

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Performance Progress Report

2. Award Or Grant Number

16-50-M09014

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

07/29/2011

1. Recipient Name

EdLab Group Foundation

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:

Idaho

3. Street Address

19020 33rd Avenue West, Suite 210

8. Final Report?

Yes

No

9. Report Frequency

Quarterly

Semi Annual

Annual

Final

5. City, State, Zip Code

Lynnwood, WA 98036-4754

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

11/01/2009

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

10/30/2014

7b. Reporting Period End Date:

06/30/2011

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 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 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

The LinkIDAHO team completed the third round of data collection in Q1 and submitted the final data set to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on April 1st, 2011. Because Q2 fell between data collection rounds, no further provider data was collected. Therefore, provider status has not changed since last quarter's report.

The following providers have officially declined to participate in the program:

** Cactus International Inc.: Had telephone/email discussions to encourage participation. Status: Continue to decline and will try again in Round 4.

** MicroWave DSL: Had telephone/email discussions to encourage participation. Status: Continue to decline and will try again in Round 4.

The following provider also declined to participate in Round 3, but we were able to estimate coverage based upon third party data sources:

** Cequel Communications LLC: Had telephone/email discussions to encourage participation. Status: Estimated their coverage for Round 3 and will try again in Round 4.

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

The LinkAMERICA team continues to follow similar procedures across all four LinkAMERICA state projects. We augment provider and Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) data, when necessary, with coverage and speed information from third party sources. In general, we do not substitute third party information for provider-supplied information unless we can independently verify that the provider information is incorrect. Discrepancies between provider and third party data are used to identify areas where additional investigation is required.

If a provider does not supply coverage information, or it is not sufficiently detailed to complete the required data fields, we use third party data and/or infrastructure data and common engineering principles to estimate coverage and speed. We also collect the general public's input via location-specific feedback mechanisms on the state interactive map (discussed below in the verification section).

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

The LinkAMERICA team continues to utilize and improve upon the core verification procedures used in prior data collection rounds. These procedures have been explained in past reports and are included again below.

We believe verification can be segmented into four categories/activities:

** Third Party Data Comparison: As data arrives from providers, we compare it to commercial data sources to identify obvious anomalies or areas for further investigation. An example would be the comparison of an Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers' (ILEC)

reported coverage area boundaries with the legal exchange areas shown in the commercial ExchangeInfo data product. Coverage footprints of wireless providers are compared against AmericanRoamer database. This process occurs with each data collection round.

** Provider Validation: Check maps and other tools are produced at the beginning of each data collection round based upon prior submissions. In Q2 2011, LinkAMERICA added the ability to supply check maps in Google Earth format, allowing providers to update coverage boundaries directly within the check map file itself. This new process will be used in the Round 4 data collection period beginning in July 2011, and will occur with each subsequent data collection round.

** Data Format Verification: It is important that data be formatted correctly in order to be properly received by NTIA. Proprietary and NTIA-supplied scripts are therefore run against the final data set prior to submission to ensure the data meets NTIA data model requirements. This process occurs with each data collection round.

** Consumer Feedback/Verification: The LinkIDAHO interactive map contains a user feedback mechanism that identifies the precise coordinates of each point of feedback. As user feedback arrives, we are able to identify and investigate areas where consumer feedback conflicts with provider data. This process occurs with each data collection round.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities? Yes No

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

All of the above activities are performed in each data collection round. In addition, in Q3 2011, an expanded consumer feedback layer will be implemented. This layer will publicly display the results from all user feedback and will incorporate speed testing into the feedback form to help verify provider-reported speeds.

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

Current verification activities will be enhanced over time as follows:

** Improved user feedback form and display layer: As mentioned above, a new layer is being added to the state interactive map to display the location of user feedback points. This additional information will help all users/consumers understand where provider - reported coverage may be in conflict with what users report "on the ground." It will help the mapping team better identify areas for further investigation. This feature will be released in Q3 2011.

