

## **Q2 2013 Supplemental Answers**

**Connected Nation, Inc. – Alaska**

**Grant Number 02-50-M09071**

**Reporting Period End Date 06-30-13**

### **14 a Data Collection Project**

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

Program Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff performed a detailed analysis of the broadband availability data from the April 2013 data submission. The key findings of the analysis show Alaska has seen significant increases in the overall household availability of high-speed Internet service over the past six months. Of Alaska's 258,000 households, 43% now have access to broadband service of at least 6 megabytes per second (Mbps) download/1.5 Mbps upload, not including mobile wireless or satellite services. This represents an increase of 40% from October 2012. Thirty-eight percent of Alaska's households now have access to broadband service of at least 10 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload, not including mobile wireless or satellite services. This represents an increase of 36% from October 2012. Thirty-five percent of Alaska's households now have access to broadband service of at least 25 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload, not including mobile wireless or satellite services. This represents an increase of 35% from October 2012. Thirty-five percent of Alaska's households now have access to broadband service of at least 50 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload, not including mobile wireless or satellite services. That is an increase of 35% from October 2012.

Connect Alaska continues to maintain the interactive mapping web application called My ConnectView. The application is housed in a highly available, monitored, and managed environment. My ConnectView is publicly available on the program website (<http://www.connectak.org/interactive-map>). There were a total of 209 visits to the interactive map between April 1, 2013, and June 30, 2013.

For this reporting period, 271 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 22 companies (out of a universe of 27 viable providers) totaling 81.48 percent within the state of Alaska.

Several maps were updated on the program website, this quarter, including:

- Broadband Growth
- Broadband Service Inventory
- Broadband Service Inventory (Advertised Speeds of at Least 3 Mbps Downstream and 768 kilobytes per second (Kbps) Upstream)
- Density of Households Unserved by a Broadband Provider
- Density of Providers
- Maximum Advertised Download Speed
- Multiple/Single Platform

- Underserved Areas
- Underserved Areas with Mobile

**4. Provide any other information or statistics that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your broadband data collection, Validation and publication activities.**

The use of Mobile Pulse as a performance measurement tool for mobile broadband was introduced as a field validation methodology in Q1 2013 and significantly expanded during Q2 2013. Of the 271 total field verifications conducted on all platforms across Alaska, Mobile Pulse represented 212 of these validations.

The Engineering and Technical Services (ETS) team has formulated a plan to conduct crowd sourcing and field validation testing to ascertain satellite broadband performance under specific conditions. With regard to crowd sourcing, an e-mail has been developed to respond to all broadband inquiries with known satellite connectivity to request they run speed tests on the program website during a specified window of time so we can capture and identify such tests.

During the second quarter, Connect Alaska championed a Digital Learning campaign to raise awareness of efforts across Alaska to promote Digital Learning as well as capture Community Anchor Institution (CAI) data for libraries. Program staff worked with the Alaska State Library to solicit the participation of local libraries in order to gain missing or additional CAI data for libraries throughout the state.

## **14 b Capacity Building Project**

**2. Describe your progress meeting each major activity/milestone approved in the Project Plan for this project; any challenges or obstacles encountered and mitigation strategies you have employed; planned major activities for next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.**

**Broadband Capacity Building Milestones Year 4, Quarter 2 per approved project plan:**

**Milestone: Year 4, Quarter 2 Connect Alaska program office administration.**

This milestone was met. The Program Office in Anchorage is fully staffed and interacting with stakeholders. Program staff meets weekly with representatives from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) to discuss the status of the project and provide briefings to the Alaska Broadband Task Force (AKBTF). Program staff provided administrative support to the Task Force this quarter and participated in two regularly scheduled Task Force meetings during the quarter. Connect Alaska also provided support to the completion of the Task Force's broadband plan draft by providing editorial and formatting services. The final draft of the plan is expected to be released to the public later in the year.

**Milestone: Year 4, Quarter 2 Meeting of the Alaska Broadband Task Force/Advisory Committee complete.**

This milestone was met. Program representatives participated in the April and June meetings of the Alaska Broadband Task Force where the main topics of discussion revolved around the finalization of the

Alaska Broadband Report. A decision was also made by the Task Force to delay a broadband summit to a date to be determined after the broadband plan is finalized later in the year.

#### Q2 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:

There were no challenges to report.

#### Capacity Planning Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

Year 4, Quarter 3 Connect Alaska program office administration

Year 4, Quarter 3 Meeting of the Alaska Broadband Task Force/Advisory Committee complete

#### **4. Provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses this project's progress.**

Several minor delays in completing content for the Alaska Broadband Task Force broadband plan were experienced this quarter. Nevertheless, DCCED plans to move forward with the Alaska Broadband Task Force report and prepare an education campaign for state legislatures this fall in anticipation of the Fiscal Year 2014 Alaska Legislative session which will commence in January.

Outreach and awareness staff created and sent three monthly e-newsletters to all subscribers and stakeholders providing updates on the progress to expand broadband access, adoption, and use. The newsletters are attached as part of the "13Q2\_Project Attachment\_Question 5\_Alaska" document.

