased economic benefit from the usage of technology in the State of Alaska.

GIS Cataloging of broadband best practices will allow for the rapid, efficient and far-reaching dissemination of effective strategies and tactics for broadband improvement across the State of Alaska, ensuring that results-driven activities are implemented in as many parts of the state and its regions as possible.

SBDD PURPOSE: The activities undertaken in the technical assistance portion of the Connect Alaska initiative will directly address the following SBDD-related purposes:

“... (2) to identify and track the areas with low levels of deployment, the rate at which residential and business users adopt broadband service and other related information technology services, and possible suppliers of such services;

(3) to identify barriers to the adoption of broadband service and information technology services;

... (6) to collaborate with broadband service providers and information technology companies to encourage deployment and use;

... (8) to collect and analyze detailed market data concerning use and demand for broadband service;

(9) to facilitate information exchange regarding use and demand for broadband services between public and private sector users; ...” (source: P.L. 110-385)

APPLICATION USAGE AND DEVELOPMENT

NAME: Connect Alaska Application Usage and Development Program

FUNDS AWARDED: \$0

FUNDS REQUESTED: \$1,229,259

PROBLEM: E-Government services, or the use of the Internet to access government information and services, are a vital online tool for many residents that are growing in importance as more government agencies provide a greater variety of online services to clients, businesses, and other governmental agencies. Preliminary research conducted by Connect Alaska suggests that statewide, 78% of Alaskan residents go online to access e-Government services.⁶ Unfortunately, at this time, the types of e-government services that Alaskan residents access is limited by a lack of market information regarding what services are requested or needed by Alaskan businesses and residents. Also, lower broadband adoption rates and slower average adoption speeds in rural Alaskan communities makes it difficult for many rural Alaskan residents to access all of the e-Government services that are currently being accessed by their urban counterparts.

SOLUTION: The role of e-government services is especially important in Alaska, where state and federal government offices may be difficult or impossible to access for rural residents. The opportunity to conduct these increasingly diverse tasks online is already generating economic benefits for federal, state, and local governments, as well as saving citizens and businesses, time and resources. Because of these savings for the government, as well as the benefits inherent in e-government applications to businesses and residents, Connect Alaska proposes a program under which Connect Alaska will simultaneously measure and build demand for e-Government applications, and then use the information gained in that process to work with local software and application designers to develop e-Government applications, through the Alaska Broadband Application Fund, that meet the needs of Alaskans across the state.

The need to assess the current state of e-Government services and their use at present cannot be understated. The State of Alaska strongly believes that any successful and efficient effort to increase the use of e-Government services by its citizens must first have a clear concept of what exactly is needed *before* funds are committed to application development.

One important goal of Connect Alaska is to promote access to existing e-government services among consumers and business by conducting awareness and educational campaigns about its benefits. This is supported through residential and business market research that helps benchmark current e-government usage among businesses and residents and determine the demand for new or different e-Government services. Through this process, Connect Alaska will work with state and local government offices to help determine which e-Government services are being used most by both businesses and residents, what services are being demanded by Alaskans, and the most efficient ways that those e-Government applications can be developed so those services can be made available to all Alaskans.

⁶ Source: 2010 Connect Alaska Residential Technology Assessment

OUTCOMES/BENEFITS: This benchmarking research will work in tandem with outreach and demand stimulation programs. Through these programs, Connect Alaska representatives will work with local media and community leaders to help them raise demand for e-government services by making the public more aware of the convenience and ease with which they can conduct activities online. By entering into a dialogue with community and tribal leaders, Connect Alaska representatives will be able to determine the local barriers to use of e-Government services and work with those communities to develop solutions that will help the greatest number of individuals start accessing e-Government tools. Similar work in other states has proven that demand stimulation at the local level works. In Tennessee, since the creation of Connected Tennessee (which uses similar methods of local demand stimulation), the share of broadband users who interact with local government offices more than doubled, while the share of those who interact with their state government online more than tripled.⁷ Successful local efforts, such as the community e-health initiatives organized by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, have shown how successful local education and empowerment programs can be in overcoming the unique challenges of connecting rural Alaskan residents to online services.⁸

It is important to note that the development of e-government applications must provide equitable access to government services for rural as well as urban Alaska residents. Preliminary research conducted by Connect Alaska shows that rural Alaska residents subscribe to home broadband service at significantly lower rates than their urban counterparts.⁹ In addition, among broadband subscribers, advertised download speeds tend to be slower among rural residents than among urban Alaskans. This suggests that any e-Government application that state or local government agencies develop must be designed to be accessible to all Internet subscribers across the range of download and upload speeds. It will not matter to the rural broadband subscriber how technically advanced an application is if she cannot access it because of slow download speeds at her home. Likewise, e-Government applications that do not address issues specific to Alaska's Native American population will reduce those residents' ability to access meaningful e-Government services.

Determining the demand for these applications is only the first step, however. After determining what services residents want to use, Connect Alaska representatives will work hand-in-hand with local IT specialists and communications experts to develop e-Government applications at the state, community, and tribal levels. During this phase, which is dependent on the initial benchmarking and demand stimulation work outlined above, Connect Alaska will designate funds for local web designers and government agencies to help develop the e-Government applications that residents and businesses want. In so doing, Connect Alaska will help support local job markets, while calling on the expertise of local Alaskans who will be the most suited to identify and remedy problems that local residents might face. This is particularly vital in rural and tribal regions, where knowledge of local broadband shortcomings will be necessary to develop applications that will be accessible to everyone.

COSTS: To develop this program in a way that will truly benefit all Alaskan residents, initial research instruments will be needed that accurately benchmark demand for these e-Government services in both urban and rural areas, as well as residents' ability to use those services once they are made available, based on their own needs and challenges, including slower Internet connections and lower computer

⁷ Source: *Comments by Connected Nation to the FCC on the Contribution of Federal, State, Tribal, and Local Government to Broadband*, NBP Public Notice #7, submitted to the FCC on 11/6/2009.

⁸ www.anthc.org

⁹ Source: 2010 Connect Alaska Residential Technology Assessment

literacy levels. Based on previous work conducted by Connect Alaska's parent organization, Connected Nation, the demand stimulation process also requires a great deal of work to bring together local or regional leaders from disparate sectors to work together and help raise awareness of the benefits of e-Government services to businesses and consumers. Without this local grassroots information, though, the program cannot be successful; designing an application that meets the needs of a college student living in the heart of Anchorage will not necessarily benefit the teacher in Mekoryuk or the community health worker in Tulusak. As such, to successfully accomplish the goal of generating increased demand and usage of e-Government services across the state, Connect Alaska would require \$1,000,000 to fulfill this mission. As noted above, no less than \$500,000 of that would be set aside to support local application developers as they create the e-Government applications that will be the most useful to Alaska residents.

SBDD PURPOSE: The activities undertaken in the technical assistance portion of the Connect Alaska initiative will directly address the following SBDD-related purposes: "(5) (B) (iii) develop a tactical business plan for achieving its goals, with specific recommendations for online application development and demand creation;

CONCLUSION

“High-speed Internet facilitates access to quality jobs, information, and vital services ranging from interactive telemedicine to higher education. By increasing broadband access and use across the state, Alaska will have greater opportunities and a new throughway to economic empowerment.”

- Michael Black, deputy commissioner, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

As the largest, and one of the newest, states in the U.S., Alaska has always faced challenges to its development that are unique or greater in scale than those faced by other states. Telecommunications and broadband are no different. Alaska is a state where methods of travel or communications common to the rest of the U.S. are simply not feasible. Similarly, Alaska still struggles to ensure voice telephone connectivity; television broadcasting is not guaranteed to all Alaskans; K-band satellite television, a technology almost completely abandoned in the “lower 48” is still in use by thousands of Alaskan households; Alaska faces unique challenges in the realm of broadband backhaul, where much of the backhaul service is relayed by satellite. In short, the technology challenges and solutions will require an effort developed by Alaska after data-gathering and benchmarking and implemented by Alaska.

In the face of the daunting task of ensuring that Alaska is given equal access to the opportunity, there are indicators that Alaska can and will readily adopt broadband service. Alaskans are forced to rely upon technology in order to remain connected with the rest of the U.S. and the world and this is why the next stage of Alaska’s broadband development (connecting those hardest to reach) is so critical. Preliminary data collected by our Connect Alaska initiative indicates that:

- The single greatest barrier to broadband adoption in Alaska is a failure to see broadband’s relevance, with 43% of respondents indicating that they don’t need broadband (this figure is consistent with FCC data and Connected Nation’s research in other states).¹⁰
- The broadband adoption gap between Alaska households earning less than \$25,000 per year and those earning over \$75,000 per year is a staggering 39 percentage points.¹¹

Furthermore, these early data also indicate that there does exist in Alaska a larger than average number of households without any access to broadband service. As one of the most sparsely populated areas in the world, eliminating this part of the digital divide will be difficult, particularly in light of the vast distances between some of the most remote Alaskan villages. Data also indicate that the largest barriers to adoption in Alaska are similar to those reported elsewhere in the U.S., and that at-risk demographic groups (minorities; low-income households; individuals without a college degree; seniors) all adopt broadband at lower than average rates.

To confront these challenges and to ensure that Alaska derives the greatest possible benefit from assistance provided for broadband improvement in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and specifically through the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program, Alaska has created the Connect Alaska initiative, which is already conducting broadband mapping activities in the state.

With the opportunity for further types of broadband related activity available under this grant extension, Alaska has crafted several core project areas that will all operate under the Connect Alaska

¹⁰ 2010 Connect Alaska Residential Technology Assessment

¹¹ Ibid.

“umbrella” as one comprehensive initiative. The state of Alaska and the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development will partner fully to direct and assist Connect Alaska personnel in the execution of the program activities outlined in the preceding grant proposal.

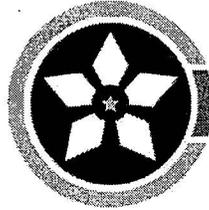
Connect Alaska will continue to refine and improve broadband mapping activities as outlined by the grant guidance provided by NTIA, and the Connect Alaska web-portal and interactive map’s utility as a one-stop portal for broadband inventory, technology trends, and GIS cataloguing of best practices will continue to increase.

To supplement the online presence of Connect Alaska, Alaska intends to use SBDD funds to establish a Connect Alaska program office in Anchorage, AK, which will be staffed by an Executive Director and support staff. The Executive Director will continue planning efforts by staffing the Alaska Broadband Task Force and working with other Alaskan agencies and resources.

The Program Office will oversee local benchmarking and assessment of technology trends, which will inform additional program activities. These activities will include the active development of digital literacy programs and support, outreach and educational activities across the state and which will include an Alaska Broadband Summit and Tech Day, plus the active development of broadband applications designed to normalize and enhance services provided to Alaskans by state and federal government agencies.

The State of Alaska has fully invested in the development and program concepts of the Connect Alaska initiative. The activities described in the preceding grant application represent an approach to broadband leadership and improvement that Alaska believes present the greatest opportunity to leverage SBDD resources to positively impact the largest number of Alaskans. The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development will be involved at all stages of the Connect Alaska initiative to ensure that other resources available to assist in Alaska’s broadband development are available and that the program is providing the benefits envisioned and described in this document.

