

12Q4_Supplemental Answers_Nevada

Connected Nation

Grant Number 32-50-M09056

Reporting Period End Date 12-31-12

Project Attachment_Data Collection

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).

Connect Nevada continues to maintain the interactive mapping web application, called My ConnectView. The application is housed in a highly available, monitored, and managed environment. New feedback features allow consumers to send comments directly to program Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff; a screenshot of the user's current interactive map view is also attached to the feedback to provide additional details.

Consumer feedback in the form of broadband inquiries is also collected. These inquiries represent any type of communications received from the public regarding broadband service. Once broadband inquiries are received across the state, this information is overlaid with the broadband availability information which was collected through the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) program. This allows for a real-world comparison of the broadband landscape to the information received from broadband inquiries. Broadband inquiries are able to provide three types of information: 1) residents who do not have broadband but want it; 2) residents who have broadband but want a different provider; and 3) residents who do not have broadband, but the broadband inventory maps indicate that they do. If residents within a region state that they are without broadband, but the broadband inventory maps show otherwise, this allows Connected Nation 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.

My ConnectView is publicly available on the Connect Nevada website (<http://www.connectnv.org/interactive-map>). There were a total of 314 visits to My ConnectView between October 1, 2012, and December 31, 2012.

During this quarter, the project did not receive any broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that can also be used for verification purposes totaled 1 for this quarter.

For this reporting period, 35 field verification tests were conducted. In some cases, field validation tests were completed on "then current" viable, qualifying providers that were subsequently acquired by another company or tests were completed on a viable, qualifying company that has since gone out of business. Accordingly, the following text will reflect certain deletions, additions and mergers that have occurred during this reporting period. Following

this section, any activity that has been identified under a merger and acquisition category will be called out independently.

To date, program staff have conducted on-site validation tests in Nevada on the following providers: Above All Communications (d.b.a. Express Internet); Air-Internet, Inc.; Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation; AT&T Inc.; Avant Wireless LLC; Baja Broadband LLC; CalNeva Broadband LLC; CC Communications; CenturyLink; Charter Communications; Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada (d.b.a. Frontier Communications of Nevada); Clearwire Corporation; Cox Communications; ETAN Industries (d.b.a. Clark Cablevision and CMA Cablevision); EZZnet, Inc.; Fort Mojave; Great Basin Internet Services; High Desert Internet Services; Highlands Wireless Inc.; Hot Spot Broadband Inc.; InfoWest (d.b.a. A & J Hardy Enterprises, Inc.; Comnett Computer Services, and Peak Internet Services); JAB Wireless (formerly d.b.a. KeyOn Wireless and Wells Rural Electric Telephone); Las Vegas Net; Leap Wireless (d.b.a. Cricket License Company LLC); Level 3 Communications; Lincoln County Telephone; Metro PCS; Moapa Valley Telephone Company; Mt. Wheeler Power; Oasis Online Inc.; Reliance Connects (d.b.a. Rio Virgin Telephone & Cablevision); Robinson Communication Corporation (d.b.a. Oregon-Idaho Utilities, Inc. and Humboldt Telephone Company); Schatnet Internet LLC; SMS Computing Inc. (d.b.a. Performance Computing Internet); Sprint Nextel; TelePacific Communications (d.b.a. Nextweb and Covad); T-Mobile USA Inc.; tw telecom; Vegas Wi-Fi Communications LLC; Verizon Wireless; Wave Direct Telecommunications LLC; WENR Corporation (f.k.a. Satview Broadband, Ltd.); Wireless Beehive LLC (d.b.a. Beehive Telephone Company Inc.); XO Communications; Yonder Media; and Zayo Bandwidth LLC.

From program initiation through this reporting period, in-the-field validation testing has been completed against 47 companies (out of a universe of 58 viable providers) totaling 81.03 percent within the state of Nevada.

There were no mergers or acquisitions identified during this time period.

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.

Multiple sector agencies and organizations have been engaged during Q4 2012 in an effort to collect Community Anchor Institution (CAI) data. The program continues to have gains in data collection numbers, specifically from public safety and education (K-12 and higher education).

The Connect Nevada initiative celebrated several milestone successes this quarter, including the monthly e-newsletter, now reaching more than 424 subscribers. Outreach and Awareness staff disseminated 9 press releases that helped account for mainstream media stories that reached more than 674.4 million people. Twenty-three project-relevant items were also posted on the program's Facebook page this quarter in addition to 101 Tweets that have helped grow the project's Twitter followers to 1,018. A program blog is maintained at

<http://www.connectnv.org/blog>. Nine new entries were posted to the program blog, which accounted for part of the 2,669 total visits this quarter to the website.

Project Attachment_Capacity Building

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 the next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Broadband Capacity milestones Year 3, Quarter 4 per approved project plan:

Milestone: State broadband program office administration complete.

