

**OFFICIAL OCTOBER 2012 UPDATE SUBMISSION TO
THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE
STATE BROADBAND INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE
STATE OF ALASKA**



October 1, 2012

Table of Contents

Cover Letter	3
Data Acquisition: Alaska Community Anchor Institutions Methodology	8
SBI Data Submission Methodology	9
Datasets for In-Kind Match	11
Alaska Field Validation Methodology	11
Accuracy and Verification: Provider Validation Methodology	14
Wireless Methodology	15
Broadband Inquiries Methodology	17
My ConnectView Methodology	18
Speed Test Methodology	18
Providers Deemed Non-Viable	19
Appendix A: Broadband Provider Log	24

October 1, 2012

Ms. Anne W. Neville
SBI Grant Program Director
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Room 4716
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Neville:

As the State Broadband Designated Entity, in partnership with the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, please accept this submission from Connected Nation on behalf of the state of Alaska's State Broadband Initiative (SBI) Grant Program, known as Connect Alaska.

The Connect Alaska program and its collective stakeholder community continue to be faithful and energized contributors to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) SBI program. Now more than ever, the significance of complete and validated data as compiled through the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Map is instrumental in forging the innovation economy of the 21st century. As the Commission relies upon this unique resource to distribute monies under the Connect America Fund, through the Universal Service Fund reform, the Connect Alaska program equally values this data in informing meaningful program interventions relating to broadband access, adoption, and use initiatives. Truly, this coordination embodies the spirit of the SBI and demonstrates the joint effort of the NTIA, FCC, state governments, industry, and non-profits like Connected Nation as it continues to serve as a key tool for the American public and policymakers. We are proud of the role that Connect Alaska has played in creating and maintaining such a powerful tool that has benefitted and surely will continue to benefit broadband providers, consumers, and businesses nationwide.

The artifacts that comprise this submission should be found to be compliant with the October 1, 2012, deadline for the semi-annual data update and in accordance with the terms of the July 1, 2009, Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) and all subsequent clarifications pertaining to delivery of state-level mapping of broadband service availability. This packet includes:

Inventory of Deliverables, Connect Alaska: October 1, 2012

<u>NOFA Requirement</u>	<u>Data Transfer Model</u>	<u>Data Description</u>
Appendix A: 1(a)(i)	BB_Service_CensusBlock	Broadband Service Availability of Facilities-Based Providers in Census Blocks of No Greater Than Two Square Miles in Area
Appendix A: 1(a)(ii)	BB_Service_RoadSegment	Broadband Service Availability of Facilities-Based Providers by Road Segment in Census Blocks Larger in Area Than Two Square Miles
Appendix A: 1(b)	BB_Service_Wireless	Broadband Service Availability of Wireless Services Not Provided to a Specific Address
Appendix A: 3(b)	BB_ConnectionPoint_MiddleMile	Broadband Service Infrastructure Middle-Mile and Backbone Interconnection Points
Appendix A: 4	BB_Service_CAInstitutions	Community Anchor Institutions-Listing
Appendix A: 4	n/a	Community Anchor Institutions-Narratives
VII.A.1(a) n/a	n/a DataPackage.xlsx	Accuracy and Verification Report Worksheets of Contact Information, Record Count, and Provider Summary Table
n/a	n/a	List of Changes and Corrections to the Dataset
n/a	n/a	Broadband Provider Roster and Participation Status

In addition, this data update submission should be found to be compliant with the additional program requirements instituted by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration since the time of the April 2012 SBI data submission for the Connect Alaska program. Specifically, these new requirements are:

SBI Data Transfer Model

The submission of the broadband dataset for October 1, 2012, is contained within the SBI Data Transfer Model as released on the Grantee Workspace on August 9, 2012. All efforts have been made to comply with formatting, domain, and metadata requirements to include as much information on each provider as possible.

Additional Submission Guidance

New to the semi-annual submission for October 2012 is a more robust version of the ReadMe text file. As per the template released on the Grantee Workspace on May 18, 2012, this file contains a high-level summary of the items contained within the submission, including the exact file deliverables, a description of the errors and warnings from the Check

Submission report, and extraneous information of which the NTIA and other users of the dataset should be made aware.

This submission continues to follow the speed technology guidance released by the Program Office on August 9, 2012, to review speed tier codes in correspondence with technology of transmission codes. In the April 2012 submission, descriptions were provided in the methodology paper that offered an explanation for any submitted technology of transmission and speed combinations that were outside of the expected value range. That practice continues in this submission as technology and speed combinations are reviewed and scrutinized; any questionable information supplied by providers is reviewed more in depth with the provider to ensure the information is accurately captured or a proper explanation is provided as to why the speed information should be submitted as supplied even if it falls outside the expected value range.

This October 2012 semi-annual data update under the SBI Grant Program continues to demonstrate our dedication to implementing the joint purposes of the Recovery Act and the Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA) by gathering comprehensive and accurate state-level broadband mapping data, developing state-level broadband maps, aiding in the development and maintenance of the National Broadband Map, and undertaking statewide initiatives for broadband planning.

Broadband Service Availability — Provider Outreach and Verification

This data update submission under the SBI program includes datasets for 100 percent of the Alaska provider community or 23 total providers. Among the 23 participating providers, 10 supplied an update to their network or coverage area(s), while 12 have reported no change. The remaining provider previously supplied data but was non-responsive in the October 2012 update effort; therefore, their previous dataset is being put forward as part of this compilation. A complete roster by provider depicting participation status and contact record is contained herein.

As the aforementioned roster and attached methodology documentation will attest, it is the collective opinion of the Connect Alaska principals that all commercially reasonable efforts were made to account for 100 percent of the known Alaska broadband provider community, pursuant to this semi-annual data update submission.

Connect Alaska has also continued to perform broadband verification activities through several means. In addition to confirmation of service area(s) by each provider, Connect Alaska conducts field validation efforts. To date, 19 (82.61 percent) providers have been validated through field verification activities. Additional details on verification activities are contained within the Field Validation Methodology.

