

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Performance Progress Report

2. Award Or Grant Number

05-50-M09009

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

04-11-2011

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:

03-31-2011

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
74	2	70	24	43	56

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

74 Providers listed above is based on Parent or Holding Company. 78 when counted by DBA name.

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. 2) Black Sheep Computing, Black Sheep has expressed their desire to not participate in the program as they have a "Libertarian business model" 3) 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. Phone calls and emails to all 3 were unreturned for the spring 2011 Data collection. Since the last report Connect has identified the following providers as providing Broadband in the state that were previously unidentified: 1) Velocity Broadband Incorporated, & 2) Communications Specialists Inc; both have agreed to provided data but have not prior to April 1st deadline. Two companies in the state have gone out of business or are in the process of discontinuing to offer Broadband: 1) IOCC & 2) Vista Vox, both being fixed wireless providers. Crystal Broadband Network mentioned as a new provider in last quarterly report, in fact has no infrastructure in Arkansas at this time. Also worth noting that Cobridge Communications aquired all of Charter's cable infrastructure in Arkansas.

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, with exception of HughesNet with is assumed to have coverage statewide as with Wild Blue and Starband. Speeds given for HughesNet are as per providers website.

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. Drive testing will be used as well for fixed wireless and mobile wireless.

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?

4.94

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

During the quarter, only one person has been working on Connect's e-Communities initiative for Connect. Connect is in the process of hiring a second full-time person to assist in the organization's goal to have strategic plans complete for 11 counties by June 30, 2011.

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	50	08/04/2008
GIS Analyst Specialist 1	100	11/19/2009
GIS Analyst Specialist 2	30	01/05/2011
Community Outreach Leader	82	08/16/2010
Compliance Officer	50	11/19/2009
Compliance Analyst	50	02/01/2011
Administrative Assistant	20	07/01/2007
E-community Representative	26	12/15/2010
President (Management)	34	07/01/2007
Senior Vice-President 1 (Management)	10	07/01/2010
Marketing Director (Management)	40	01/05/2010
IT Director (Management)	1	07/01/2007
Human Resources (Management)	1	07/01/2007

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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
Arkansas Geographic Information System	Will work with 28 counties to develop geographic information system address points statewide	N	Y	12/01/2010	11/30/2013	944,400	571,792
CT&T Communications Consultant	Engineering Assessments	N	N	09/01/2011	09/30/2012	253,000	0
The Gadberry Group	Geo-code, process provider coverage data, build web-based interactive broadband map	N	Y	12/31/2009	12/09/2011	250,000	0

Not selected	Statewide survey for validation	N	N	07/01/2011	09/30/2011	150,000	0
The Gadberry Group	Website hosting fees to support interactive broadband map	N	Y	09/01/2011	10/30/2014	150,000	0
Information Network of Arkansas	County websites	N	Y	03/01/2011	12/31/2012	104,000	0
University of Arkansas at Little Rock	Surveys	N	Y	01/01/2010	12/21/2010	40,323	0
Not selected, (work done in house)	Facilitation	N	N	09/01/2010	09/30/2011	3,397	0
Not selected	County Broadband adoption, fundraising	N	N	09/01/2011	10/30/2014	68,000	0
Information Network of Arkansas	Annual county website maintenance	N	Y	04/01/2011	02/28/2013	58,800	0
Not selected, (work done in house)	Fixed wireless propagation reports	N	N	07/01/2010	12/31/2010	10,535	0
Aristotle	Website re-development	Y	N	05/01/2011	08/31/2011	40,000	0
Not selected	Monthly newsletter distribution	N	N	09/01/2011	09/30/2014	36,000	0
Not selected, (work done in house)	Travel to e-Communities to facilitate meetings.	N	N	09/15/2009	09/30/2011	6,190	0
The Political Firm	Statewide survey	Y	Y	01/03/2011	02/28/2011	25,000	0
Datamax	Plotter lease	N	Y	09/15/2010	09/30/2011	18,127	0
Not selected	Media Outreach	N	N	06/01/2011	09/30/2011	17,455	0
Not selected	Fixed wireless propagation map	N	N	10/03/2011	12/30/2011	5,400	0
Not selected	Contractual labor	N	N	06/01/2011	07/29/2011	8,000	0
Not selected	Data validation	N	N	10/03/2011	12/30/2011	102,741	0
Not selected	Focus Groups to assist with the efforts to educate and promote the use of broadband in rural areas	N	N	10/03/2011	04/30/2012	40,000	0