**OFFICIAL SUBMISSION TO
THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE STATE BROADBAND DATA AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM
FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA**



CONNECT
ALASKASM

**STATE BROADBAND DATA AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM
AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION**

BUDGET NARRATIVE

July 1, 2010

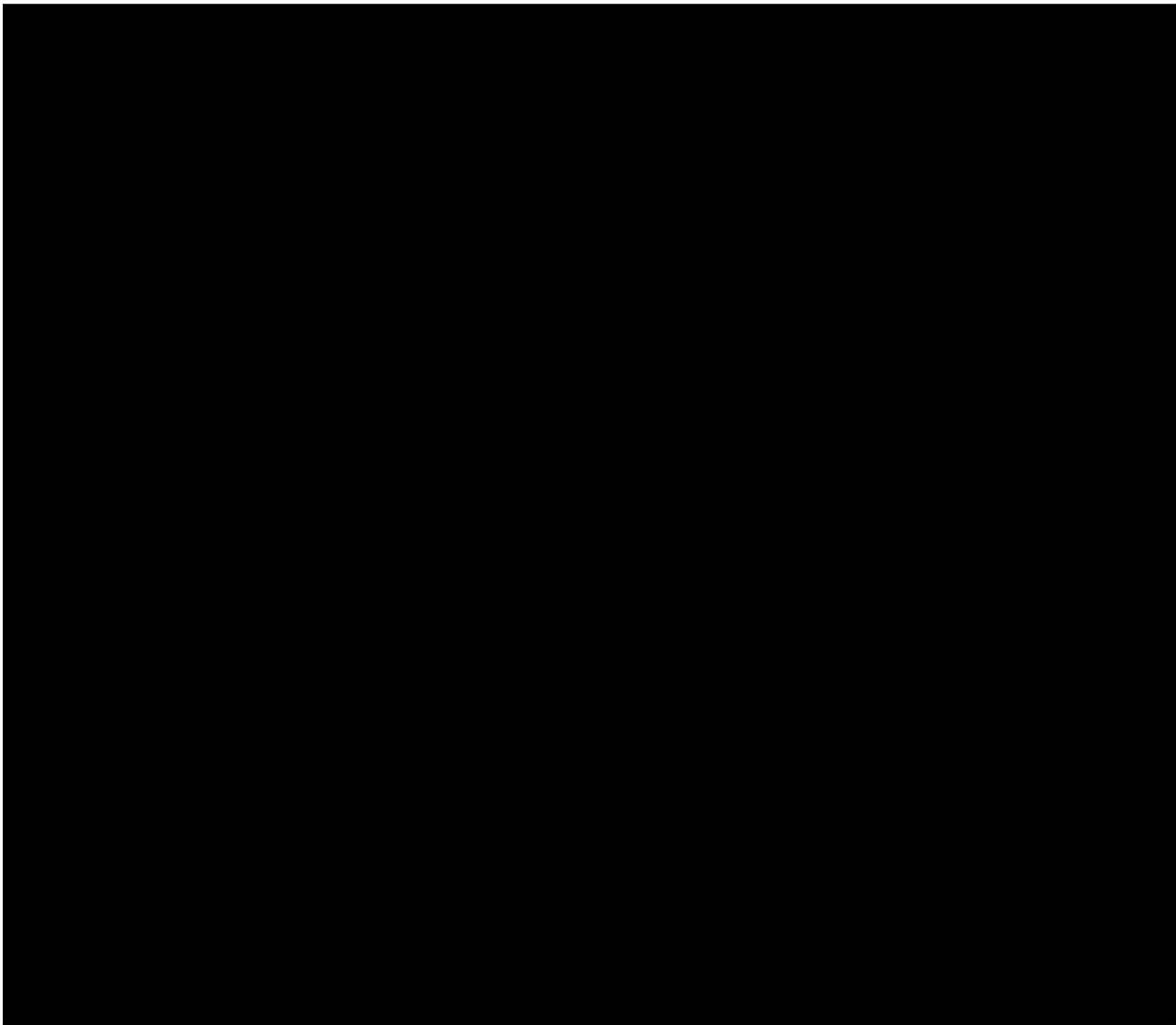


STATE OF ALASKA MAPPING BUDGET NARRATIVE

OVERVIEW

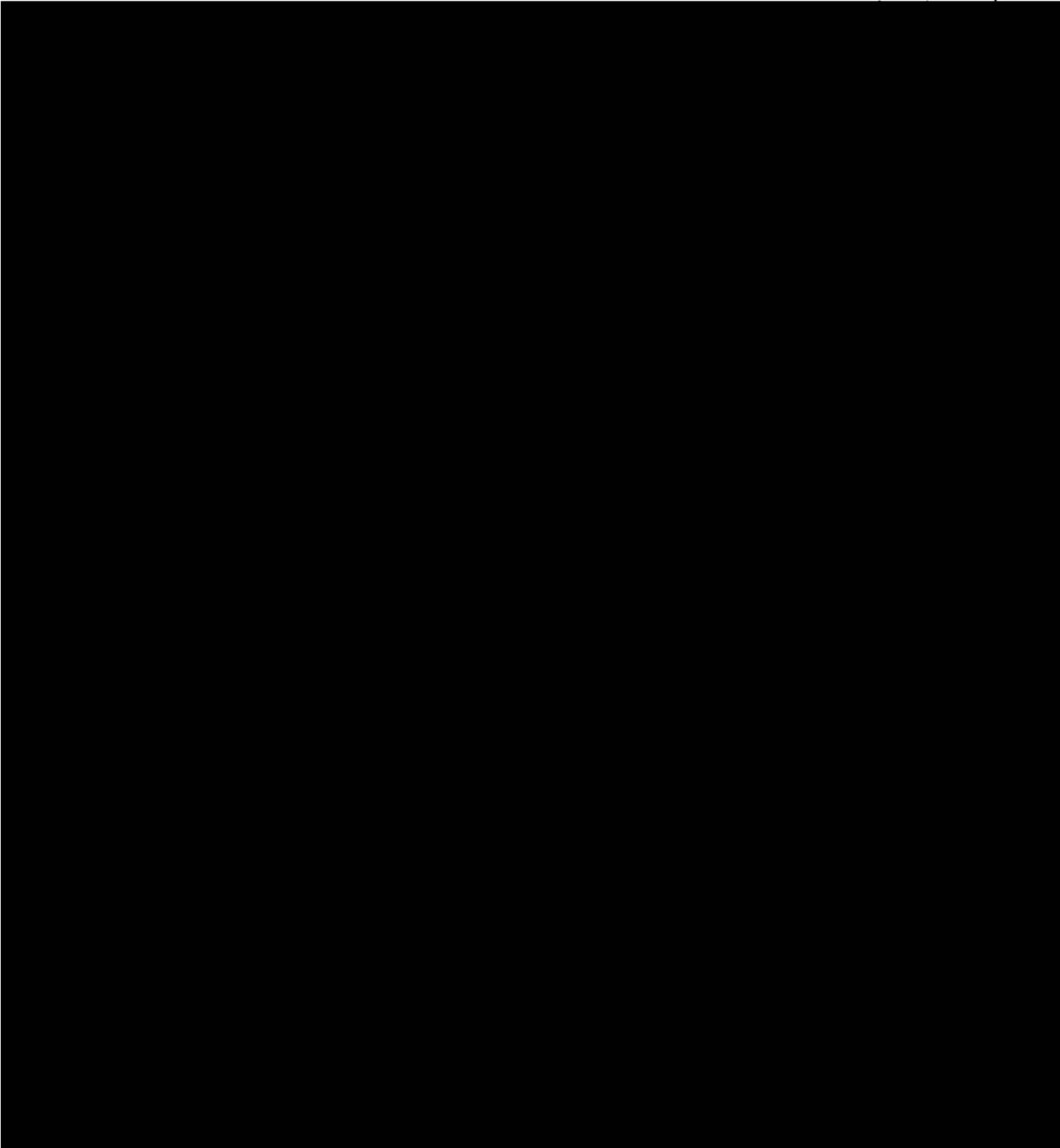
The purpose of this narrative is to break down the costs for personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, materials/supplies, and subcontracts involved in this project, as well as to depict the in-kind contributions, indirect costs, and other expenses that will occur. The costs for Years 4 and 5 reflect a 4% Cost of Living adjustment. Connected Nation, through its subsidiary, Connect Alaska, will implement the project activities on behalf of the state of Alaska.

Unless otherwise specifically stated, all costs are requested from federal sources.



2 Pages

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pursuant to FOIA Exemption 4
(5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(4))



The total amount for personnel costs for this project is \$185,638 in Year 3, \$193,062 in Year 4, and \$200,785 in Year 5.

Connected Nation may utilize other employees as needed to fulfill the requirements of this project.

Fringe Benefits

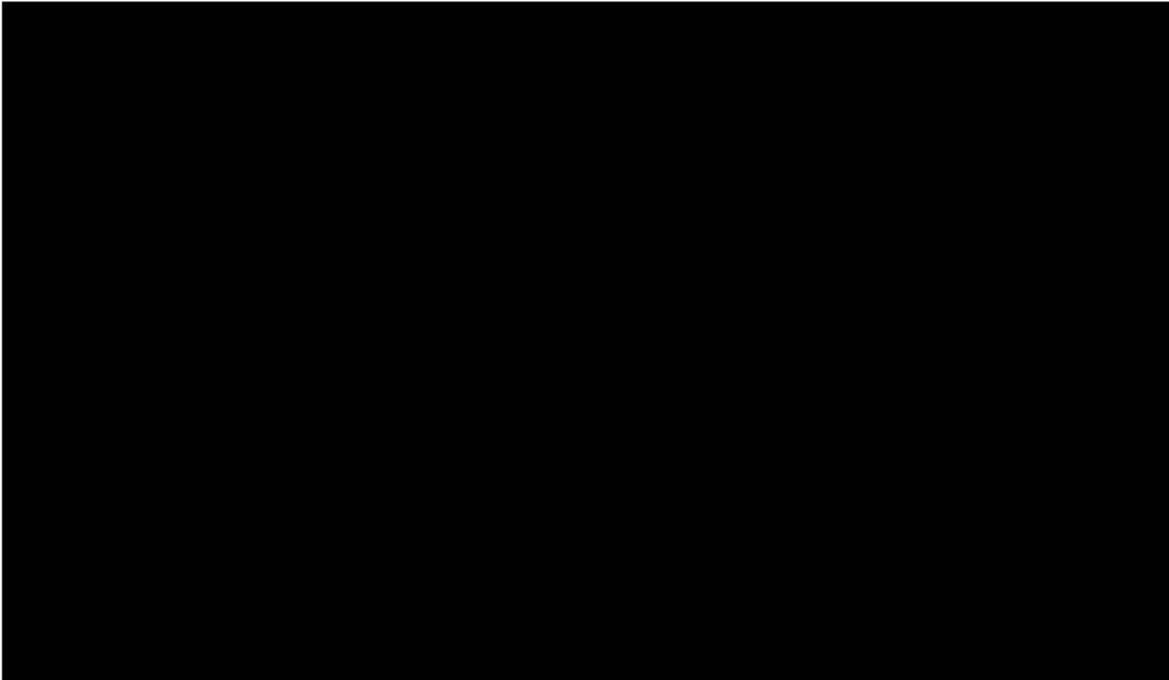
Fringe Benefits are projected as a percentage of the personnel's annual salary calculated as follows: Employer's FICA Tax (7.65%), Unemployment Tax (.5%), Health/Dental/Vision Insurance (5.7%), Disability & Life Insurance (.6%), Accrued Paid Time Off (3.6%), SIMPLE match (3%), Gym benefit (.1%) and Professional Development (.3%). The total projected percentage cost will be 21.45% of the personnel salaries. Projected fringe benefit cost for Year 3 is \$39,819, Year 4 is \$41,411, and Year 5 is \$43,069.

Connected Nation may implement additional fringe benefits as needed.

