

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Performance Progress Report

2. Award Or Grant Number

05-50-M09009

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

01-19-2011

1. Recipient Name

Connect Arkansas

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:

N/A

3. Street Address

200 S. Commerce Street, Suite 400,

8. Final Report?

Yes

No

9. Report Frequency

Quarterly

Semi Annual

Annual

Final

5. City, State, Zip Code

Little Rock, AR 72201

7. Project / Grant Period
Start Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)

09-15-2009

7a. End Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)

09-14-2014

7b. Reporting Period End Date:

12-31-2010

9a. If Other, please describe:

N/A

10. Broadband Mapping

10a. Provider Table

Number of Providers Identified	Number of Providers Contacted	Number of Agreements Reached for Data Sharing	Number of Partial Data Sets Received	Number of Complete Data Sets	Number of Data Sets Verified
0	0	0	0	0	0

10b. Are you submitting the required PROVIDER DATA by using the Excel spreadsheet provided by the SBDD grants office? Yes No

10c. Have you encountered challenges with any providers that indicate they may refuse to participate in this project? Yes No

10d. If so, describe the discussions to date with each of these providers and the current status

Connect has not had any success in acquiring data from the following companies: 1) Alliance Communications, which has stated several occasions that they are simply too busy to provide the data requested. We continue to be shuttled back and forth between their local office and the corporate office in Oklahoma. 2) Black Sheep Computing, Black Sheep has expressed their desire to not participate in the program as they have a "Libertarian business model" 3) IOCC.com LLC: IOCC has stated that they do not wish to participate in the mapping program because they do not believe it will produce any measurable results. 4) HughesNet, after initial commitments to provide coverage data, HughesNet stopped responding to all forms of contact. Connect has not received any reason for HughesNet's sudden refusal to cooperate. Since the last report Connect has identified the following providers as providing Broadband in the state that were previously unidentified: 1) Media3, 2) Utopian Wireless Corp, & 3) Crystal Broadband Network. It should also be noted that Mountain View Telephone is now a part of Yelcot Telephone Company and all Broadband data will be listed under Yelcot from Spring 2011 on forward.

10e. If you are collecting data through other means (e.g. data extraction, extrapolation, etc), please describe your progress to date and the relevant activities to be undertaken in the future

At this time, Connect is not utilizing any additional sources other than the actual broadband providers for collecting broadband coverage data.

10f. Please describe the verification activities you plan to implement

Currently Connect Arkansas is rolling out a statewide survey to collect data to compare to the provider gathered data. Also Engineering assessments that are underway in the Planning phase of our efforts will be used to compare what limited plant data given to the coverage data.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities? Yes No

10h. If yes, please describe the status of your activities

Connect Arkansas has been using Self Reported Consumer data combined with targeted surveys, FCC form 477 data and speed test data from our website to verify provider coverage data. In addition to these verification methods, Connect has been collecting feedback from the interactive version of our broadband coverage map. This data is compared to coverage information gathered from providers.

10i. If verification activities have not been initiated please provide a projected time line for beginning and completing such activities

N/A

Staffing

10j. How many jobs have been created or retained as a result of this project?

6.33

10k. Is the project currently fully staffed? Yes No

10l. If no, please explain how any lack of staffing may impact the project's time line and when the project will be fully staffed

We are interviewing a part time mapper who will assist with the Data Collection part of the project. Expecting this position to be occupied by the first days of January. We are expecting to hire in February a part time Compliance Analyst to help the Compliance Officer with the federal reporting and daily bookkeeping activities.

10m. When fully staffed, how many full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs do you expect to create or retain as a result of this project?