This milestone was met. Connect Nevada continues to maintain office space at the Nevada State Library and Archives Building in Carson City. The program manager provided oversight in meeting the deliverables as described in the approved project plan including managing timelines for creation of 14 local technology plans, verifying accuracy of information supplied by the communities, creation of agendas and follow-up documentation post-meeting, and gathering additional information for the communities. Connect Nevada also assisted in provider relations and helped local planning teams identify immediate solutions when necessary and appropriate. Connect Nevada also started seeing the completion of community assessments. In cases where communities are certified or technology plans are presented, local events are planned and coordinated by the program team. Connect Nevada currently employs two community tech team specialists who plan, coordinate, and host planning meetings in each of the 14 counties.

Milestone: Meeting of the Year 3 Quarter 4 Nevada Broadband Task Force complete.

This milestone was met. One meeting of the Nevada Broadband Task Force (Task Force) was convened on November 29, 2012, where updates included a wrap-up of the Nevada Broadband Summit held October 24, 2012, survey results and lessons learned, results of the e-learning research paper, updates regarding match and its accurate capture, updates to regional planning development, and the announcement of Nevada's first Certified Connected Community, Douglas County.

Connect Nevada also managed and created the agenda for the Task Force meeting in collaboration with the Chair, Daphne DeLeon. Sign-in sheets and minutes were collected to ensure proper tracking of in-kind match. Review and follow-up of action items from previous meetings, recommendations for future agenda meetings, and scheduling of future meeting dates were included on the agenda. Recommendations provided by the Task Force were immediately communicated to program staff and incorporated in media releases, mapping updates, and future research initiatives where appropriate. Follow-ups regarding questions and details about reports were also immediately communicated to Task Force members after the meeting via e-mail and posting to the Connect Nevada website.

Capacity Building 2012 annual outcomes:

Outcome: Connect Nevada will demonstrate successful execution of the comprehensive and detailed project plan in an effort to successfully meet the objectives of the SBDD Grant Program. Each quarter, Connect Nevada will report progress toward activities and milestones outlined in the plan.

This outcome was met. Program staff adhered to the approved project plan to ensure successfully meeting objectives of the grant program. Furthermore, program staff consistently met with the Nevada Broadband Task Force and the chair of the Task Force to report on the program's progress. As standard practice, Connect Nevada consistently sought guidance and collaboration with Task Force members and state/local stakeholders.

Outcome: The Connect Nevada broadband program office will administer the program of activities under the guidance of the Task Force. At the close of 2012, Connect Nevada will demonstrate administration of project plans, management of workflow and timelines, support of community projects, and preparation and distribution of reports.

This outcome was met. Program staff consistently met with the Nevada Broadband Task Force and the chair of the Task Force, in an effort to demonstrate administration of the projects outlined within the approved project plan. As needed, Connect Nevada supported local projects and acted as the liaison between the state and local community members.

Outcome: The program coordinator will demonstrate successful support for the Task Force by assisting with meeting scheduling, tracking state staff time toward the in-kind match contribution, documenting action items for follow-up by Connect Nevada, contributing to the successful coordination of other broadband and economic development-related state initiatives, and updating the project plan where needed in an effort to align to Task Force needs and recommendations.

This outcome was met. The program manager consistently met with the Nevada Broadband Task Force and the chair of the Task Force, scheduling meetings, tracking time, and coordinating statewide efforts including economic development, other grantee projects, and community projects. As standard practice, Connect Nevada consistently sought guidance and collaboration with Task Force members and state/local stakeholders.

Planned activities for next quarter include state broadband program office administration and a successful convening of the Nevada Broadband Task Force.

Project Attachment_Technical Assistance

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 the next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Technical Assistance milestones Year 3, Quarter 4 per approved project plan:

Milestone: Peer review of 2012 residential survey research completed

This milestone was partially met. The project team initiated the peer review of the 2012 residential survey by contracting with John Horrigan of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies who serves as the program's peer reviewer. The program research began compiling documents summarizing the 2012 residential survey programmatic design, survey results, and resulting analysis for peer review. The peer review of the 2012 residential survey research will be completed in Q1 2013.

Technical Assistance milestones outstanding from previous quarters:

Outstanding Milestone from Year 3, Quarter 1: Confirm research plan for Years 3 through 5.

This milestone was partially met. In Q1 2012, conversations were held during the Nevada Broadband Task Force meetings regarding the methodology and results of previously completed surveys, and stakeholder input was incorporated into research plans for years 3-5. The resulting plan was presented to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for approval in 2012.

Outstanding Milestone from Year 3, Quarter 2: Analyze 2012 statewide residential survey research results

This milestone was met. Connect Nevada initiated the 2012 residential survey in Q3 2012 and the results were analyzed in Q4 2012.

Outstanding Milestone from Year 3, Quarter 3: Finalize and distribute 2012 statewide residential survey research results

This milestone was not met. The 2012 residential survey commenced in Q3 2012 and the results were analyzed in Q4 2012. These results will be peer reviewed in Q1 2013, initial results will be provided to state stakeholders and NTIA in Q1 2013, and the results will be finalized and released publicly in Q1 2013.

Technical Assistance 2012 annual outcomes:

Outcome: Finalize and distribute 2011 statewide business survey research results, incorporating stakeholder recommendations. Research results will be delivered to the Task Force and other stakeholders.