The Connect Alaska website, (<http://www.connectak.org>), continues to serve a prominent role in the outreach and data collection effort. This program asset provides a way for the general public to participate in the process by offering interactive tools for users to test their connection speed, submit broadband inquiries, or contact a program representative.

As an indicator of stakeholder penetration, the Connect Alaska website encountered 2,585 unique visits during this reporting period (13,047 total to date for the life of the grant awarded on June 10, 2010). Additionally, this pronounced Web activity netted 2 broadband inquiries over this same reporting period (48 grant inception to date). The website also provides access to the My ConnectView™ interactive mapping application, which allows consumers and broadband providers to confirm or dispute the coverage represented on the broadband inventory map. These consumer-initiated actions are facilitated through the Connect Alaska website and the Connect Alaska interactive mapping tool (My ConnectView™) that offer the stakeholders the vehicles to provide information regarding availability in their respective service area, either in affirmation or contest of the reported data represented in the Connect Alaska mapping artifacts. Since the initial data collection and release of corresponding maps, feedback in the form of broadband inquiries has allowed Connect Alaska to identify additional areas that are in need of field validation, which is scheduled as soon as possible.

Community Anchor Institutions

Connect Alaska has established an ongoing mechanism for gathering data on the location and broadband connectivity of Community Anchor Institutions (CAI), in accordance with the data requirements of the SBI NOFA Technical Appendix. Since the April 2012 data submission, the CAI outreach process method has been modified to improve data collection. Specifically, the outreach process is a more focused sector-specific and relationship-oriented approach that generates more responses than general contact.

In conjunction with the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development outreach was conducted during this data update reporting period by Connect Alaska to continue identification of existing, centralized sources for CAI connectivity data. Additionally, outreach was coordinated to distribute the CAI survey to institutions throughout the state through multiple methods including a customized online survey available on the Connect Alaska website. During this reporting period Connect Alaska has developed a number of new relationships with statewide associations such as Alaska Fire Chiefs Association, Alaska Department of Fire Safety, and Alaska Association of School Boards to promote the importance of broadband connectivity at anchor institutions and participation in this data collection process. It became apparent that these relationships are beneficial to the entire success of the Grant Program, and the CAI engagement is a logical extension of new and existing relationships. Connect Alaska will continue to build upon these new relationships over the coming months and utilize its contacts throughout the state to collect data and raise awareness of this project.

In addition to fostering and building relationships with state agencies, associations, and organizations, Connect Alaska has also developed a sector-specific calendar that supports CAI outreach as well as research and communications efforts. This focused approach allows a corporate commitment to capturing CAI data in addition to developing meaningful sector-specific content.

Connect Alaska is also working hard to clarify CAI information associated with wireless broadband. NTIA has requested in-depth questioning of CAI listing a wireless broadband service as their sole form of connectivity. This follow-up allows us to better understand the reason for adopting the wireless broadband service.

From our work in Alaska, as well as other states, we recognize the great value of this data to future collaboration efforts within the state as well as its value to the National Broadband Map. We plan to continue to bring best practices to the Connect Alaska efforts, along with an investment of both human and technical resources required to reach our goal of increasing the data that is secured and reported as part of this process.

The Connect Alaska program exists to improve data on the deployment and adoption of broadband services and to assist in the extension of broadband technology across all regions of the great state of Alaska, as well as the United States and its territories through contribution to the National Broadband Map. We look forward to the continuing work ahead and improving upon our data collection methods.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas W. Ferree
President and Chief Operating Officer
Connected Nation, Inc.

DATA ACQUISITION: ALASKA COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS METHODOLOGY

In this sixth reporting period of the SBI, Connect Alaska, working in close coordination with the state of Alaska, has established an ongoing mechanism for gathering data on the location and broadband connectivity of Community Anchor Institutions (CAI), in accordance with the data requirements of the SBI NOFA Technical Appendix. Since the April 2012 data submission, the CAI outreach process method has been modified to improve data collection. Specifically, the outreach process is a more focused sector-specific and relationship-oriented approach that generates more responses than general contact.

Connect Alaska has continued to identify and process CAI data obtained through an ongoing statewide outreach campaign. Physical address information continues to be augmented through manual sourcing and geocoded by Connect Alaska through Esri ArcGIS software.

Connect Alaska continues to utilize a customized online survey hosted through SurveyMonkey, with a landing page on the Connect Alaska website that was developed during the first reporting period. This survey, in combination with a customized data-gathering spreadsheet, was distributed on a regular basis to a targeted list of CAI throughout the state as well as organizations and agencies that work closely with the CAI. The distributions were completed with the support of the state client. Connect Alaska will continue to use these data-gathering tools for future targeted outreach efforts throughout the coming months leading up to the next reporting period. These materials are customized to fit the CAI categories as defined in the SBI NOFA.

The survey can be accessed at this link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YD6MFC9>

In addition to the survey, Connect Alaska has developed a number of new relationships with statewide associations such as Alaska Fire Chiefs Association, Alaska Department of Fire Safety, and Alaska Association of School Boards to promote the importance of broadband connectivity at Community Anchor Institutions and participation in this data collection process. It is apparent that these relationships are beneficial to the entire success of the grant program, and the CAI engagement is a logical extension of new and existing relationships. Connect Alaska will continue to build upon these new relationships over the coming months and utilize its contacts throughout the state to collect data and raise awareness of this project.

In addition to fostering and building relationships with state agencies, associations, and organizations, Connect Alaska has also developed a sector-specific calendar that supports CAI outreach as well as research and communications efforts. This focused approach allows a corporate commitment to capturing CAI data in addition to developing meaningful sector-specific content.

Connect Alaska conducts significant research as part of an ongoing process to identify existing, centralized sources for CAI connectivity data. In tandem with these efforts to identify existing data, Connect Alaska continues to identify key CAI contacts in an effort to distribute and promote the online survey and raise awareness of the importance of CAI broadband connectivity. Also, when

possible, Connect Alaska works with the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development to identify existing relationships that can support CAI outreach.