Projected Travel Costs

Travel costs associated with Broadband Mapping will support the project's ability for staff to be in the field for data collection, field validation and stakeholder management efforts. For purposes of this narrative, costs are based on the following assumptions: Airplane travel cost is based on a round-trip airfare of \$1,248. Hotel room cost is based on per room rates (including tax) of \$208 per night. Rental car expense (including fuel cost) is projected to be \$94 per day. Per Diem allowance for meals is \$81 per day based on the current standard federal per diem rate. Mileage is based on \$.52 per mile. Each of the above rates listed are for Project Year 2 with subsequent years increased by a 4% inflation adjustment.

Travel costs consist of planned trips by various categories of employees or consultants. The average round-trip miles to the airport are assumed to be 120 miles.

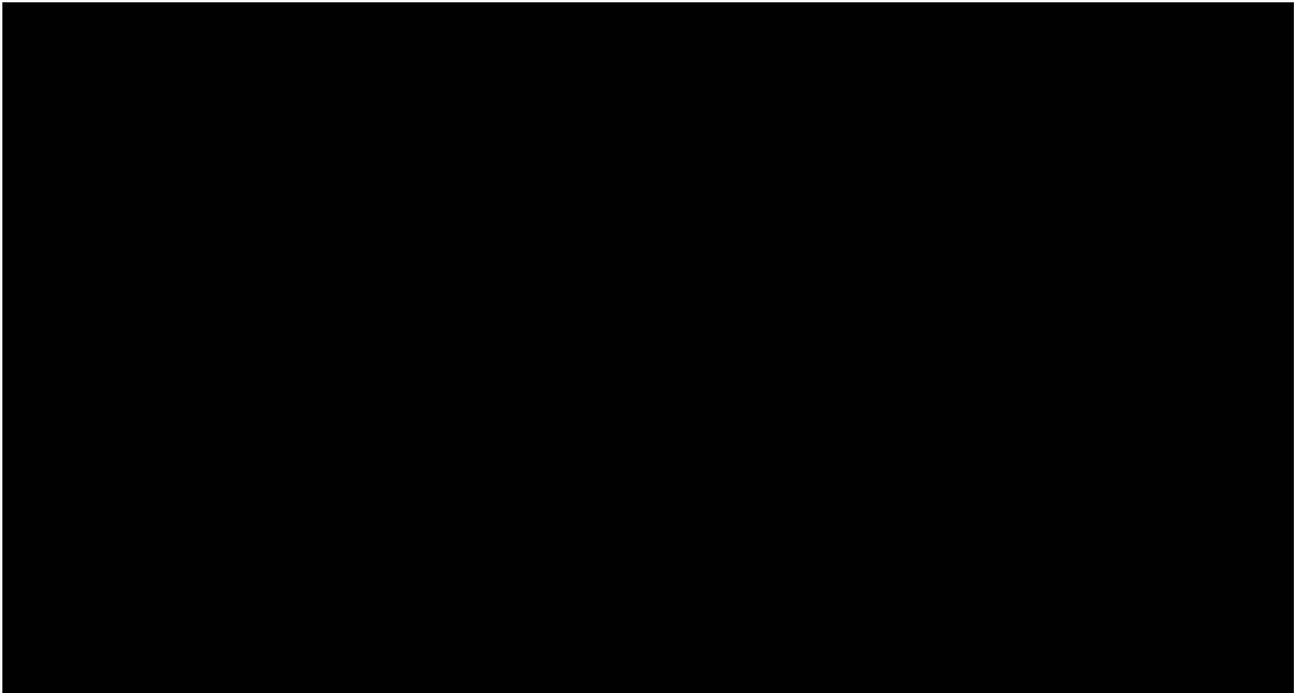


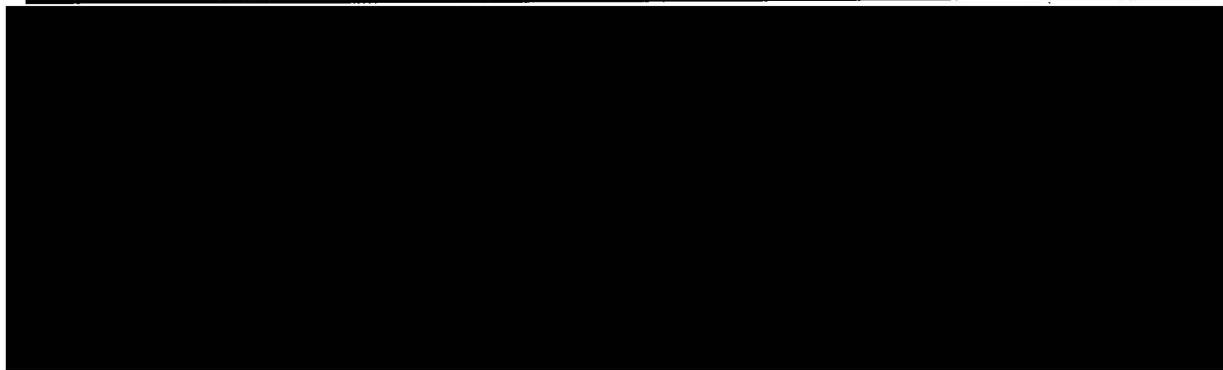


The total travel costs attributable to this project are \$43,072 in Year 3, \$44,793 in Year 4, and \$46,544 in Year 5.

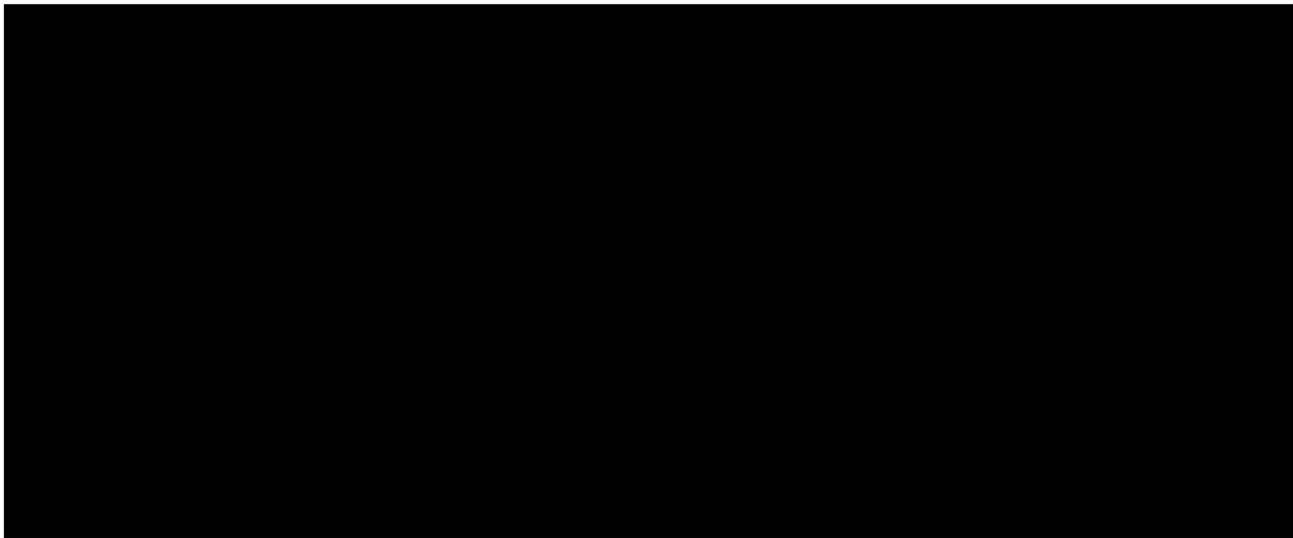
Connected Nation may incur additional travel expenses as needed to fulfill the requirements of this project.

Equipment





Materials/Supplies



Subcontracts



1 Page

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pursuant to FOIA Exemption 4
(5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(4))

The total subcontractor costs budgeted for this project is \$325,845 with \$104,059 in Year 3, \$108,611 in Year 4, and \$113,175 in Year 5. Of the Year 3 costs \$56,419 are from federal sources and \$47,640 are from matching sources, either cash or in-kind. Of the Year 4 costs, \$58,871 are requested from federal sources and \$49,740 are expected to be provided in-kind. Of the Year 5 costs, \$61,335 are requested from federal sources and \$51,840 are expected to be provided in-kind.

Connected Nation may engage other subcontractors as needed to fulfill the requirements of this project.

Other

Outreach and Education

Connected Nation will create an outreach campaign for the primary purpose of verification of data. CN will target media outlets in Alaska that can reach the greatest number of individuals in an outreach effort to drive them to the interactive maps and speed test tools. CN plans to target 1 primary outlet in Years 3, 4, and 5. The total cost would be \$8,112 in Year 3, \$8,436 in Year 4, and \$8,774 in Year 5.

Leading Practices

Many leading practices identified in the Grant Guidance have been implemented by Connect Alaska program in the first year of the SBDD program. Moving forward, Connect Alaska proposes to implement a number of additional leading practices, such as:

- Pricing – Per the suggestions contained within the Grant Guidance, pricing data sought will include price points per tier, required bundles, equipment rebates or costs, and incentive offers.
- Data Confidence Scales – this area will be explored for potential development and implementation and in coordination with the NTIA as future federal guidance on data confidence scales is released.
- Ongoing Verification Activities – in particular a focus will be placed on field validation
- Surveys – in an effort to create cost-efficiency gains, the state level survey research conducted as a means of data verification in Year 1 will be transferred to a related project within the program, combining state level data collection with local level data collection into one survey, for enhanced data and reduced fixed costs across the program.

-
- In-person community engagement – meetings with community leaders and residents to verify and discuss the results of the data collection.

In order to implement these leading practices, Connect Alaska has budgeted \$72,282 in Year 2; \$75,173 in Year 3; \$78,180 in Year 4; and \$81,307 in Year 5 for a total of \$306,942.

Connected Nation may incur other costs as needed to fulfill the requirements of this project.

Indirect Costs

Total indirect costs in Year 3 are \$180,366, \$187,578 in Year 4, and \$195,083 in Year 5.