7.41

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
GIS Manager	100	08/04/2008
GIS Analyst Specialist	100	11/19/2009
Compliance Officer	54	11/19/2009
Community Outreach Leader 1	89	08/16/2010
Community Outreach Leader 2	45	03/01/2010
Intern 1	75	01/12/2010
Intern 2	91	01/12/2010
President (Management)	15	07/01/2007
Senior Vice-President (Management)	22	07/01/2007
IT Director (Management)	10	07/01/2007
Human Resources (Management)	10	07/01/2007
Administrative Assisstant	22	07/01/2007

Add Row

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Sub Contracts

10o. Subcontracts Table

Name of Subcontractor	Purpose of Subcontract	RFP Issued (Y/N)	Contract Executed (Y/N)	Start Date	End Date	Federal Funds	In-Kind Funds
University of Arkansas at Little Rock	Perform surveys on household Broadband usage	N	Y	01/01/2010	12/21/2010	40,323	0
The Gadberry Group	Geocode, process provider coverage data, build web-based interactive Broadband Map	N	N	12/31/2009	12/09/2011	213,000	0
Not Selected	Fixed Wireless Propagation EDX signal	N	N	09/01/2011	08/30/2014	5,400	0
Not Selected	Statewide survey for validation	N	N	05/01/2011	08/30/2014	150,000	0

AGIO	Will work with 32 counties to develop geographic information system address points statewide	N	N	01/01/2011	09/15/2014	944,400	571,792
The Gadberry Group	Website hosting fees to support interactive broadband map	N	N	09/01/2011	08/30/2014	150,000	0
Not selected	County Broadband adoption fund raising and planning	N	N	09/01/2011	08/30/2014	68,000	0
Not selected	Monthly Newsletter distribution	N	N	09/01/2011	08/30/2014	36,000	0
CT&T	Engineering Assessments	N	N	03/01/2011	12/30/2011	253,000	0
The Political Firm, LLC	Statewide survey	Y	N	01/03/2011	02/28/2011	25,000	0
INA	County websites	N	N	03/01/2011	12/31/2012	104,000	0
Not selected	Annual county website maintenance	N	N	04/01/2011	02/28/2013	58,800	0
Aristotle	Website Re-development	Y	N	02/15/2011	08/31/2011	40,000	0

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Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,010,922 10q. How much Remains? \$5,164,444
 10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$520,310 10s. How much Remains? \$1,023,532

10t. Budget Worksheet

Mapping Budget Element	Federal Funds Granted	Proposed In-Kind	Total Budget	Federal Funds Expended	Matching Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended
Personal Salaries	\$2,003,939	\$370,280	\$2,374,219	\$444,773	\$217,073	\$661,846
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$357,645	\$80,697	\$438,342	\$72,696	\$60,831	\$133,527
Travel	\$63,000	\$16,339	\$79,339	\$4,017	\$16,339	\$20,356
Equipment	\$72,685	\$22,479	\$95,164	\$19,396	\$22,479	\$41,875
Materials / Supplies	\$214,220	\$33,850	\$248,070	\$423,667	\$33,850	\$76,217
Subcontracts Total	\$2,316,974	\$601,065	\$2,918,039	\$256,472	\$29,273	\$285,745
Subcontract #1	\$944,400	\$571,792	\$1,516,192	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #2	\$253,000	\$0	\$253,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #3	\$220,000	\$0	\$220,000	\$183,000	\$0	\$183,000
Subcontract #4	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$749,574	\$29,273	\$778,847	\$73,472	\$29,273	\$102,745
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$744,440	\$378,065	\$1,122,505	\$126,164	\$140,465	\$266,629
Total Direct Costs	\$5,772,903	\$1,502,775	\$7,275,678	\$965,885	\$520,310	\$1,486,195
Total Indirect Costs	\$402,463	\$41,067	\$443,530	\$45,037	\$0	\$45,037

Mapping Budget Element	Federal Funds Granted	Proposed In-Kind	Total Budget	Federal Funds Expended	Matching Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended
Total Costs	\$6,175,366	\$1,543,842	\$7,719,208	\$1,010,922	\$520,310	\$1,531,232
% Of Total	80	20	100	66	34	100

Hardware / Software

10u. Has the project team purchased the software / hardware described in the application? Yes No

10v. If yes, please list

N/A

10w. Please note any software / hardware that has yet to be purchased and explain why it has not been purchased

We will upgrade computers for Mapping in 2012. ESRI Mapping software hasn't been purchased because we will renew the licences until 4/30/2011.