Connect Alaska has an ongoing mission to educate CAI throughout the state on the importance of participating in the project. Participation by these institutions will raise awareness about the importance of broadband connectivity and the need to report the requested data for inclusion on the National Broadband Map.

The greatest challenge with collecting CAI data continues to be educating the CAI about the Connect Alaska project as well as self-awareness of their own CAI connectivity (specifically upload and download speeds). Connect Alaska will continue to research key CAI organizations and agency contacts in an effort to raise awareness of this project among CAI. When applicable, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development will continue to be briefed on the current CAI data and provided information so it can assist with outreach and promotion within the state.

A CAI summary of all processed and submitted data is provided below:

CAI Type	Total	Physical Address	Lat/Long	Technology of Transmission	Download Speed	Upload Speed
K-12 Schools	712	712	712	425	290	278
Libraries	126	126	126	46	44	44
Healthcare	276	276	276	178	175	6
Public Safety	319	319	319	3	3	3
Higher Ed Institutions	20	20	20	8	8	8
Other Government	569	569	569	24	19	18
Other Non-Government	459	459	459	9	9	6
Total	2,481	2,481	2,481	693	548	363

During the coming months, CAI data collection will be supported by regular reporting to the Connect Alaska team. The CAI data is proving an invaluable resource to all components of the Connect Alaska effort. The data identifies potential local champions, sector trends, and opportunities for improvement as well as opportunities to educate CAI not familiar with their current connectivity.

SBI DATA SUBMISSION METHODOLOGY

The submission of the broadband dataset for October 1, 2012, is contained within the SBI Data Transfer Model and additional components as released on the Grantee Workspace on August 9, 2012. Connected Nation (CN) has reviewed all literature that relates to the release and use of this data transfer model and recognizes that it does not replace or dictate how data is stored, processed,

or displayed for the state, as it is meant primarily as a means to transfer the broadband data from all states and territories and populate the National Broadband Map in a seamless fashion.

Connected Nation has complied with the following guidance documents published by NTIA:

- Technical Mapping Guide, as released on the Grantee Workspace on March 24, 2011, was followed to ensure the completeness and validity of the submission through completion steps and checklists, completing the DataPackage spreadsheet, uploading broadband datasets into the Data Transfer Model, and checking the dataset using the SBDD_CheckSubmission receipt process.
- Naming Conventions and Category of End User, as released on the Grantee Workspace on March 26, 2012, was followed to ensure the consistency of individual file and zip package naming.

In addition to the methodologies contained herein, the Changes and Corrections documentation, as well as the DataPackage.xls containing contact information, the data dictionary, and a provider summary table, the following feature classes are submitted within the SBI Data Transfer Model for the state of Alaska.

Inventory of Deliverables, Connect Alaska: October 1, 2012

<u>NOFA Requirement</u>	<u>Data Transfer Model</u>	<u>Data Description</u>
Appendix A: 1(a)(i)	BB_Service_CensusBlock	Broadband Service Availability of Facilities-Based Providers in Census Blocks of No Greater Than Two Square Miles in Area.
Appendix A: 1(a)(ii)	BB_Service_RoadSegment	Broadband Service Availability of Facilities-Based Providers by Road Segment in Census Blocks Larger in Area Than Two Square Miles.
Appendix A: 1(b)	BB_Service_Wireless	Broadband Service Availability of Wireless Services Not Provided to a Specific Address.
Appendix A: 3(b)	BB_ConnectionPoint_MiddleMile	Broadband Service Infrastructure Middle-Mile and Backbone Interconnection Points.
Appendix A: 4	BB_Service_CAInstitutions	Community Anchor Institutions-Listing.

The provider data collected by CN on behalf of the state of Alaska have been formatted per the given specifications and uploaded into the appropriate feature classes of the SBI Data Transfer Model. Wireline availability is contained within census blocks and road segments, wireless availability is contained as polygons of coverage areas, and middle-mile connections and Community Anchor Institutions are contained as point data. All speed data is contained at the census block, road segment, or wireless polygon level of availability. All efforts have been made to comply with formatting, domain, and metadata requirements to include as much information as possible.

Connected Nation has continued outreach to satellite providers on their availability, technology, and speed information, but granular coverage is not yet available. Submitted within the wireless feature

class are the satellite companies providing service to Alaska as a polygon of the state boundary. Efforts will continue to collect, process, or otherwise create more granular satellite data based on availability analyses and guidance received from NTIA. Process development is underway at CN as well to be able to create more granular satellite coverage based on satellite equipment positioning and geographic inputs.

DATASETS FOR IN-KIND MATCH

Connect Alaska received an Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative Orthoimagery dataset from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources as part of an in-kind match contribution to assist Connect Alaska with its mapping and planning goals - \$177,933 in-kind match contribution.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development provided the Connect Alaska mapping initiative a school district speed test dataset as part of an in-kind match contribution to assist with its mapping and planning goals - \$5,000 in-kind match contribution.

ALASKA FIELD VALIDATION METHODOLOGY

CN focused a portion of its time on specific validation processes such as:

- conducting random spectrum analysis studies throughout the state using an Avcom PSA-37-XP spectrum analyzer;
- conducting mobile speed tests throughout the state using an iPhone, Android (or other smart phone) as well as provider-specific aircards (Sprint 3G/4G, Clearwire et al);
- identifying pre-selected, provider-submitted wireless transmit tower sites and cross-referencing data about that tower against the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) databases such as Antenna Structure Registration and/or the Universal Licensing System;
- cross-referencing Federal Registration Number data against available FCC Form 477 data as well as the FCC **CO**mmission **RE**gistration **S**ystem (CORES);
- validating provider submitted data (for example: latitude/longitude) using a handheld Garmin eTrex Summit GPS unit or GPS enabled software such as Microsoft Streets and Trips;
- locating physical wire-line attributes (such as Central Offices, Remote Terminals, CATV plant, etc.) and comparing them against provider submitted data; and
- conducting on-net and off-net speed tests using the FCC portal at <http://www.broadband.gov/qualitytest/about/> or using the Ookla Net Metrics enabled speed test utility located on each of CN's program specific websites.