### **14 b Technical Assistance Project**

#### **2. Describe your progress meeting each major activity/milestone approved in the Project Plan for this project; any challenges or obstacles encountered and mitigation strategies you have employed; planned major activities for next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.**

##### Technical Assistance Milestones Year 4, Quarter 2 per approved project plan:

##### **Milestone: Year 4, Quarter 2 AASB Technical Assistance Activities**

The milestone was met. In rural areas of Alaska, the school is the center of the community and a point through which information can be easily disseminated throughout the community. The Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB), as a sub-recipient of the Alaska State Broadband Initiatives program, conducted localized surveys, e-government surveys, and community engagement workshops in the communities of Chevak and Metlakatla, Alaska, during the quarter. The efforts have been well received within the communities and their schools.

AASB conducted four workshops in both communities during the quarter. The community engagement workshops in these two communities focused on capitalizing on the use of broadband to develop and promote an online presence and e-commerce opportunities for the villages, preserving and sharing local history, and using broadband for business and entrepreneurial ventures. As a result of the workshops in

Chevak, participants created content for a village e-commerce application (“app”) and published it on the Apple iTunes Application Store as a free iPad app. Also as a result of the workshops, participants in Metlakatla met with a local senior center to plan a project and arrange for the recording of local histories to be placed online. A video was produced, titled “Digitizing Alaska – Metlakatla,” chronicling the workshops, community engagement efforts, and their outcomes in Metlakatla, Alaska. The video (<http://vimeo.com/68198731>) was distributed to Connect Alaska stakeholders and publicized on the Connect Alaska website, Facebook page, and Twitter account.

AASB also delivered a broadband strategies presentation to the local school board in Chevak, Alaska. The presentation was broadcast over KCUK, 88.1FM, an educational public radio station in Chevak. As a result of the presentation and the local workshops in Chevak, the school board has indicated it is open to using broadband for distance delivery courses.

The results for the localized surveys conducted by AASB in the two communities were submitted to program research staff for analysis, compilation, and later publication. A preliminary analysis of the surveys was completed and the results were provided to the Association of Alaska School Boards for review prior to finalization.

#### Technical Assistance outstanding milestones (not met or partially met) from previous quarters:

**Year 3, Quarter 4 Outstanding Milestone: Plan Alaska Broadband Summit.**

**Year 4, Quarter 1 Outstanding Milestone: Conduct Alaska Broadband Summits**

These milestones were not met; however, discussions regarding a broadband summit have taken place with the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) and the Alaska Broadband Task Force (AKBBTF). A decision was also made by DCCED and the AKBBTF to delay a broadband summit to a date to be determined after the broadband plan is finalized.

#### Q2 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:

Scheduling conflicts and other considerations weighed against holding a broadband summit event in Q2 2013. Program staff will continue to work with the Task Force and state stakeholders in an effort to set a date for the inaugural broadband summit.

#### Capacity Planning Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

Year 4, Quarter 3 AASB Technical Assistance Activities  
Finalize and distribute AASB local survey research results

### **14 b Application Development & Usage Project**

**2. Describe your progress meeting each major activity/milestone approved in the Project Plan for this project; any challenges or obstacles encountered and mitigation strategies you have employed; planned major activities for next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.**

## Application Usage & Development Milestones Year 4, Quarter 2 per approved project plan:

### **Milestone: Finalize the E-Government Assessment**

The milestone has been partially met. The e-government survey is being used to examine how Alaskans, both urban and rural, utilize and perceive government services online in order to determine and inform future application development projects. Connect Alaska has initiated the survey online through the program website. The Association of Alaska School Boards, as part of its technical assistance activities, also conducted the e-government surveys in person in the rural communities of Chevak and Metlakatla, Alaska. A statistically significant sample has not yet been achieved in order to finalize the assessment or compile results during the quarter. Connect Alaska continues to promote the survey to generate additional response in order to achieve a statistically significant sample size.

### **Milestone: Year 4, Quarter 2 Administration of the Application Development Fund**

This milestone was met. Program staff participated in several meetings with state stakeholders to discuss viable Application Development Fund uses. Additional results of the e-government assessment will also factor into the ongoing administration of the Application Development Fund. Initial consultations indicated an e-government initiative from DCCED should move forward with a focus on improving rural economic activity by means of an e-government mobile phone app and/or a web portal that highlights DCCED business databases to assist Alaskan manufacturers in marketing their products in the various commercial sectors, such as the seafood industry sector or the tourist industry sector. Staff worked with DCCED and a third-party consultant to draft a scope of work and create a draft Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the mobile phone app and/or web portal. The RFQ is currently being reviewed by Connect Alaska, DCCED, and other stakeholders prior to an anticipated issuance in Q3 2013.

Connect Alaska also participated in discussions with DCCED on a potential application development project to create economic data layers that can be added to the existing interactive broadband map.

### **Milestone: Year 4, Quarter 2 Monitor application development projects**

This milestone was met. Program staff worked with DCCED and a third-party consultant to draft a scope of work and create a draft RFQ for a mobile phone app and/or web portal to assist Alaskan manufacturers in marketing their products in the various commercial sectors. The RFQ is being reviewed prior to issuance.

## Q1 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:

The main challenge for the application development projects has been the coordination of multiple state agencies, including the Alaska Department of Administration, which controls the information technology services for all state agencies including DCCED. Several meetings have occurred and the project team continues to press forward. No formal mitigation strategy has been identified at this time.

## Application Usage & Development Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

Year 4, Quarter 3 Administration of the Application Development Fund

Year 4, Quarter 3 Monitor application development projects