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Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,161,146 10q. How much Remains? \$5,014,220

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$602,473 10s. How much Remains? \$941,369

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	\$2,114,056	\$370,280	\$2,484,336	\$523,001	\$217,073	\$740,074

Mapping Budget Element	Federal Funds Granted	Proposed In-Kind	Total Budget	Federal Funds Expended	Matching Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$410,661	\$80,697	\$491,358	\$87,213	\$60,831	\$148,044
Travel	\$49,262	\$16,339	\$65,601	\$4,030	\$16,339	\$20,369
Equipment	\$65,835	\$22,479	\$88,314	\$21,102	\$22,479	\$43,581
Materials / Supplies	\$190,843	\$33,850	\$224,693	\$45,315	\$33,850	\$79,165
Subcontracts Total	\$2,371,045	\$601,065	\$2,972,110	\$280,501	\$93,131	\$373,632
Subcontract #1	\$944,400	\$571,792	\$1,516,192	\$0	\$63,858	\$63,858
Subcontract #2	\$253,000	\$0	\$253,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #3	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$189,000	\$0	\$189,000
Subcontract #4	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$773,645	\$29,273	\$802,918	\$91,501	\$29,273	\$120,774
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$645,208	\$378,065	\$1,023,273	\$133,334	\$158,770	\$292,104
Total Direct Costs	\$5,846,910	\$1,502,775	\$7,349,685	\$1,094,496	\$602,473	\$1,696,969
Total Indirect Costs	\$328,456	\$41,067	\$369,523	\$66,650	\$0	\$66,650
Total Costs	\$6,175,366	\$1,543,842	\$7,719,208	\$1,161,146	\$602,473	\$1,763,619
% 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

ESRI Mapping software and extensions update, EDX wireless mapping software renewal, Online Map Data, Online Map consumer coverage, Fixed wireless analysis tool for field verification, AutoCAD Map for any conversion from companies with CAD. We haven't got to the point when the software/hardware are necessary yet.

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

10y. If yes, please list

N/A

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

10aa. If yes, please list

During this quarter, Data from Fall 2010 was updated to the interactive map (delays to the update process were mentioned in previous quarterly report and below). All known providers were contacted to submit data for the SBDD Spring 2011 data set. As of March 30th, 2011, an updated SBDD data model was submitted to NTIA.

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 (for Fall 2010) 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. Several other formatting changes were needed to be made in order to complete the update.

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 14 cities/towns and met with 64 people as part of the eCommunities process. In addition to the six counties mentioned in the 2010 Q4 report, eCommunity Strategic Plans were completed for Calhoun, Chicot, and Phillips Counties. Address Point File Creation: The Arkansas Geographic Information Office delivered the first address point data set for the Address Point File create project to Connect in early February for Izzard County.

Engineering Assessments: Connect Arkansas is in the early stages of negotiating contracts with CT&T. CT&T is the engineering firm chosen by Connect to perform the engineering assessments in the 11 Arkansas counties chosen for this project. Work is scheduled to begin sometime in the 2nd quarter of 2011.

County Websites: A contract has been signed with the Information Network of Arkansas for building government websites for 15 counties in Arkansas. Work on the first county website is scheduled to begin and be completed during the 2nd quarter of 2011.

11b. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing
Connect has only one full-time staff member working in the field since January 1. Leadership in Bradley, Drew, and Lincoln counties has not been as aggressive as several others, and the time of the staff member has been focused in those counties. We are hoping strategic plans will be completed for Bradley, Drew, and Lincoln Counties in mid-May. Connect is in the process of hiring a second full-time person to assist in the completion of the strategic planning process in the remaining seven counties and the coming implementation in all 17 counties.

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

11i. Planning Worksheet

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?

Connect staff has been promoting high-speed Internet at regional and state-level events, such as making presentations at the winter meeting of the Arkansas County Judges' Association and the Southeast Arkansas Cornerstone Coalition. Connect staff also presented to the Advanced Communications and Information Technology Committee of the Arkansas Legislature House of Representatives. Connect Arkansas awarded the contract for it's new interactive media website to the Aristotle Design Group in Little Rock, Ark., mid January. Work began immediately following the award notice; we are currently in the "discovery creative" phase of the website's development, which means we are narrowing down the scope/emotion/message of the site and the overall look and feel.

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

None.

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)

06-02-2011