Additionally, CN cross-referenced numerous public documents in order to ensure that all known broadband providers were located and contacted. This included searching membership logs from trade associations (WISPA, WCAI, PCIA, etc.), the Cable Television Fact Book, Public Utility Commission records, Public Service Commission records, Chamber of Commerce, etc.

To date, Connected Nation’s staff conducted on-site validation tests in Alaska on the following providers: Ace Tekk Wireless Internet; AlasConnect, Inc.; Alaska Communications Systems Holdings, Inc. (d.b.a. ACS); Alaska Power and Telephone Company; American Broadband Communications (d.b.a. TelAlaska Long Distance Inc.), AT&T, Inc.; American Broadband Communications (also d.b.a. TelAlaska Long Distance Inc.); ATCONTACT COMMUNICATIONS; Borealis Broadband; Clearwire Corporation; Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Cordova Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Craig Cable, GCI Internet; Hughes.net, Ketchikan Public Utilities; Matanuska Telephone Association; SPITwSPOTS LLC; Verizon Wireless; and Yukon Telephone Company.

From program initiation through this reporting period, CN has completed in-the-field validation testing against 19 companies (out of a universe of 23 viable providers) totaling 82.61 percent within the state of Alaska.

CN has also continued to review provider datasets for accurate speed information, platform listings, and other intricacies that may fall outside of the standard SBI Data Transfer Model parameters, as published on the NTIA Grantee Workspace on August 9, 2012. Any providers whose submitted coverage and attributes are anticipated to come into question have been further reviewed and confirmed; details on a case-by-case basis are presented below.

Alaska Communications Systems Holding, Inc. (ACS)

Issue: DSL platform with maximum advertised download speed in tier 7, higher than expected value range for the technology.

Resolution: Provider website advertises 10 Mbps service; screenshot below.

SuperFast		Fast			Basic
10 Mbps	7 Mbps	4 Mbps	3 Mbps	1 Mbps	320 Kbps
\$109	\$99	\$89	\$89	\$69	\$49
ORDER NOW					

Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc.

Issue: DSL platform with maximum advertised download speed in tier 7, higher than expected value range for the technology.

Resolution: Provider website advertises 10 Mbps service; screenshot below.



INTERNET PACKAGES available when you also have MTA PHONE service					
Download Speed	Usage				
	10GB	25GB	40GB	70GB	100GB
256K	\$25				
768K	\$40	\$45	\$55	\$65	\$95
2M		\$50	\$60	\$70	\$100
5M		\$60	\$70	\$80	\$110
10M		\$70	\$80	\$90	\$120
Additional GB		\$5	\$4	\$3	\$2

SPITwSPOTS LLC

Issue: Fixed wireless platform with maximum advertised download speed in tiers 7 and 8, as well as maximum advertised upload speed in tiers 7 and 8, higher than expected value range for the technology.

Resolution: Provider website advertises 15, 20, and 25 Mbps download service; screenshot below.

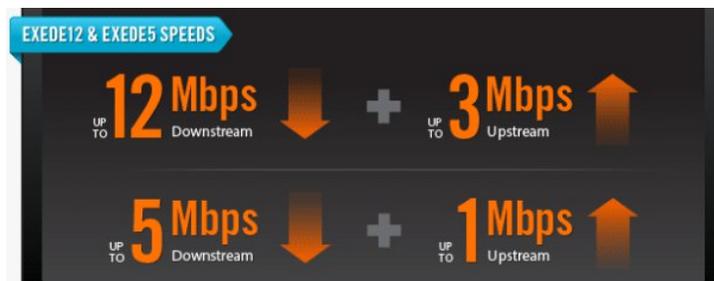
Regarding upload speeds, provider could not be reached for confirmation prior to this submission; outreach will continue.



ViaSat, Inc.

Issue: Satellite platform with maximum advertised download speed in tier 7, higher than expected value range for the technology.

Resolution: Provider website advertises 12 Mbps service; screenshot below.



ACCURACY AND VERIFICATION: PROVIDER VALIDATION METHODOLOGY

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, CN translates and formats the data that providers are able to supply into a GIS shapefile and produces maps for the provider to review. The resulting map(s) and review process allow for providers to see their service area in a geographic format – for some providers, this is the first time they have seen maps of their broadband service area. Having the mapped service area allows providers to quickly identify any issues that appear in the data representation, whether the issue is in the data translation into a GIS format or from the original data collection and submission. Often data is provided from various sources and through the review and revision process, local engineers who operate the networks and work in the field are able to ensure that the tabular data that has been submitted is accurate and represents the real-world network extent. Any issues in how the service area is represented on the map(s) are remedied by CN, whether they are additions, removal of service, or any other revisions. Revised maps of service area representations are sent to the provider for review and approval; CN will revise data and return maps as many times as necessary until the provider is in agreement that the map represents their service area as accurately as possible. Once the review process has been completed and final approval of the data is provided, the data is deemed ready for NTIA submission.

Once the data collection has been aggregated at a statewide level, static maps of statewide and borough-level availability are produced and made publicly available. In addition, consumers can visit the interactive online tool, My ConnectView, to create customized views of broadband service areas and analyze corresponding demographic information. Leveraging broadband service data on various platforms allows for public users, providers, and other stakeholders to review, scrutinize, and provide feedback on the represented data. This feedback becomes a validation method in itself as consumers submit inquiries to CN either affirming where service is not available or identifying areas where broadband service is shown on the map, but in actuality is not available. This allows for a follow-up to providers regarding revisions to the data as it is represented; it also allows for CN to identify locations where on-site visits may be necessary to complete field validation of available services. Public feedback on all forms of mapping products serves as a localized validation method for provider-supplied information and allows CN to resolve inaccuracies as they are identified to ensure that only the highest quality information is provided to stakeholders.