** Mobile Wireless Broadband Drive Testing: This process will use a special device from a vendor to test signal strength and bandwidth/throughput on multiple mobile wireless signals at the same time. This technology will be used in areas where there is a large discrepancy between provider-reported coverage/speed and consumer-reported coverage/speed to determine the actual coverage and speed characteristics. This commences in early 2012.

** Mobile Wireless Crowd Sourced Testing: This process will use a proprietary smart phone application, provided by an outside vendor, to constantly check signal strength and bandwidth/throughput on users' mobile phones. The application will be available on multiple phone platforms and will be downloadable by consumers in each LinkAMERICA state. It runs in the background on the consumer's phone and does not impact phone performance. Data is sent from the vendor to LinkAMERICA for use in validating provider coverage and speed reports. This commences in early 2012.

Staffing

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

An analysis of actual hours worked in Q2 2011 shows that the project resulted in 0.63 FTE jobs created/retained at the Sub Recipient level for the quarter. An additional 0.17 FTEs were created/retained at the Prime Recipient level for a grand total of 0.8 FTEs. It should be noted that this figure does not include positions staffed by second tier vendors involved in the project.

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

N/A

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

N/A

10n. Staffing Table

| Job Title | FTE % | Date of Hire |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| Sub Recipient CEO - Supervisory Role | 1 | 11/01/2009 |
| Sub Recipient Project Director | 5 | 11/01/2009 |

| | | |
|--|----|------------|
| Sub Recipient Project Manager | 25 | 11/01/2009 |
| Sub Recipient GIS Director | 9 | 11/01/2009 |
| Sub Recipient Internal System Support/Architecture | 6 | 11/01/2009 |
| Sub Recipient Provider Relations Manager | 17 | 11/01/2009 |
| Prime Recipient Executive Director | 3 | 11/01/2009 |
| Prime Recipient Operations Manager | 2 | 11/01/2009 |
| Prime Recipient Contracts Coordinator | 6 | 11/01/2009 |
| Prime Recipient Project Manager | 6 | 11/01/2009 |

Add Row

Remove Row

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 |
|--|--|------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| CostQuest Associates Inc./LinkAMERICA Alliance | Project Management/GIS Programming & Planning Services | N | Y | 11/01/2009 | 10/31/2011 | 1,052,133 | 146,371 |

Add Row

Remove Row

Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,153,470 10q. How much Remains? \$3,332,743

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$302,638 10s. How much Remains? \$818,992

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 | \$270,095 | \$287,489 | \$557,584 | \$46,109 | \$169 | \$46,278 |
| Personnel Fringe Benefits | \$67,524 | \$5,556 | \$73,080 | \$9,682 | \$35 | \$9,717 |
| Travel | \$17,920 | \$0 | \$17,920 | \$1,290 | \$0 | \$1,290 |
| Equipment | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Materials / Supplies | \$4,225 | \$0 | \$4,225 | \$84 | \$133 | \$217 |
| Subcontracts Total | \$3,982,782 | \$27,500 | \$4,010,282 | \$1,052,133 | \$146,371 | \$1,198,504 |
| Subcontract #1 | \$3,982,782 | \$27,500 | \$4,010,282 | \$1,052,133 | \$146,371 | \$1,198,504 |
| 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 | \$701,941 | \$701,941 | \$28,171 | \$142,916 | \$171,087 |
| Total Direct Costs | \$4,342,547 | \$1,022,486 | \$5,365,032 | \$1,137,469 | \$289,624 | \$1,427,093 |
| Total Indirect Costs | \$143,667 | \$99,145 | \$242,812 | \$16,001 | \$13,014 | \$29,015 |
| Total Costs | \$4,486,214 | \$1,121,630 | \$5,607,844 | \$1,153,470 | \$302,638 | \$1,456,108 |

| Mapping Budget Element | Federal Funds Granted | Proposed In-Kind | Total Budget | Federal Funds Expended | Matching Funds Expended | Total Funds Expended |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| % Of Total | 80 | 20 | 100 | 79 | 21 | 100 |

Hardware / Software

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

10v. If yes, please list

Laptop computer and software for Sub Recipient Project Manager (Idaho allocated portion): \$352.78
Laptop computer and software for Sub Recipient Vendor Relations Manager (Idaho allocated portion): \$339.48

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

We do not anticipate the purchase of any additional hardware/software for the project.