10x. Has the project team purchased or used any data sets? Yes No

10y. If yes, please list

ESRI Internet Usage Survey Data has been purchased to be used alongside the MicroBuild Broadband Indicator data obtained from the Gadberry Group, LLC that was referenced in the last quarterly report. This MicroBuild data was purchased for \$60000 and provided in the Spring and Fall of 2010.

10z. Are there any additional project milestones or information that has not been included? Yes No

10aa. If yes, please list

The Connect Arkansas interactive map was successfully launched in mid-October allowing citizens of Arkansas to search specific addresses to ascertain broadband availability. In the week of January 24, 2011, letters were mailed to broadband providers to remind them of the April 1 SBDD data model submission.

10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing

Minor changes to the data model provided created delays with contractor on updating data on interactive map online. Manually exporting the data out to shape file allowed the contractor to continue with the update until they could update the processing software on their end.

10cc. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project

Several Providers have mentioned they are experiencing "survey fatigue", from having to provide different sets of data to different groups i.e. form 477 coverage data to FCC, coverage data as requested by the NOFA to Connect Arkansas, etc. These providers have expressed a reluctance to submit any additional data than what is required in the NOFA Clarification.

11. Broadband Planning

11a. Please describe progress made against all goals, objectives, and milestones detailed in the approved Project Plan. Be sure to include a description of each major activity / milestone that you plan to complete and your current status

During the quarter, eCommunities staff visited 29 cities/towns and met with 179 people as part of the eCommunities process. eCommunity meetings have been conducted in Calhoun, Chicot, and Phillips counties. Our goal is to have strategic plans for these three counties finished and eCommunity meetings held in Bradley, Drew, and Lincoln counties by March 31.

11b. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing

None

11c. Does the Project Team anticipate any changes to the project plan for Broadband Planning? Yes No

11d. If yes, please describe these anticipated changes. Please note that NTIA will need to approve changes to the Project Plan before they can be implemented

N/A

Funding

11e. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$0 11f. How much Remains? \$0

11g. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$0 11h. How much Remains? \$0

11i. Planning Worksheet

Personal Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontracts Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #4	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Direct Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
% Of Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Additional Planning Information

11j. Are there any additional project milestones or information that has not been included?

-A secure web page has been added for Connect Arkansas board members that will include postings of notes from our field visits and e-Community meetings for board members to see how people are reacting to high-speed Internet at the grassroots level. Three Connect Arkansas staff members attended the Rural Telecommunications Congress Conference in Mesa, Arizona on November 8-12, 2010.

11k. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the Project Team is employing

None

11l. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project

We are seeing concrete examples of people's hunger for high-speed Internet in rural areas. Community institutions that provide unsecured wireless Internet report that people with laptops are filling their parking lots 24/7/365. There is a concern that lack of high-

speed internet in industrial parks, river ports, and communities as a whole is deterring business/industry and individuals/families from moving to their communities to live and work. Other needs/goals emerging from the eCommunities process are: establishment of county websites and expanded e-Government functions; need for technical training and education on use of Internet for marketing and business success; expanded bandwidth in schools for virtual classes and professional training for teachers; more public access points for high speed internet; computers for economically disadvantaged students from elementary through postsecondary levels; and realization that high-speed internet is vital to marketing community assets, not only for business/industry, but to also attract people who want to move home or who want a better quality of life - they can move and work here if it is available and accessible.

12. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purpose set forth in the award documents.

12a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official

Grace Morrissey

12c. Telephone
(area code, number, and extension)

12d. Email Address

gmorrissey@connect-arkansas.org

12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official

Submitted Electronically

12e. Date Report Submitted
(Month, Day, Year)

02-15-2011