Estimates derived from provider-validated data indicate that approximately 8.25 percent of Alaska households do not have terrestrial fixed broadband service available, and approximately 6.31 percent of Alaska households have neither mobile nor fixed broadband service available.

Within rural areas of the state, results derived from provider-validated data indicate that approximately 16.25 percent of rural Alaska households do not have terrestrial fixed broadband service available, and approximately 12.77 percent of rural Alaska households have neither mobile nor fixed broadband service available. Please note that the availability estimates presented are based on Census 2010 household information.

The estimates above, in accordance with NTIA's definition of available broadband service as specified in the SBI NOFA, include broadband service with download speeds of at least 768 Kbps and upload speeds greater than 200 Kbps.

In addition, due to the nature of the SBI data collection methodology as defined by the NTIA and based on both census block geographic units and street segment data, the estimates of broadband availability derived from provider-validated data may include an overstatement of the actual number of households with broadband availability. Under the census block-based data collection method, a provider will typically report broadband availability for an entire census block whether its network is present across the whole or only a subset of that census block. This potential overestimation at the census block level can be amplified as the data is aggregated across the entire state.

WIRELESS METHODOLOGY

Broadband Service Availability in Provider's Service Area Wireless Services Not Provided to a Specific Address

Data solicited from a fixed wireless provider to create propagation models include, but are not limited to:

1. The name of the structure.
2. Whether the transmitting device is operational or proposed.
3. The maximum advertised downstream speed, the maximum advertised upstream speed.
4. The typical downstream speed, the typical upstream speed (peak periods for both).
5. The frequency range of spectrum being used (as prescribed by NTIA). This may include (but is not limited to) spectrum authorizations identified within the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Universal Licensing System (ULS) database or located on the FCC's Spectrum Dashboard.
6. The primary population center(s) being served (for geopolitical boundary reference).
7. The physical address of the transmit site (in the event latitude/longitude is unavailable from the provider this allows a quick reference point for geocoding).
8. Latitude in either Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds and/or in Decimal Degrees (typically received as NAD 27 or NAD 83).
9. Longitude in either Degrees, Minutes and Seconds and/or in Decimal Degrees (typically received as NAD 27 or NAD 83).
10. Antenna pattern (e.g. omni-directional, 180°, 120°, 90°, etc.).
11. Azimuth of antenna (e.g. 360° with magnetic declination if known).
12. Approximate transmit radius (in feet, miles, or kilometers).
13. Polarity of transmit antenna (Vertical or Horizontal).
14. Transmit antenna gain (in dBi).
15. Line loss (applicable only to providers using coax, heliax, waveguide or other forms of cabling – excludes power-over-Ethernet devices).
16. Mechanical and/or Electrical beam tilt (if applicable).
17. Equipment Manufacturer (allows easy cross-reference against manufacturer's specification sheet).

18. Power output of the transmitting device (if unknown, FCC standards or manufacturer specifications are applied).
19. AMSL at base of tower site.
20. Antenna centerline AGL (height of antenna above ground level measured at the centerline of the actual antenna).
21. Foliage factors (Evergreens/Deciduous and percent of ground cover).
22. Ground Clutter (primarily used in rural areas to account for foliage and in metropolitan areas to account for types and heights of buildings if known).
23. Average gain of receive antenna.
24. Receive antenna is estimated at height above average terrain (HAAT) of 6.2 meters/20 feet.
25. Federal Registration Numbers (if applicable) which may allow opportunities to cross-reference and/or obtain additional data from the FCC's ULS and the **CO**mmission **RE**gistration **S**ystem.

Propagation modeling combines scientific data and empirical mathematical formulation for the characterization of radio wave propagation as a function of frequency, distance, and other conditions. Propagation software(s) typically use the Irregular Terrain Model (also known as Longley-Rice) of radio propagation for frequencies between 20 MHz and 20 GHz. This model is based on electromagnetic theory and statistical analyses of the combination of terrain features and radio measurements, then predicting the median attenuation of a radio signal as a function of distance and the variability of the signal in time and in space. For metropolitan areas, the software can typically be adjusted to use the Okumura-Hata model which accounts for predicting the behavior of cellular transmissions in areas where buildings are the primary obstructions. The resulting product from either model depicts a graphical illustration of the theoretical propagation characteristics of a selected frequency range based on defined variables (receiver sensitivity of the home/mobile device, foliage factor, and digital elevation terrain input).

After converting propagation models into a geospatial format, additional processing is completed to remove the small pixels representing service present in the resulting dataset. These areas are initially created based on the parameters entered in the software from the provider equipment information, the underlying data parameters of elevation, hillshade, etc., and the limitations of the software itself to display a broadband service area as accurately as possible. Generally, these random pixel striations appear as a result of signal levels reaching the highest elevated points within the prescribed radius. Typically, while this pixilation anomaly shows legitimate areas where signals can be received, these highly elevated points may have exceedingly sparse populations or are entirely void of population. As a result, and congruent to the *Wireless Technology Methodologies and Business Logic* white paper submitted to NTIA on January 20, 2011, all independent pixels representing service that are less than 0.125 square miles in area have been removed from the geospatial representation of each wireless provider.

BROADBAND INQUIRIES METHODOLOGY

CN collects consumer feedback in the form of broadband inquiries (BBIs). These inquiries represent any type of communication received from the public regarding broadband service. Once BBIs are received across the state, this information is overlaid with the broadband availability information which was collected through the SBI program. This allows for a real-world comparison of the broadband landscape to the information received from broadband inquiries. Consumers submitting these inbound comments and/or inquiries are able to provide information regarding five categories: 1) residents who do not have broadband but want it; 2) residents who have broadband but want a different provider; 3) residents who do not have broadband, but the broadband inventory maps indicate that they do; 4) residents who have broadband but want a faster connection speed; and 5) residents who have broadband but want a less expensive service option.