Connected Nation's indirect cost rate will include but not be limited to the following types of costs:

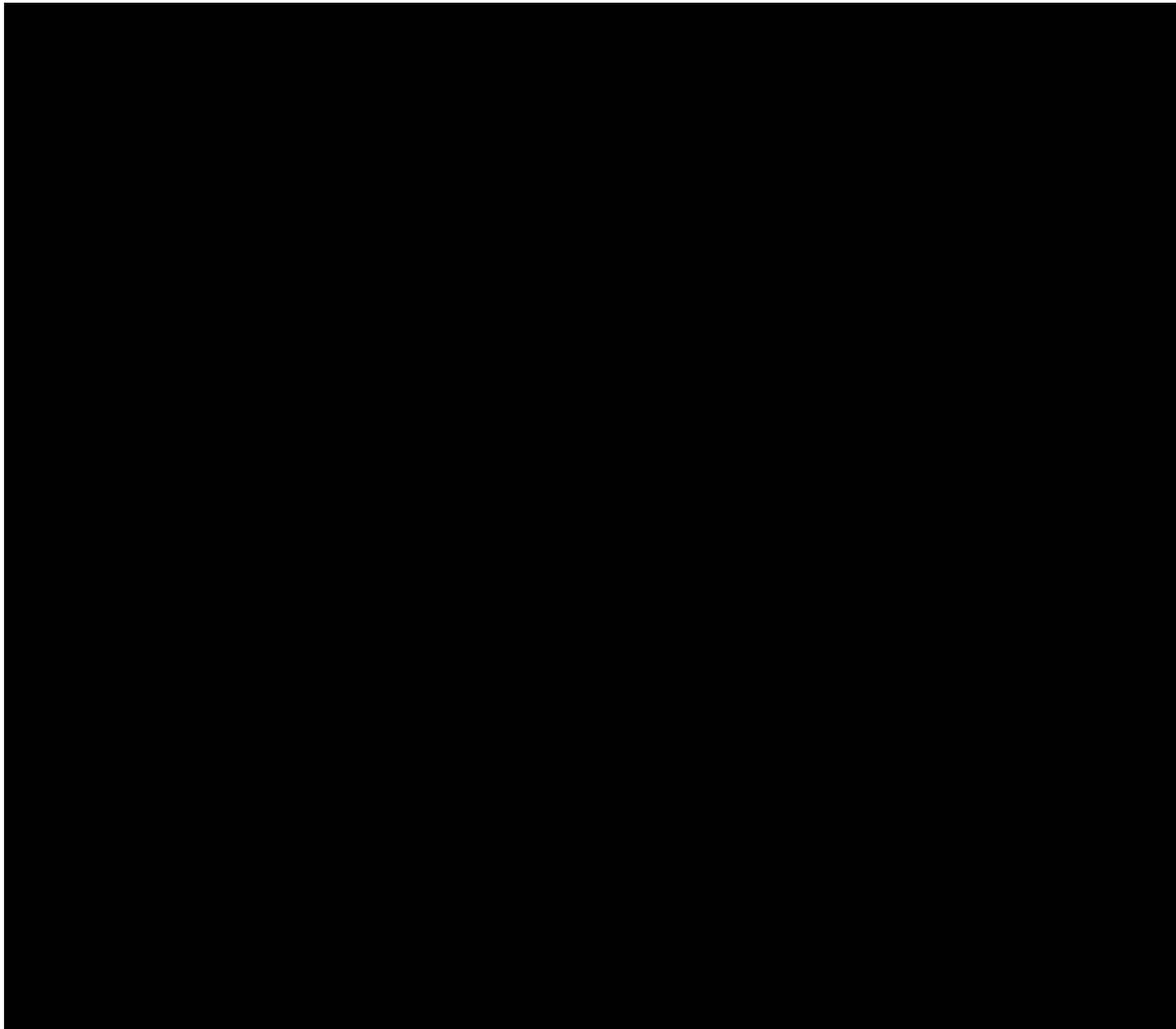
- Support salaries, fringe benefits and travel cost for Connected Nation personnel performing the functions of administration, human resources, finance, information technology, and education and awareness.
- Consultant costs and/or professional fees for functions listed above including but not limited to accounting and legal.
- Depreciation for general office equipment or items used for the functions listed above but not purchased with federal funds.
- Insurance and licenses.
- General office expense, supplies, and miscellaneous items.
- General postage.
- Printing costs.
- Connected Nation rent for support staff listed above.
- Utilities and repairs and maintenance.
- Telecommunications cost.

BROADBAND CAPACITY BUDGET NARRATIVE

Overview

The purpose of this narrative is to break down the costs for personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, materials/supplies, and subcontracts involved in this project, as well as to depict the in-kind contributions, indirect costs, and other expenses that will occur. The costs for Years 2-5 reflect a 4% Cost of Living adjustment. Connected Nation, through its subsidiary, Connect Alaska, will implement the project activities on behalf of the state of Alaska.

Unless otherwise specifically stated, all costs are requested from federal sources.



The total amount for personnel costs for this project is \$188,240 in Year 2, \$195,769 in Year 3, \$203,601 in Year 4, and \$211,744 in Year 5.

Connected Nation may utilize other employees as needed to fulfill the requirements of this project.

Fringe Benefits

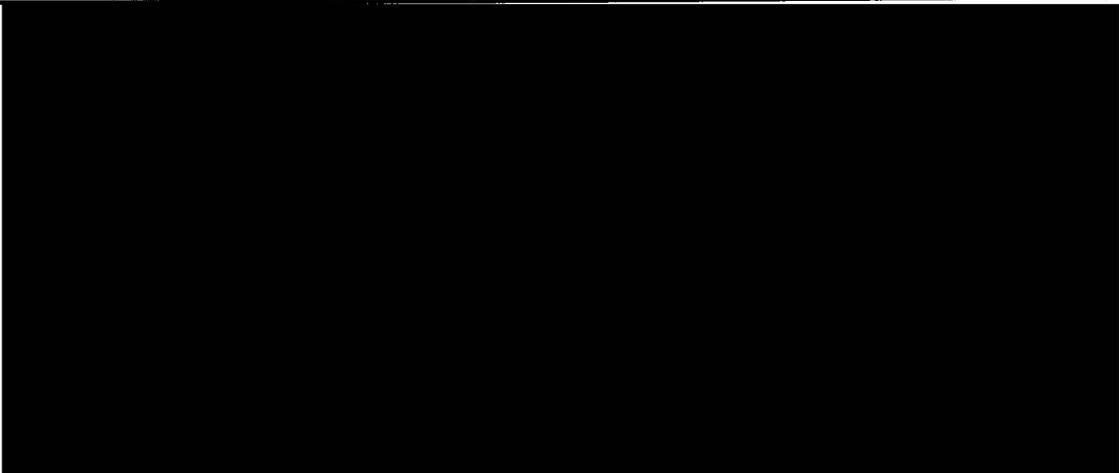
Fringe benefits are projected as a percentage of the personnel's annual salary calculated as follows: Employer's FICA Tax (7.65%), Unemployment Tax (.5%), Health/Dental/Vision Insurance (5.7%), Disability & Life Insurance (.6%), Accrued Paid Time Off (3.6%), SIMPLE match (3%), Gym benefit (.1%), and Professional Development (.3%). The total projected percentage cost will be 21.45% of the personnel salaries for Years 2-5. The projected fringe benefit cost for CN staff for Year 2 is \$40,377, Year 3 is \$41,993, Year 4 is \$43,673, and Year 5 is \$45,418.

Connected Nation may implement additional fringe benefits as needed.

Projected Travel Costs

Travel costs arising out of State Broadband Capacity will enable local, state-based resources to be actively and regularly engaged in planning and implementing on their state's SBDD broadband programs. For purposes of this narrative, costs are based on the following assumptions: Airplane travel cost is based on a round-trip airfare of \$1,248. Hotel room cost is based on per room rates (including tax) of \$208 per night. Rental car expense (including fuel cost) is projected to be \$94 per day. Per Diem allowance for meals is \$81 per day based on the current standard federal per diem rate. Mileage is based on \$.52 per mile. Each of the above rates listed are for project Year 2 with subsequent years increased by a 4% inflation adjustment.

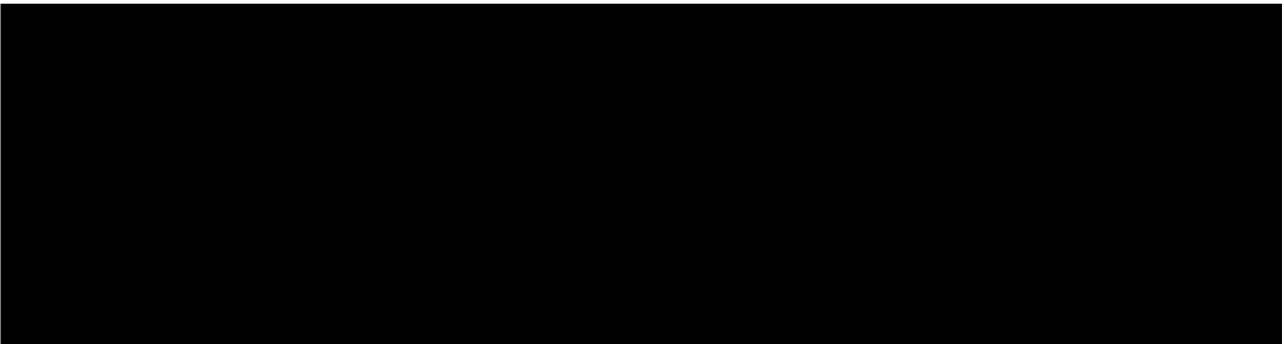
Travel costs consist of planned trips by various categories of employees or consultants. The average round-trip miles to the airport are assumed to be 120 miles.



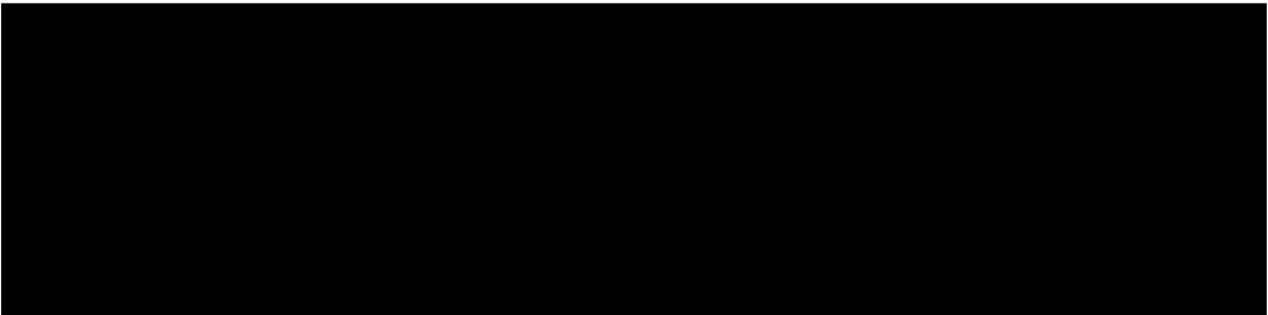
The total travel costs attributable to this project are \$41,198 in Year 2, \$42,836 in Year 3; \$44,544 in Year 4, and \$46,292 in Year 5.

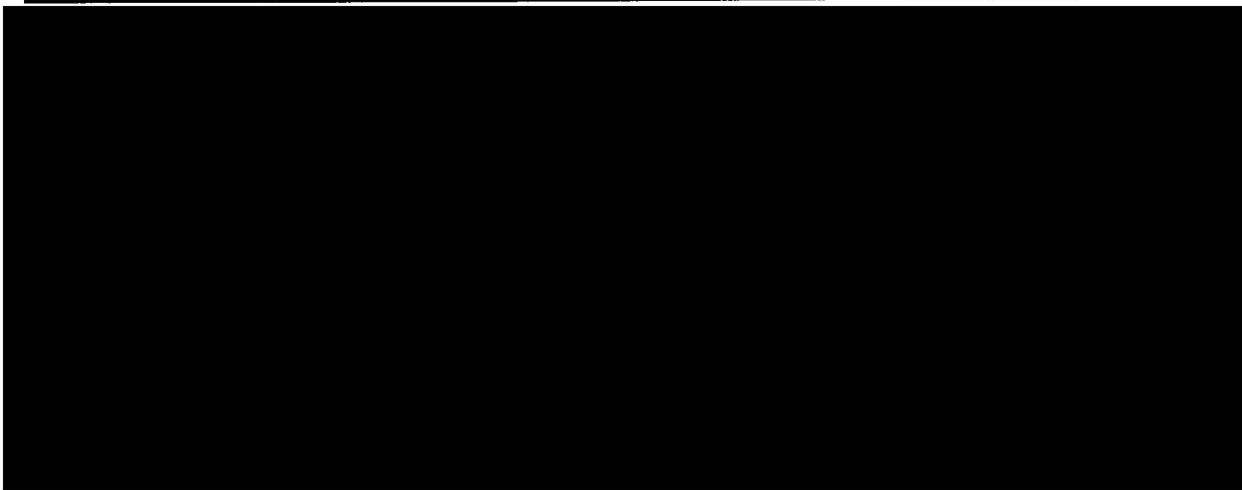
Connected Nation may incur additional travel expenses as needed to fulfill the requirements of this project.