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

10y. If yes, please list

** American Roamer: Market area boundary and speed data on mobile cellular providers - \$5147
** Media Prints: Cable franchise boundary database - \$500
** ExchangeInfo: Legal exchange area boundary database for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers - \$3805

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

10aa. If yes, please list

** Data Collection Round 3: The third round of data (with data current as of 12/31/10) was successfully collected, processed and submitted to NTIA on time on April 1, 2011. Status: Completed.
** Round 4 of data collection process initiated: On July 11, 2011 notification was sent to all Idaho providers regarding Round 4 of the data collection process. The deadline for submittal is mid-August. Status: Underway, submission to be completed by October 1, 2011.

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

The LinkAMERICA Alliance did not experience any significant challenges or obstacles in Q2. However, as we begin the Round 4 data submission cycle in Q3, it is becoming clear that the transition to 2010 Census Blocks and other changes requested by NTIA will complicate our efforts. We do not anticipate any serious setbacks, however, and will report upon our progress against these obstacles in next quarter's report.

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

As reported for all four LinkAMERICA states, consumers and providers are raising concerns about the frequency in which the National Broadband Map (NBM) is updated. Providers are particularly concerned that the Round 3 data has not yet appeared on the NBM and that consumers and policy makers won't be properly informed on their most recent efforts to expand broadband access.

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

The following are the key Planning activities/objectives described in the original project plan:

** Key Stakeholder Interviews: Perform interviews with 20+ influential cross-disciplinary stakeholders within the state to determine most critical barriers to broadband expansion and adoption. Due: June 2010. Status: Complete
** Publish Initial Broadband Vision Summary: Publish draft, review with stakeholders and state, and then finalize summary report of emerging state broadband priorities. Due: August 2010. Status: Complete.
** Idaho Household Broadband Survey: Perform a statistically significant study of household internet usage and attitudes to help direct broadband planning. Due: December 2010. Status: Complete.
** Facilitate Regional Planning Teams: Divide the state into appropriate regions and recruit local stakeholders and other in-state partners to draft regionally specific broadband development plans. Due: January 2010. Status: Complete.
** Recruit durable in-state sponsor: Identify and formalize relationship with educational or economic development entity that can assist in regional plan develop across the state and who can work to implement plans beyond Year 2. Due: December 2010. Status: Complete (The "Region IV Development Association" recently agreed to accept this role).

to successfully identify and receive broadband-related grant resources, 4) Build in-state capacity for the sustainable use and future development of the broadband planning tools developed for Regional Planning Teams, 5) Build capacity to access, adopt and utilize monitoring and evaluation tools created for Idaho in years 3 through 5.

** Develop robust Broadband Monitoring & Evaluating (M&E) modules to track program achievement: LinkIDAHO will seek a qualified vendor to assist with the design and implementation of a research process to monitor the progress of broadband investment activities and evaluate the resulting outcomes and impacts.

** Establish a State Broadband Coordinator's office to facilitate and coordinate the activities of the Capacity Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, and the ongoing Regional Planning Process. This full time, in-state staff member will: 1) Provide a "statewide awareness clearinghouse" for broadband development activities and funding opportunities, 2) Track best practices from within state and coordinate the implementation of those practices within each region, 3) Log and communicate policy-related developments to the LinkIDAHO advisory team, regional teams, and all other stakeholders, 4) implement statewide program communications strategy

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

No challenges have yet been encountered in promoting the Year 3-5 goals.

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

N/A

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

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

12d. Email Address

12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official

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