BBIs are submitted frequently by consumers via the Connect Alaska website. Inquiries often seek help to identify local broadband provider options, or to learn when a specific provider may be able to provide service to that consumer. Consumer comments also provide information which may help modify maps with actual service area information. The primary objectives of CN regarding these inquiries are 1) to improve the accuracy of the state maps with submitted consumer information and follow-up field research; 2) to provide broadband options to consumers through cooperation with mapped providers and by facilitating new broadband service options; and 3) to map and analyze information from consumers about areas of unmet broadband demand and alternatives to currently mapped services. A prime example of the second option is the utilization of the Rural Utility Service satellite eligibility tool. By simply entering the consumer's address, the CN engineer can quickly determine if the consumer meets the initial qualification status for BIP satellite subsidies.

New BBIs are assigned to either the GIS department or the Engineering & Technical Services (ETS) team depending on the category entered by the consumer on the website submission form. The GIS or ETS team members respond to each inquiry according to the information requested by the consumer. Many BBIs can be resolved through desktop research; however, if a BBI requires research in the field, the assigned ETS team member conducts such research when performing field validations in the area of the inquiry, or at other such time as is practical and appropriate. GIS and ETS team members respond to and conclude BBIs via telephone contact and/or e-mail communication.

The broadband inquiry process has been implemented in each of the CN state programs with successful results. Altogether CN has received over 18,600 broadband inquiries since 2007, allowing the state programs to evaluate each inquiry for broadband demand and data verification. These inquiries are continuously examined against current broadband availability, updated every six months, to determine if previously unserved households have been expanded to and can now receive broadband at their residence. This database of broadband inquiries has also allowed the CN state programs to aggregate demand in concentrated areas to show providers the exact locations where the population has made it clear that they would purchase broadband if it was made available to them. Providers in the states have responded to this process and have expanded to areas knowing that their investment will be worthwhile. Data verification methods have also proven successful, as the state programs have been able to show those inquiries that indicate the broadband service areas are misrepresented on the map to providers, who then verify where service cannot reach in regard to

that residence(s). The broadband coverage in these states has been altered to create a more accurate map based on the inquiries submitted by the public.

During this reporting period, the Connect Alaska project has received a total of 2 inquiries (48 grant inception to date). As more inquiries are submitted to Connect Alaska, a more thorough validation of the broadband landscape can be performed, while also allowing providers to see which areas have a high demand for broadband adoption.

MY CONNECTVIEW METHODOLOGY

My ConnectView is an online, interactive mapping tool for viewing, analyzing, and validating broadband data. Developed using Esri's ArcGIS for Server and Adobe's Flex Framework and hosted and maintained by Connected Nation, My ConnectView is a multi-functional, user-friendly way for local leaders, policymakers, consumers, and technology providers to devise a plan for the expansion and adoption of broadband.

First and foremost, My ConnectView allows consumers to locate their residence and identify providers that offer broadband Internet service to that location. The interactive platform allows for users to build and evaluate broadband expansion scenarios using a wealth of data, including several coverage analysis layers, speed analyses, Community Anchor Institutions, and tools to search and export household demographic information, as well as extract data in GIS, spreadsheet, and/or PDF formats.

My ConnectView also features more interactive data layers and additional tools than ever before to allow the consumer to explore the broadband data. My ConnectView provides consumers with the ability to print, e-mail, and provide feedback on the broadband data displayed on the interactive map. Through the collection of this feedback, a visual demand for broadband is presented. This visualization allows the CN state programs the ability to validate the broadband availability for accuracy. If residents within a region state they are without broadband, but the interactive map shows otherwise, this allows CN to approach the providers within that area in an effort to trim down their coverage to more accurately represent real-world availability on the ground.

The Connect Alaska project launched My ConnectView on April 2, 2012, and has received 643 visits this reporting period; to date the interactive mapping applications have received 2,000 visits.

SPEED TEST METHODOLOGY

The 262 speed tests that are represented in the Connect Alaska Speed Test Report during this reporting period (2,414 grant inception to date) are the result of a partnership between CN and Ookla Net Metrics. Utilizing this relationship increases the level of confidence in the data being collected and provides for a far greater sample size than could be collected by a single testing site.

Ookla owns and operates Speedtest.net, as well as develops and deploys speed tests, such as the Connect Alaska speed test website, for partners around the world. This network of sites that is developed and run on its testing technology provides Ookla with a vast dataset that, due to the variability of geographic information collected across the varying speed test sites, is geocoded utilizing Geo-IP technology. This technology allows for tests to be geocoded to points of aggregation, typically larger nodes across provider networks. While there are hundreds of thousands of tests that have been conducted, the level of aggregation is only sufficient for borough-level detail due to the test results being located at these larger nodes and not at an absolute location for each speed test.

In an effort to validate broadband data from the Connect Alaska project, speed test information is collected throughout the state. Speed tests provide speed information on the path taken through all networks (a provider's network as well as additional networks) a local machine must connect to in order to reach the host test. The benefit of this collection of speed information is two-tiered. First, it allows for a comprehensive dataset of speeds, while also providing Connect Alaska with the information on where broadband services are available. Second, unlike theoretical speed information which was received through the data collection process, the use of speed tests provide real-world information on the speeds that currently exist within the state of Alaska.

PROVIDERS DEEMED NON-VIABLE

The following list of companies represents the remainder of the broadband provider universe that was originally identified as complete for outreach to begin for the State Broadband Initiative. These providers are not included in the Data Package for the October 2012 submission because they have been deemed non-eligible under the parameters and guidance of the SBI grant program. This list of companies includes, but is not limited to: providers offering service but below the current definition of broadband, those that have gone out of business, technology consulting firms, infrastructure or network construction companies, non-facilities based general resellers, etc.

	Company Name	URL	Comments
1	650Net	http://www.650net.net	Offers dial-up only, except offers DSL as a reseller in California.
2	AAA Internet Service	http://aaainter.net/dsl	Dial-up service with nonfacilities-based DSL. Does not offer in Alaska on searches.
3	Access123.net	http://www.access123.net	Nonfacilities-based web engine reseller for multiple companies.
4	ACERX.NET	http://acerx.net	Nonfacilities-based reseller of 13 national companies with cable, DSL, and mobile wireless applications.