Equipment



Materials/Supplies

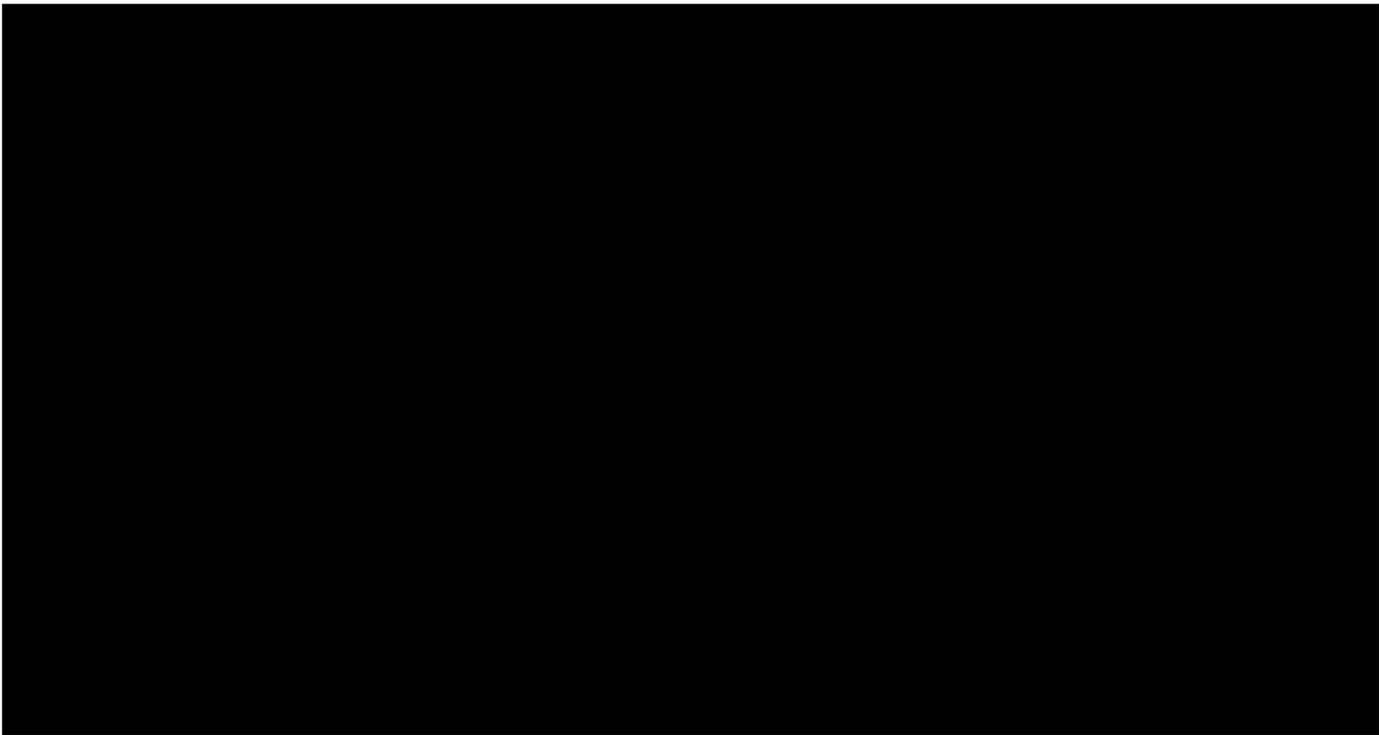




The total cost of Materials/Supplies attributable to this project is \$60,840 in Year 2, \$54,621 in Year 3, \$62,992 in Year 4, and \$59,078 in Year 5.

Connected Nation may purchase other equipment as needed to fulfill the requirements of this project.

Subcontracts



Other

State Broadband Task Force

This application for supplemental funding proposes to engage a 9 member Connect Alaska State Broadband Task Force that will be comprised of state-level leaders in Alaska representing regulators, providers, policy-makers, community anchor institution leaders, industry association representatives and the like. This group will convene 3 times per year for the life of the program for an average of 6 hours per meeting. The average hourly compensation rate for these individuals, including salaries and benefits, is valued at \$67 for a total in-kind contribution of \$10,854, \$11,340, \$11,826, \$12,312 for Years 2-5 respectively.

Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) Champion Training

Supplemental SBDD funding under this proposal would serve to maximize efficiencies and ensure sustainability by employing a “train-the-trainer” approach to engage and equip 13 ARDOR champions to lead their region in an annual event intended to disseminate technical information about broadband availability and the results of conducted research as well as to coordinate local government officials leading broadband access and adoption efforts. The average hourly salary for the Regional ARDOR Champion, including salary and benefits, is valued at \$48. Training time is expected to be 8 hours per quarter for Years 2 through 5 for a total in-kind contribution of \$19,968, \$20,800, \$21,632, and \$22,464 for Years 2 and 5 respectively.

Annual Regional Events

Under this proposal each of Alaska’s 13 ARDORs would hold an annual event intended to educate community leaders about broadband availability and survey results and enhance awareness and understanding of broadband issues throughout the state. Each regional event would encourage participation from various community sectors including but not limited to: agriculture, business, community-based organizations, government, healthcare, higher education, K-12 education, libraries and tourism.

Preparation Time: The ARDOR champion, with the support of Connect Alaska staff, will plan and execute the regional events each of which require and anticipated 120 hours of total planning and preparation time annually. The average hourly salary for the ARDOR champion, including salary and benefits, is valued at \$48 providing an annual contribution of \$74,880, \$78,000, \$81,120, and \$84,240 in Years 2–5 respectively.

Event Participant Time: An average attendance of 50 community leaders spanning these sectors is anticipated for each annual regional event that will amount to an average of 8 hours of volunteer time per Annual Event. The average hourly salary for these regional leadership team members, including

salary and benefits, is valued at \$48 providing an annual contribution of \$249,600, \$260,000, \$270,400 and \$280,800 for Years 2 – 5 respectively.

Office Space

This proposal contemplates onsite staff persons who will reside full-time working on the ground on the state's capacity, assistance and planning programs all in a multi-tiered effort to stimulate broadband demand and adoption. These staff will need adequate facilities in which to work and therefore the program will incur costs related to such space. Based on the applicant's prior experience and standards in the industry, the projected space need will be approximately 2,500 square feet of standard office space to include individual offices, appropriate conference space and basic reception space. This space will also enable itinerant offices which may be utilized by traveling staff including engineers, researchers, mapping staff and others who may occasionally have the need to work from the office on a temporary basis. Applicant arrives at the budgetary amount of \$2,917 per month, before adjustments for inflation, by applying a \$12 per square foot cost for rent and maintenance fees with a \$2 per square foot cost for associated expenses such as utilities, janitorial, etc.

Indirect Costs

Total indirect costs in Year 2 are estimated to be \$182,894 for Year 2, \$190,210 for Year 3, \$197,819 for Year 4, and \$205,730 for Year 5.

Connected Nation's indirect cost rate will include but not be limited to the following types of costs:

- Support salaries, fringe benefits and travel cost for Connected Nation personnel performing the functions of administration, human resources, finance, information technology, and education and awareness.
- Consultant costs and/or professional fees for functions listed above including but not limited to accounting and legal.
- Depreciation for general office equipment or items used for the functions listed above but not purchased with federal funds.
- Insurance and licenses.
- General office expense, supplies, and miscellaneous items.
- General postage.
- Printing costs.
- Connected Nation rent for support staff listed above.
- Utilities and repairs and maintenance.
- Telecommunication costs.

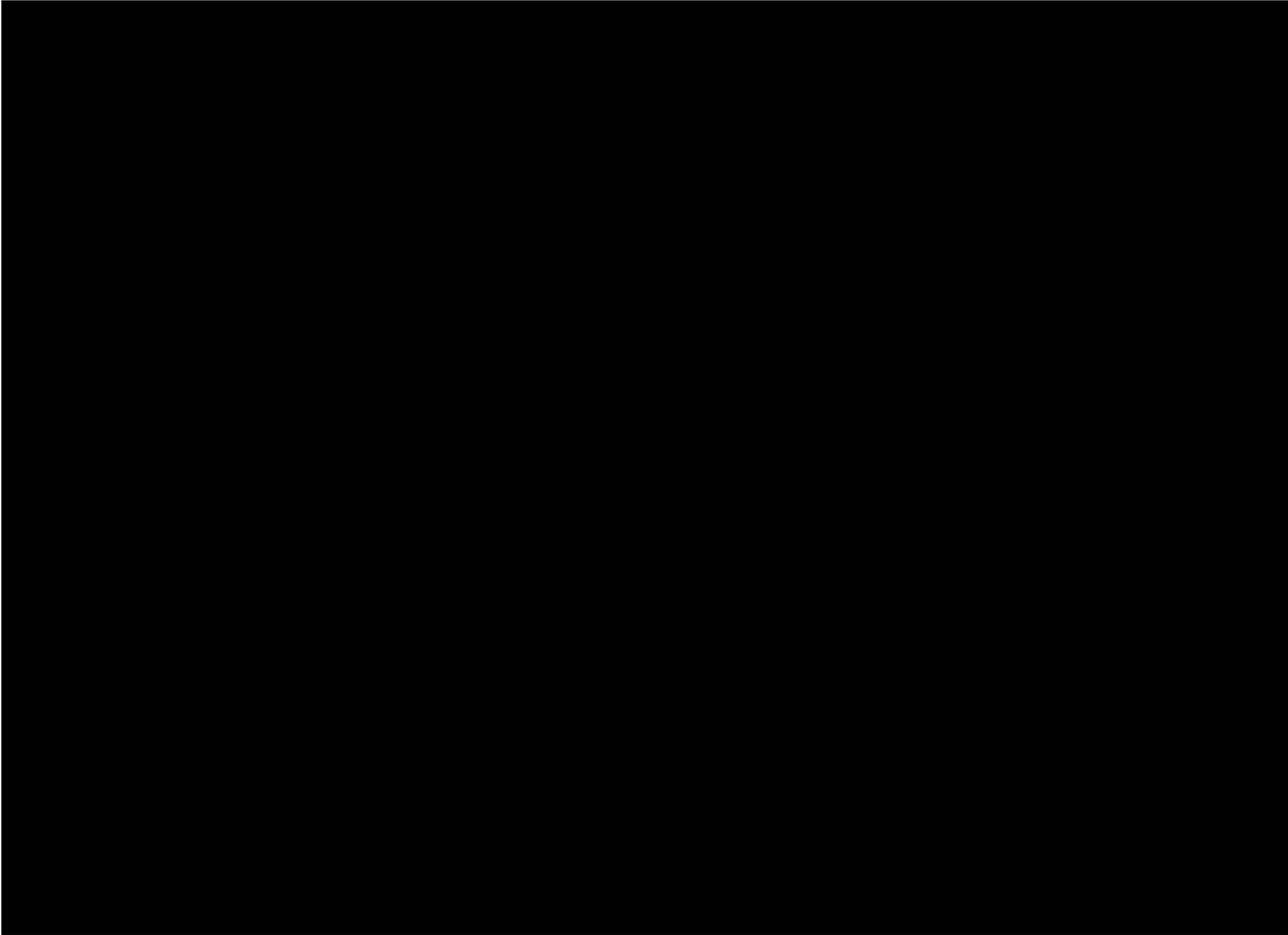
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BUDGET NARRATIVE