This outcome was met. State stakeholders received the initial results of the 2011 statewide business survey in Q4 2011, and these initial results were presented to the Nevada Broadband Task Force at the January 12, 2012 meeting. Final results were released publicly in Q2 2012.

Outcome: Develop research plan for years 3 through 5 through collaboration with the Nevada Broadband Task Force. Primary corresponding activities include developing the research plan and seeking NTIA approval for Years 3 through 5.

This milestone was partially met. In Q1 2012, conversations were held during the Nevada Broadband Task Force meetings regarding the methodology and results of Connect Nevada's surveys, and stakeholder input was incorporated into the research plans for years 3-5. The resulting plan was submitted to the NTIA. Upon approval of the plan, residential surveys will commence in Q3 2013 and Q3 2014 and a business survey will be initiated in Q1 2014.

Outcome: Upon approval from Nevada stakeholders and NTIA, the 2012 statewide residential survey research will be initiated, creating spreadsheets with census-defined quotas and weights for 2012. Respondent data will be collected.

This outcome was met. Upon NTIA approval of the 2012 residential survey, Connect Nevada initiated the survey in Q3 2012 and the results were analyzed in Q4 2012. These results will be peer reviewed in Q1 2013, initial results will be provided to state stakeholders and NTIA in Q1 2013, and the results will be finalized and released publicly in Q1 2013.

Outcome: After analysis and review that includes collaborating with the Task Force, the 2012 residential survey will be delivered to the Task Force and other stakeholders as appropriate.

This outcome was partially met. Upon NTIA approval of the 2012 residential survey, Connect Nevada initiated the survey in Q3 2012 and the results were analyzed in Q4 2012. Initial results will be provided to state stakeholders and NTIA in Q1 2013 following completion of the peer review.

Outcome: Facilitate Year 3 peer review of survey results and resulting analysis. Review peer recommendations and update the program as required.

This outcome was partially met. The project team initiated the peer review of the 2012 residential survey by contracting with John Horrigan of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies who serves as the program's peer reviewer. The program's research team began compiling documents summarizing the 2012 residential survey programmatic design, survey results, and resulting analysis for peer review. The peer review of the 2012 residential survey research will be completed in Q1 2013.

Planned activities for next quarter include the public release of the 2012 residential survey results and the initiation of planning activities for the third community broadband summit.

Project Attachment_Planning Teams

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 the next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Planning Teams milestones Year 3, Quarter 4 per approved project plan:

Milestone: Facilitate Year 3 Quarter 4 local broadband planning team activities

This milestone was met. Champions have been identified and community kick-off meetings have been held to initiate the planning process in 13 counties. As a result of this planning effort, 6 community assessments were completed and 5 community planning drafts were initiated, all of which were tailored specifically for each community's unique challenges and opportunities. One plan in Douglas County was finalized and presented to the community. In addition, Douglas County was named the first Certified Connected Community in Nevada and second in the national initiative. An event to present the plan and award was hosted by the local planning team and Connect Nevada on December 13, 2012. During the quarter, the two community tech team specialists supported the training and planning activities for the community planning teams and supported the implementation of projects to address challenges and opportunities. The advisors managed the logistics of these assessment meetings which included scheduling, creating agendas, and following up with wrap-up reports. The program manager and the tech team specialists met weekly to ensure local community issues were addressed at the state level and incorporated into media announcements, stakeholder engagement, and future research initiatives.

Planning Teams 2012 annual outcomes:

Outcome: In partnership with the Nevada Broadband Task Force, Connect Nevada will provide oversight and management of the development and sustainment of local technology planning teams. In Year 3 of the project, facilitation of team activities will continue via the provision of support, development and re-development of training curriculum, meeting coordination and documentation, and the application of continuous improvement. The regional planning consultants will coordinate 30-40 planning meetings in Year 3.

This outcome was met. Thirty-eight local planning teams met in Year 3 to continue efforts to create local strategic plans in coordination with statewide initiatives and with stakeholder groups like the Nevada Broadband Task Force. The training and certification process was adapted to meet the needs of local teams as the project progressed. Additional work was performed at the state and regional level to support these efforts, including collaboration with providers and statewide economic development initiatives, specifically the Stronger Economies Together infrastructure planning initiative created in partnership with the Western Nevada Development Authority, USDA Rural Development, and the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Office.

Outcome: Community action plans will be created that are specifically tailored to the community's unique needs by targeted sector(s) as identified by local stakeholders and supported by Connect Nevada's mapping and research findings, case studies, best practices, and other state resources.

This outcome was met. As a result of the Year 3 planning effort, 6 community assessments were completed and 5 community planning drafts were initiated, all of which were tailored specifically for each community's unique challenges and opportunities. One plan in Douglas County was finalized and presented to the community. In addition, Douglas County was named the first Certified Connected Community in Nevada. Project staff supported the creation of these reports by providing various maps, research findings, etc.

Planned activities for next quarter include the facilitation of local broadband planning team activities.