5	Airewaves Broadband, LLC	www.airewaves.com	Airewaves website is no longer a valid URL.
6	Alaska Wireless Cable	n/a	Provider is no longer in business; URL is inactive.
7	Alaska Wireless Systems	n/a	Provider is no longer in business; URL is inactive.
8	Angoon Cablevision	n/a	Provider is no longer in business; URL is inactive.
9	Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc.	http://www.astac.net	Provider does not meet the broadband speed requirements in download.
10	Bay Cablevision	www.bristolbay.com	Provider does not meet the broadband speed requirements in either upload or download.
11	Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	http://www.bristolbay.com /	Provider does not meet the broadband speed requirements in either upload or download.
12	Broadband National	http://www.broadbandnational.com	Nonfacilities-based reseller of 30 national companies with cable and DSL applications.
13	Bush-Tell Inc.	n/a	Per CSR, they are local exchange services only; no website.
14	Camino-Net Internet Services	http://www.camionet.com	No longer in business; phone and website are both inactive.
15	Circle Telephone Co.	n/a	Per CSR, they are local exchange services only; no website.
16	Communications Unlimited	http://www.cuicable.com/	Communications services company; does not provide broadband.
17	Core Communications	http://www.corecomm.us/	Printer and visual communications supplier.
18	deluxehost.com	http://deluxe-host.com	Company delivers web hosting services.
19	Denali Wireless Television	http://www.denalitelevision.com/	Nonfacilities-based web engine reseller for multiple companies.
20	DGUI	http://www.dgui.com/	No longer in business; phone and website are both inactive.
21	Dialer.net	http://international.dialer.net	England-based, international pay-as- you-go mobile wireless and hot spot reseller.

22	DTS-NET.COM	http://www.dts-net.com/	Non-facilities based reseller.
23	Echostar	http://www.echostar.com/	Does not provide service in Alaska.
24	Eyecom Cable	www.telalaska.com	Subsidiary company of Tel Alaska and Eyecom; does not provide broadband service.
25	Freedom Internet	http://freedominternet.net/	Dial-up services only.
26	Haines Cable TV	http://www.hainescable.tv/heaven.com/	Company offers cable TV services only.
27	High Frequency Wireless	http://www.hfwireless.com/	Company is a reseller of GCI services and Clearwire and is an electronics repair depot.
28	Hoonah.Net	n/a	Information located on company is not viable; phone number inactive.
29	ICE Communications	http://www.ice-com.net	Information located on company is not viable; phone number inactive.
30	Imbris, Inc.	http://www.imbris.com	Nonfacilities-based web engine reseller for multiple companies.
31	IMGISP.NET	http://www.imgisp.net/	Nonfacilities-based web engine reseller for multiple companies.
32	Incredible Networks	n/a	Could not locate any information on company.
33	Interactiveinfo.com Inc.	http://interactiveinfoservice.com/	Performs internet search services.
34	iRadical	n/a	Could not locate any information on company.
35	ISPartner.net	n/a	Could not locate any information on company.
36	LCSisp.com	http://www.lcsisp.com/index.cfm	Dial-up services only.
37	Level 3 Communications, LLC	www.level3.com	Does not provide service in Alaska.
38	Lou's TV & Satellite Service, Inc.	http://www.lousatellite.biz/	Reseller of Wild Blue services.
39	MainBoard	http://www.mainboard.cc/internet.htm	Offer dial-up and a nonfacilities-based reseller of DSL, cable, and wireless.
40	Maine Cable and Wireless	http://www.maineableandwireless.com	Could not locate any information on company.

41	Marcin Company	n/a	Could not locate any information on company.
42	MCI Communications Services, Inc.	http://www22.verizon.com/	Acquired by Verizon Communications, Inc. However no services available in Alaska.
43	Microcom	http://www.microcom.tv/	Reseller of Hughesnet, Starband, and Spacenet.
44	Millenicom Inc.	http://www.millenicom.com	Reseller of 3G and 4G mobile wireless services.
45	Mitkof.net	n/a	Information located on company is not viable; phone number inactive.
46	Nanomega.Com	www.nanomega.com	Information located on company is not viable; phone number and URL inactive.
47	NetAccess, Inc.	http://www.nas.net/	Canada business only provider with an array of services.
48	NetSpeed Online	http://www.netspeed-online.net	Could not locate any information on company.
49	Nook Net	n/a	Information located on company is not viable; phone number inactive.
50	Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative Inc.	http://www.nushtel.com/	Provider does not meet the broadband speed requirements in either upload or download.
51	Overarch Broadband	http://www.overarch.com	Provider does not offer service in Alaska; provides services in Treasure Valley, Idaho.
52	Pacific Internet Exchange	http://www.pie.us/	Provider is a web hosting company.
53	PremoWeb	http://www.premoweb.com/about_us/contact_us.html	Dial-up services only.
54	Qwest Communications Company, LLC	www.qwest.com/	Provider does not offer service in Alaska.
55	Sea Lion International, LLC	http://www.sealioncompanies.com	Provider funding was rescinded and there are no plans for project SABRE going forward.
56	Simply Dialup A Metrogeek Company	http://www.simplydialup.com	Dial-up services only.