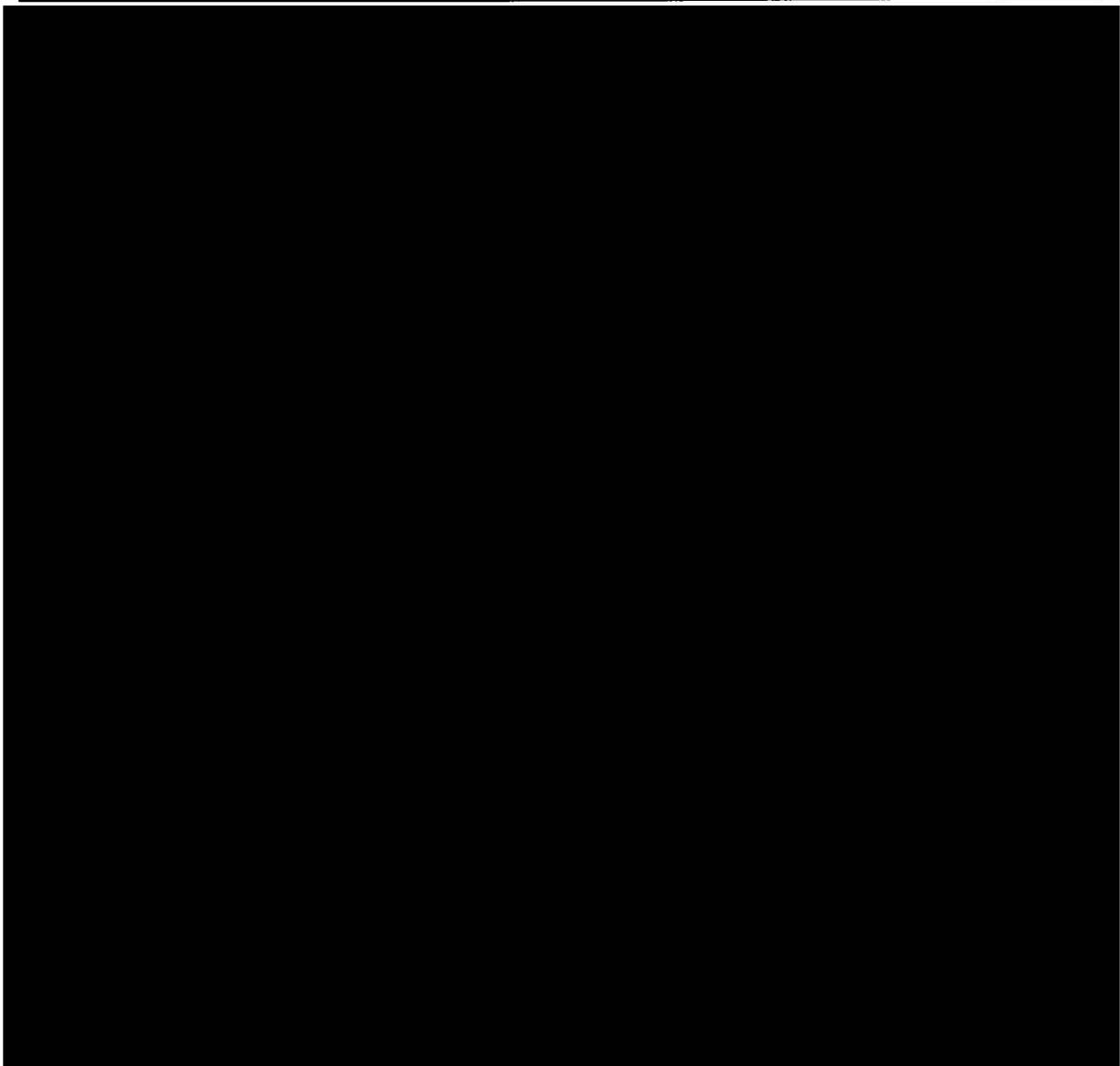
Overview

The purpose of this narrative is to break down the costs for personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, materials/supplies, and subcontracts involved in this project, as well as to depict the in-kind contributions, indirect costs, and other expenses that will occur. The costs for Years 2, 4, and 5 reflect a 4% Cost of Living adjustment. Connected Nation, through its subsidiary, Connect Alaska, will implement the project activities on behalf of the state of Alaska.

Unless otherwise specifically stated, all costs are requested from federal sources.

Strategic Program Office





The total amount for personnel costs for this project is \$60,949 in Year 2, \$84,153 in Year 3, \$87,518 in Year 4, and \$91,019 in Year 5.

Connected Nation may utilize other employees as needed to fulfill the requirements of this project.

Fringe Benefits

Fringe benefits are projected as a percentage of the personnel's annual salary calculated as follows: Employer's FICA Tax (7.65%), Unemployment Tax (.5%), Health/Dental/Vision Insurance (5.7%), Disability & Life Insurance (.6%), Accrued Paid Time Off (3.6%), SIMPLE match (3%), Gym benefit (.1%),



and Professional Development (.3%). The total projected percentage cost will be 21.45% of the personnel salaries for Years 2-5. The projected fringe benefit cost for CN staff for Year 2 is \$13,074, Year 3 is \$18,052, Year 4 is \$18,775 and Year 5 is \$19,524.

Connected Nation may implement additional fringe benefits as needed.

Projected Travel Costs

Technical Assistance travel costs enable economies of scale for the grant program by aggregating resources across the state that can then be deployed in support of state, regional and local technology projects in which technical expertise is required. These talent pools complement local volunteer teams by empowering them with more advanced technical know-how to support their technology projects than they could likely otherwise afford or even identify. For purposes of this narrative, costs are based on the following assumptions: Airplane travel cost is based on a round-trip airfare of \$1,248. Hotel room cost is based on per room rates (including tax) of \$208 per night. Rental car expense (including fuel cost) is projected to be \$94 per day. Per Diem allowance for meals is \$81 per day based on the current standard federal per diem rate. Mileage is based on \$.52 per mile. Each of the above rates listed are for Project Year 2 with subsequent years increased by a 4% inflation adjustment.

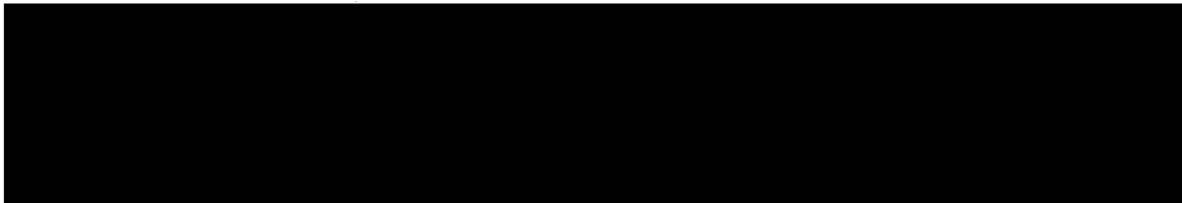
Travel costs consist of planned trips by various categories of employees or consultants. The average round-trip miles to the airport are assumed to be 120 miles.



The total travel costs attributable to this project are \$22,514 in Year 2, \$23,408 in Year 3, \$24,342 in Year 4, and \$25,296 in Year 5.

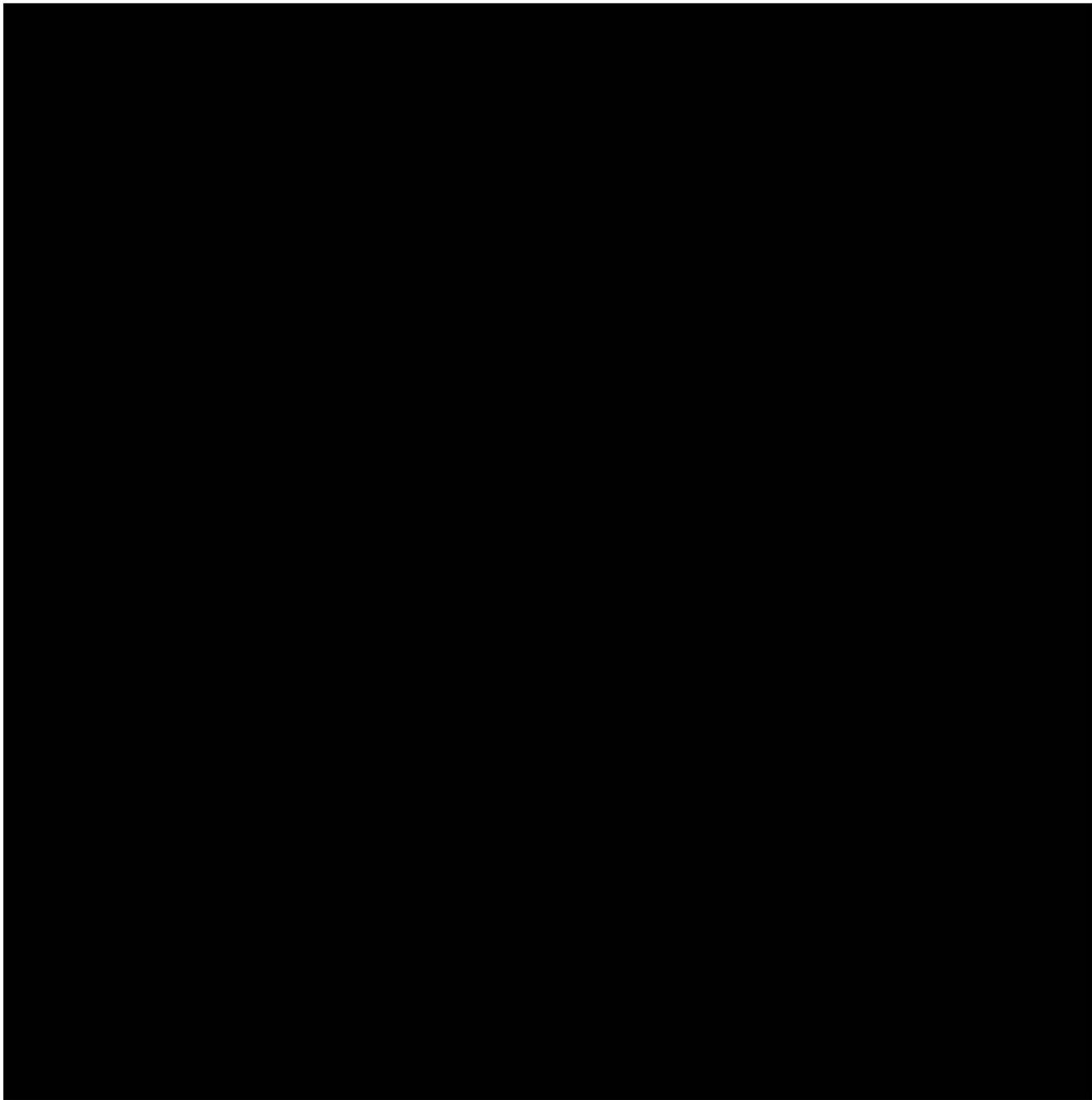
Connected Nation may incur additional travel expenses as needed to fulfill the requirements of this project.

Materials/Supplies





Subcontracts



The total subcontractor cost budgeted for this project is \$688,750 with \$227,400 in Year 2, \$109,386 in Year 3 and \$113,765 in Year 4, and \$238,199 in Year 5. Of the Year 2 costs \$220,758 are from federal sources and \$6,642 are from matching sources, either cash or in-kind. Of the Year 3 costs \$102,486 are requested from federal sources and \$6,900 are expected to be provided in-kind. Of the Year 4 costs, \$106,590 are requested from federal sources and \$7,715 are expected to be provided in-kind. Of the Year 5 costs, \$230,199 are requested from federal sources and \$7,450 are expected to be provided in-kind.

Connected Nation may engage other subcontractors as needed to fulfill the requirements of our contract with Alaska.

Other

Connected Corps

Connected Corps are part of the local planning effort and Connect Alaska will incorporate a Connected Corps initiative. Working in partnership with Alaska universities, community colleges, and secondary schools, this initiative will recruit local high school or college students who excel in school and exhibit advanced leadership and technology skills to assist in technology training, technical support, and outreach efforts in their communities. The total cost for the Connected Corps will be \$30,000 in Year 2, \$31,200 in Year 3, \$32,445 in Year 4, and \$33,750 in Year 5.

Statewide Broadband Summit

This application for supplemental funding proposes to engage the 9 member Connect Alaska State Broadband Task Force and 25% of the ARDOR event attendees from each region (14 attendees per ARDOR) in a stand-alone convening of broadband stakeholders. The length of this single summit is proposed at 8 hours. The rate of the Task Force members, including salaries and benefits, is valued at \$67 per hour, while event attendees are valued at an annual salary and benefits of \$48 per hour. The total volunteer contributions from this stand-alone summit is \$69,888 for Year 2. The total cost of the federal share of the event is \$26,000.

Outreach and Education

Connected Nation will create an outreach campaign for the primary purpose of awareness and education of the benefits of broadband. This campaign will support the efforts of the Community

Program Manager and the Digital Literacy Program Manager Coordinator. The total amount estimated for Outreach and Education is \$7,800 for Year 2, \$8,112 for Year 3, \$8,436 for Year 4, and \$8,774 for Year 5.

ARDOR Outreach and Education Support

Connected Nation will provide outreach and education support to each of the 13 ARDORs as they promote technology and generate awareness and education of the benefits of broadband. The total amount estimated for ARDOR Outreach and Education Support is \$27,040 for Year 3, \$28,112 for Year 4, and \$29,247 for Year 5.

Connected Nation may incur other costs as needed to fulfill the requirements of this project.

Indirect Costs

Total indirect costs in Year 2 are estimated to be \$59,218 for Year 2, \$81,764 for Year 3, \$85,034 for Year 4, and \$88,434 for Year 5.

Connected Nation's indirect cost rate will include but not be limited to the following types of costs:

- Support salaries, fringe benefits and travel cost for Connected Nation personnel performing the functions of administration, human resources, finance, information technology, and education and awareness.
- Consultant costs and/or professional fees for functions listed above including but not limited to accounting and legal.
- Depreciation for general office equipment or items used for the functions listed above but not purchased with federal funds.
- Insurance and licenses.
- General office expense, supplies, and miscellaneous items.
- General postage.
- Printing costs.
- Connected Nation rent for support staff listed above.
- Utilities and repairs and maintenance.
- Telecommunication costs.

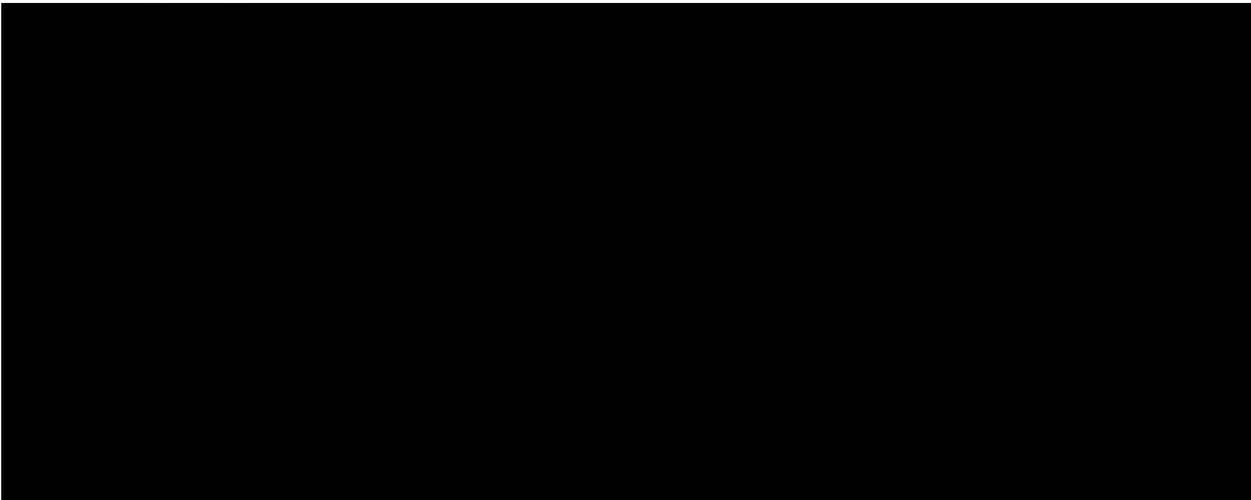
APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT BUDGET NARRATIVE

Overview

The purpose of this narrative is to break down the costs for personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, materials/supplies, and subcontracts involved in this project, as well as to depict the in-kind contributions, indirect costs, and other expenses that will occur. The costs for Years 3-5 reflect a 4% Cost of Living adjustment. Connected Nation, through its subsidiary, Connect Alaska, will implement the project activities on behalf of the state of Alaska.

Unless otherwise specifically stated, all costs are requested from federal sources.

Strategic Program Office



Fringe Benefits

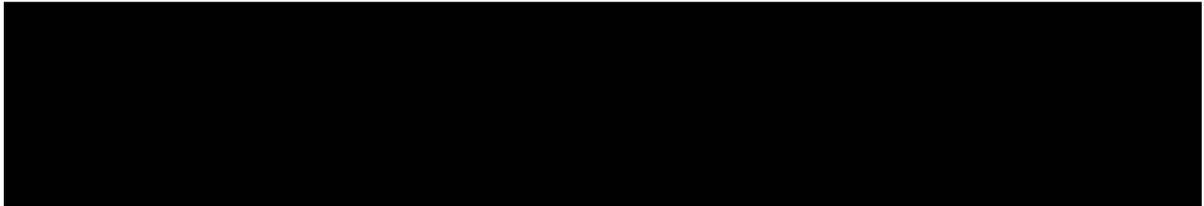
Fringe benefits are projected as a percentage of the personnel's annual salary calculated as follows: Employer's FICA Tax (7.65%), Unemployment Tax (.5%), Health/Dental/Vision Insurance (5.7%), Disability & Life Insurance (.6%), Accrued Paid Time Off (3.6%), SIMPLE match (3%), Gym benefit (.1%), and Professional Development (.3%). The total projected percentage cost will be 21.45% of the personnel salaries for Years 3-5. The projected fringe benefit cost for CN staff for Year 2 is \$10,601, Year 3 is \$11,024, Year 4 is \$11,465 and Year 5 is \$11,926.

Connected Nation may implement additional fringe benefits as needed.

Projected Travel Costs

The Alaska Broadband Application Development Fund is designed to provide the state of Alaska with necessary resources to expand and enhance its e-Government services. The state of Alaska needs to assess the current state of e-Government in Alaska, with a particular focus on how well e-government services are accessed by all citizens in Alaska, urban and rural alike. In remote parts of the state, where available broadband speeds are lower than in urban population centers, many current e-government services require more bandwidth than is feasible. To that end, Alaska intends to determine where improvements need to be made before attempting to develop new broadband applications. The Alaska Broadband Application Development Fund will then be utilized to seed application development within various elements of Alaska's government (which may include state, local, or tribal government entities), depending on assessment and recommendations developed. For purposes of this narrative, costs are based on the following assumptions: Airplane travel cost is based on a round-trip airfare of \$1,248. Hotel room cost is based on per room rates (including tax) of \$208 per night. Rental car expense (including fuel cost) is projected to be \$94 per day. Per Diem allowance for meals is \$81 per day based on the current standard federal per diem rate. Mileage is based on \$.52 per mile. Each of the above rates listed are for project Year 2 with subsequent years increased by a 4% inflation adjustment.

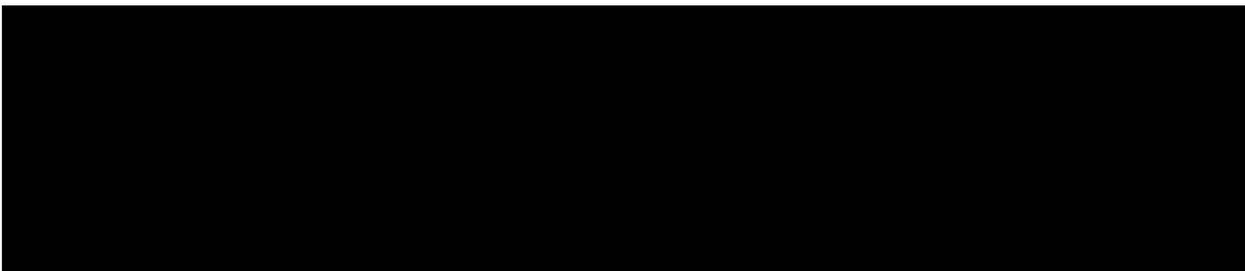
Travel costs consist of planned trips by various categories of employees or consultants. The average round-trip miles to the airport are assumed to be 120 miles.

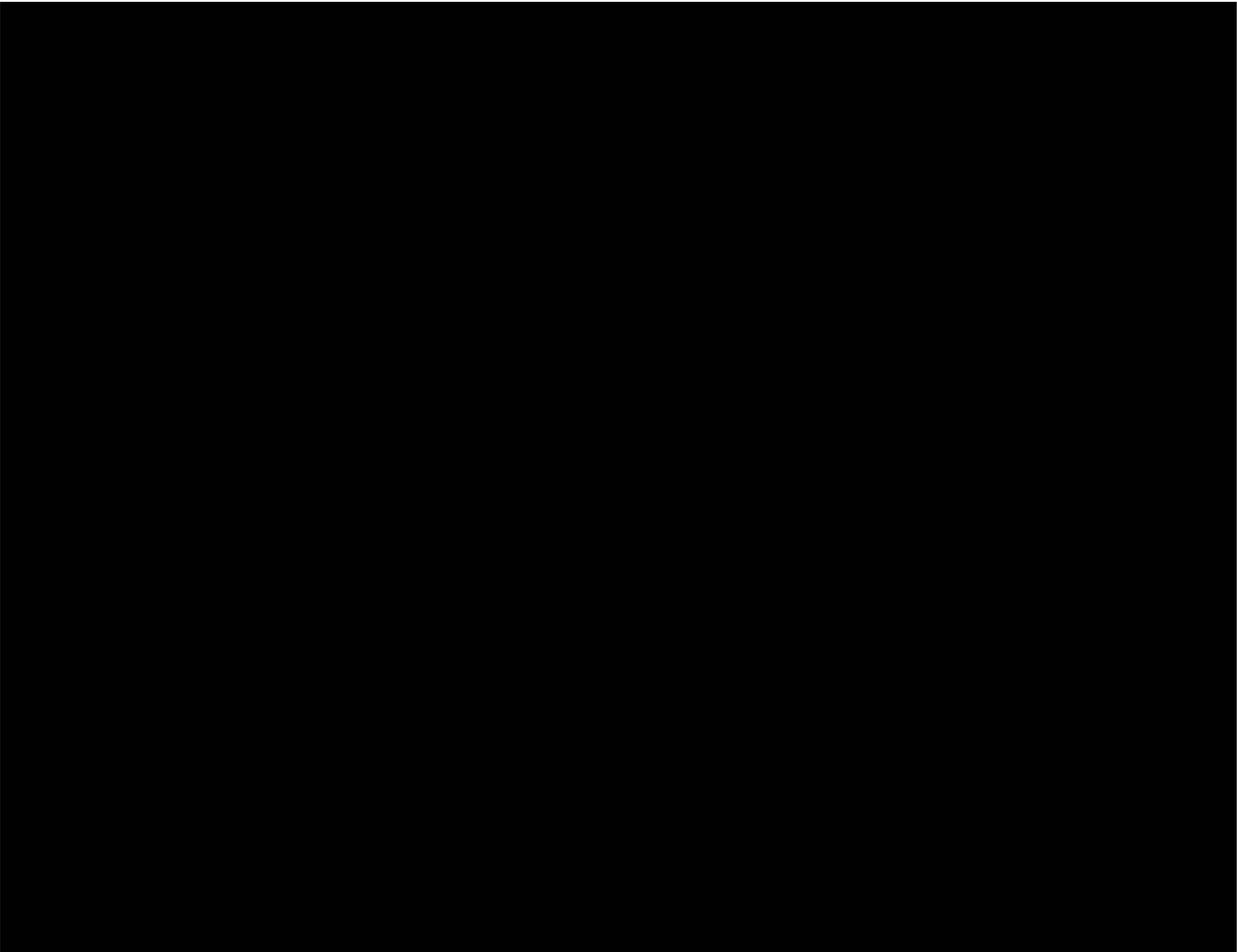


The total travel costs attributable to this project are \$5,269 in Year 2, \$5,478 in Year 3, \$5,696 in Year 4, and \$5,919 in Year 5.