57	Skagway Cable TV	www.hainescable.tvheaven.com	Cable TV services only.
58	SkyFrames	http://www.skyframes.com	Information located on company is not viable; phone number and URL inactive.
59	Smith Cable Systems	n/a	Company is a contractor for the installation of cable; no ISP operations.
60	Surferz.Net	http://www.surferz.net	Dial-up services only.
61	The Summit Telephone and Telegraph Company of Alaska, Inc.	n/a	Provider does not meet the broadband speed requirements in either upload or download.
62	Total Access Networks, Inc.	http://www.totalaccess.net	Supplies in-home solutions for multiple types of home networking and other types of services.
63	TransAria	http://www.transaria.net	Website points to backhaul provider, Cutthroat Communications; does not serve Alaska.
64	TSISP.NET	www.tsisp.net	Website search engine.
65	University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development	n/a	Nationwide GBit network for anchor institutions; network under testing and construction; no website found.
66	VPM Global Internet Services, Inc.	http://www.vpm.com	Reseller of HughesNet services.
67	Wireless Roanoke, Inc.	http://www.wirelessroanoke.com	Information located on company is not viable; phone number and URL inactive.
68	wisbin	http://www.wisbin.com	Reseller of DSL Internet service in Wisconsin; does not serve Alaska.
69	www.AmericanAngel.us	http://www.americanangel.us	Information located on company is not viable; website is a social website.
70	YEYZOO.NET	http://t1.vedy.net	Provider is a nonfacilities-based reseller of backhaul.
71	YLISP (Your Local ISP)	http://www.itsyournet.com	Nonfacilities-based reseller for local ISP companies.

APPENDIX A: BROADBAND PROVIDER LOG



Broadband Provider Log

Complete	35
Non-Responsive/Refused	0
In Progress	0
Count of Datasets by Status	35
Total Unique Providers Represented	23

Provider Name	Platform	Status	NDA Execution Date	Notes
Ace Tekk Wireless Internet	Fixed Wireless	Data Added to Statewide Inventory		[AUG-08-12 Brian Dudek] Change: Provider added an additional transmission point to provide additional coverage to the NE around Olnes and Chatanika.
Adak Eagle Enterprises, LLC	Mobile Wireless	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	12/22/2009	[AUG-21-12 Brian Dudek] Change: New provider for October 2012 submission that previously did not reach broadband speeds.
Adak Eagle Enterprises, LLC	DSL	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	12/22/2009	[AUG-21-12 Brian Dudek] Correction: Provider altered Provider Name and Provider DBA.
AT&T Corp, Inc.	Mobile Wireless	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	12/16/2009	[AUG-21-12 Brian Dudek] Change/Correction: Possible service expansion or corrections to previous dataset; entirely new dataset provided for October 2012 submission. Clear expansion noted in Kodiak and Prudhoe Bay regions. Also increased speeds to tier 5 in HSPA+ areas.
GCI Internet	Fixed Wireless	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	2/25/2010	[AUG-09-12 Brian Dudek] Change: New provider platform that previously did not meet broadband requirements. Provider upgraded infrastructure in 14 locations.
Ketchikan Public Utilities	Fixed Wireless	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	1/8/2010	[AUG-23-12 Brian Dudek] Change: New provider platform for the October 2012 submission.
Ketchikan Public Utilities	Fiber	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	1/8/2010	[JUL-19-12 Brian Dudek] Change: Provider expanded fiber territory.
Ketchikan Public Utilities	DSL	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	1/8/2010	[AUG-22-12 Brian Dudek] Change/Correction: Provider expanded DSL territory onto island off the coast. Reduced the extent of other DSL coverage as provider indicated during validation trip.
Spacenet Inc.	Satellite	Data Added to Statewide Inventory		[SEP-04-12 Brian Dudek] Correction: Initial submission of provider's coverage, but they were in service previously.
SPITwSPOTS LLC	Fixed Wireless	Data Added to Statewide Inventory		[AUG-31-12 Brian Dudek] Change: Provider added additional transmission points for traffic layers and slightly increasing coverage on both sides of Kachemak Bay.
ViaSat, Inc.	Satellite	Data Added to Statewide Inventory	1/8/2010	[AUG-14-12 Brian Dudek] Change: New provider offering high speed service (Exede) for the October 2012 submission.
ATCONTACT COMMUNICATIONS	Backhaul	Backhaul Provider Only Processing Complete		
GCI Internet	Cable	Speed Only Update; Data Processing Complete	2/25/2010	[AUG-09-12 Brian Dudek] Change: Provider upgraded cable modem capabilities in Bethel to max advertised download tier 6 and upload tier 4.
Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc.	DSL	Speed Only Update; Data Processing Complete	6/15/2010	[JUN-14-12 Brian Dudek] Correction: Provider decreased speed tier from 7 to 3 in 1.5 sq.mi. area.
AlasConnect, Inc.	Fixed Wireless	No Update to Provide		
Alaska Communications Systems Holding, Inc.	Backhaul	No Update to Provide	6/2/2011	
Alaska Communications Systems Holding, Inc.	DSL	No Update to Provide	6/2/2011	
Alaska Communications Systems Holding, Inc.	Mobile Wireless	No Update to Provide	6/2/2011	
Alaska Power & Telephone, Inc.	DSL	No Update to Provide	2/26/2010	
Alaska Power & Telephone, Inc.	Fixed Wireless	No Update to Provide	2/26/2010	
American Broadband Communications	DSL	No Update to Provide	6/7/2010	
Borealis Broadband Inc.	Backhaul	No Update to Provide	2/1/2010	
Borealis Broadband Inc.	Fixed Wireless	No Update to Provide	2/1/2010	
Clearwire Corporation	Fixed Wireless	No Update to Provide	3/3/2010	
Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	DSL	No Update to Provide	1/11/2010	
Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	Mobile Wireless	No Update to Provide	1/11/2010	
Craig Cable TV, Inc.	Cable	No Update to Provide	7/27/2010	
GCI Internet	Backhaul	No Update to Provide	2/25/2010	
GCI Internet	Mobile Wireless	No Update to Provide	2/25/2010	
Hughes Network Systems, LLC	Satellite	No Update to Provide	2/5/2010	
Kodiak Kenai Cable Company	Backhaul	No Update to Provide	2/7/2011	
OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	DSL	No Update to Provide		
Yukon Tech Inc	Cable	No Update to Provide	6/23/2010	
Yukon Tech Inc	Fixed Wireless	No Update to Provide	6/23/2010	
Cordova Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	DSL	No Update Provided - Use Last Submission Data		