Connected Nation may incur additional travel expenses as needed to fulfill the requirements of this project.

Materials/Supplies



**Subcontracts****Indirect Costs**

Total indirect costs in Year 2 are \$48,018, \$49,938 in Year 3, \$51,935 in Year 4, and \$54,014 in Year 5.

Connected Nation's indirect cost rate will include but not be limited to the following types of costs:



- Support salaries, fringe benefits and travel cost for Connected Nation personnel performing the functions of administration, human resources, finance, information technology, and education and awareness.
- Consultant costs and/or professional fees for functions listed above including but are not limited to accounting and legal.
- Depreciation for general office equipment or items used for the functions listed above but not purchased with federal funds.
- Insurance and licenses.
- General office expense, supplies, and miscellaneous items.
- General postage.
- Printing costs.
- Connected Nation rent for support staff listed above.
- Utilities and repairs and maintenance.
- Telecommunication costs.

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Version 7/03

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		2. DATE SUBMITTED	Applicant Identifier
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction	3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE		State Application Identifier
4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY			Federal Identifier
5. APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Legal Name: Connected Nation, Inc.		Organizational Unit: Department:	
Organizational DUNS: 086130007		Division:	
Address: Street: 1020 College Street, P.O. Box 3448		Name and telephone number of person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code)	
City: Bowling Green		Prefix: Mr.	First Name: Brent
County: Warren		Middle Name	
State: Kentucky	Zip Code 42102-3448	Last Name Legg	
Country: United States		Suffix:	
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 61-1394934		Phone Number (give area code) (877) 846-7710	Fax Number (give area code) (270) 781-7611
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es) (See back of form for description of letters.)		7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (See back of form for Application Types) <input type="checkbox"/> O. Not for Profit Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	
10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: TITLE (Name of Program): State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program 11-558		9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: U S Department of Commerce	
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (Cities, Counties, States, etc.): Alaska		11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program	
13. PROPOSED PROJECT Start Date: 6/1/2010		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF: a. Applicant CD-02	
Ending Date: 5/31/2015		b. Project CD-01	
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:		16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?	
a. Federal	\$ 7,031,060 ⁰⁰	a. Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON DATE:	
b. Applicant	\$ ⁰⁰	b. No. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E. O. 12372	
c. State	\$ ⁰⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW	
d. Local	\$ ⁰⁰	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?	
e. Other	\$ 1,770,952 ⁰⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes if "Yes" attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
f. Program Income	\$ 0 ⁰⁰	18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.	
g. TOTAL	\$ 8,802,012 ⁰⁰	a. Authorized Representative	
Prefix Mr.		First Name Brian	Middle Name Russell
Last Name Mefford		Suffix	
b. Title CEO		c. Telephone Number (give area code) (877) 846-7710	
d. Signature of Authorized Representative 		e. Date Signed 7/1/2010	

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 Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Approval No. 0348-0044

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY						
Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. SBDD	11.558	\$	\$	\$ 7,031,060.00	\$ 1,770,952.00	\$ 8,802,012.00
2.						0.00
3.						0.00
4.						0.00
5. Totals		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,031,060.00	\$ 1,770,952.00	\$ 8,802,012.00
SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES						
6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY					Total (5)
	(1)	Federal	(2) Non-Federal	(3)		
a. Personnel	\$	1,912,343.00	\$		\$	\$ 1,912,343.00
b. Fringe Benefits		410,201.00				410,201.00
c. Travel		427,201.00				427,201.00
d. Equipment		48,448.00				48,448.00
e. Supplies		271,206.00				271,206.00
f. Contractual		1,351,792.00	186,004.00			1,537,796.00
g. Construction						0.00
h. Other		751,834.00	1,584,948.00			2,336,782.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)		5,173,025.00	1,770,952.00	0.00	0.00	6,943,977.00
j. Indirect Charges		1,858,035.00	0.00			1,858,035.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$	7,031,060.00	\$ 1,770,952.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 8,802,012.00
7. Program Income	\$	0.00	\$ 0.00	\$	\$	\$ 0.00

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Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES					
(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS	
8.	\$	\$	\$ 1,770,952.00	\$ 1,770,952.00	
9.				0.00	
10.				0.00	
11.				0.00	
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,770,952.00	\$ 1,770,952.00	
SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS					
	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ 0.00	\$	\$	\$	\$
14. Non-Federal	0.00				
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT					
(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (Years)				
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth	
16.	\$	\$	\$	\$	
17.					
18.					
19.					
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16-19)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION					
21. Direct Charges: \$6,943,977		22. Indirect Charges: \$1,858,035			
23. Remarks:					

Assurances—Non-Construction Programs

OMB Approval No. 0348-0040

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Please do not return your completed form to the Office of Management and Budget; send it to the address provided by the sponsoring agency.

Note: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States, and if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§ 4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the nineteen statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.O. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§ 523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. 290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. § 36701 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 276a and 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. § 276c and 18 U.S.C. §§ 874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 327-333), regarding labor standards for federally assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (e) evaluation of flood hazards in flood plains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of

- project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clear Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clear Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, (P.L. 93-523); and (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
 13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the national Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 469a-1 et seq.).
 14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
 15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
 16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
 17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act of 1984 or OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of Institutions of Higher Learning and other Non-profit Institutions.
 18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations and policies governing this program.

Signature of Authorized Certifying Official 	Title CEO
Applicant Organization Connected Nation, Inc.	Date Submitted 7/1/2010



STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Commissioner

Sean Parnell, Governor
Emil Notti, Commissioner

July 01, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
U.S. Department of Commerce
Herbert C. Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

This letter is to affirm continued partnership and support from the State of Alaska of Connect Alaska through their application for the State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) grant program amended and supplemental application submitted today by Connected Nation as the Designated Entity for the State of Alaska. Further, this letter is to assure you of our continuing collaboration and involvement in the planning and composition of the supplemental application accompanying this evidence of support.

Together, the State of Alaska and Connect Alaska have crafted and mutually approved the scope and activities of this proposal as a program that will best serve the specific broadband mapping, planning, benchmarking, and demand-stimulation needs as they currently exist in the Last Frontier State. For this reason, it is my pleasure to reaffirm the currently pledged support under the existing scope of previously awarded SBDD funding and to express our continued participation in the extended and supplemental efforts as articulated in the application.

The State of Alaska endorses the full and complete implementation and execution of the proposal of work presented in the application submitted by the State's Designated Entity. Our backing extends not only to the additional three years of funding for the mapping efforts enabled by the existing award but also to the activities proposed in the additional three areas of State Broadband Capacity Building, Technical Assistance, Local/Regional Technology Planning Teams and Application Usage and Development as defined in the SBDD amended and supplemental application proposal.

Thank you for this opportunity for supplemental funding and efforts to enhance the impact of the SBDD Program. We look forward to continuing to work with you in this expanded scope to better address the broadband availability and usage needs that currently exist in Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Black".

MIKE BLACK
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

1 Page

Withheld in its entirety
pursuant to FOIA Exemption 4
(5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(4))

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

<p>*1. Type of Submission</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application</p>	<p>*2. Type of Application</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Continuation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revision</p>	<p>*If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):</p> <p>* Other (Specify)</p>
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*3. Date Received:	4. Application Identifier:
--------------------	----------------------------

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:	*5b. Federal Award Identifier:
--------------------------------	--------------------------------

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:	7. State Application Identifier:
----------------------------	----------------------------------

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: Connected Nation, Inc.

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 61-1394934	*c. Organizational DUNS: 086130007
---	---------------------------------------

d. Address:

*Street1: 1020 College Street
 Street 2: PO Box 3448
 *City: Bowling Green
 County: Warren
 *State: KY
 Province:
 Country: USA

*Zip/ Postal Code: 42102-3448

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:	Division Name:
------------------	----------------

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix: Mr. First Name: Brent
 Middle Name:
 *Last Name: Legg
 Suffix:

Title: Director, Stakeholder Relations & Development

Organizational Affiliation:

*Telephone Number: 270-781-4320	Fax Number: 270-781-7611
---------------------------------	--------------------------

*Email: blegg@connectednation.org

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type: **M. Nonprofit**

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

- Select One -

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

- Select One -

*Other (specify):

*10. Name of Federal Agency:
Department of Commerce

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

11.558

CFDA Title:

State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program

*12. Funding Opportunity Number: **0660-ZA29**

*Title:
**Recovery Act -
State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program**

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

State of Alaska

*15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program for the State of Alaska.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Approval No. 0348-0044

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY						
Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. SBDD	11.558	\$	\$	\$ 4,657,388.00	\$ 1,165,126.00	\$ 5,822,514.00
2.						0.00
3.						0.00
4.						0.00
5. Totals		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,657,388.00	\$ 1,165,126.00	\$ 5,822,514.00
SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES						
6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY					Total (5)
	(1)	Federal	(2)	Non-Federal	(3)	
a. Personnel	\$	1,356,228.00	\$	77,915.00	\$	\$ 1,434,143.00
b. Fringe Benefits		290,912.00		15,583.00		306,495.00
c. Travel		335,218.00				335,218.00
d. Equipment		54,281.00				54,281.00
e. Supplies		35,435.00				35,435.00
f. Contractual		1,106,547.00		107,527.00		1,214,074.00
g. Construction						0.00
h. Other		161,054.00		964,101.00		1,125,155.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)		3,339,675.00		1,165,126.00	0.00	4,504,801.00
j. Indirect Charges		1,317,713.00		0.00		1,317,713.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$	4,657,388.00	\$	1,165,126.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,822,514.00
7. Program Income		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$	\$	\$ 0.00

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SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES					
(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS	
8. SBDD	\$	\$ 260,809.00	\$ 904,317.00	\$ 1,165,126.00	
9.				0.00	
10.				0.00	
11.				0.00	
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$ 0.00	\$ 260,809.00	\$ 904,317.00	\$ 1,165,126.00	
SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS					
	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ 0.00	\$	\$	\$	\$
14. Non-Federal	0.00				
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT					
(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (Years)				
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth	
16.SBDD	\$	\$	\$	\$	
17.					
18.					
19.					
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16-19)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION					
21. Direct Charges: \$4,504,801		22. Indirect Charges: \$1,317,713			
23. Remarks:					