

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE BROADBAND ADOPTION

General Information

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration	2. Award Identification Number 36-43-B10565	3. DUNS Number 884226288
4. Recipient Organization NEW YORK, CITY OF 75 PARK PL, NEW YORK, NY 10007-2549		
5. Current Reporting Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY) 12-31-2013	6. Is this the last Annual Report of the Award Period? <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No </p>	
7. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.		
7a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Certifying Official Leonie Gordon	7c. Telephone (area code, number and extension)	
	7d. Email Address legordon@doitt.nyc.gov	
7b. Signature of Certifying Official Submitted Electronically	7e. Date Report Submitted (MM/DD/YYYY): 01-28-2014	

PROJECT INDICATORS

1. Does your Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA) project foster a particular broadband technology or technologies? If so, please describe this technology (or technologies) (600 words or less).

This program does not foster any particular broadband technology or technologies.

The respective discounted broadband programs are as follows:

Time Warner Cable

Speed: 1.5 Mbps download / 512kbps upload

Monthly Price: Year 1 - \$0.00, Year 2 - \$9.99, Year 3 - \$14.99, Year 4 - \$19.99, Year 5 - \$19.99

Installation Fees: None

Termination Fees: None

Cablevision

Speed: 15 Mbps download / 2 Mbps upload

Monthly Price: Year 1 - \$14.99, Year 2 - \$14.99, Year 3 - \$14.99 , Year 4 - \$19.99, Year 5 - \$19.99

Installation Fees: None

Termination Fees: None

2a. Please list all of the broadband equipment and/or supplies you have purchased during the most recent calendar year using BTOP grant funds or other (matching) funds, including any customer premises equipment or end-user devices. If additional space is needed, please attach a list of equipment and/or supplies. Please also describe how the equipment and supplies have been deployed (100 words or less).

Manufacturer	Item	Unit Cost per Item	Number of Units	Narrative description of how the equipment and supplies were deployed
CDW Government	Chrome-books	279	44	Computers delivered to Connected Foundations program schools for blended learning classroom instructions.
Totals		279	44	

Add Equipment

Remove Equipment

2b. To the extent you distribute equipment/supplies to beneficiaries of your project, please describe the equipment/supplies you distribute, the quantities distributed, and the specific populations to whom the equipment/supplies are distributed (600 words or less).

The City of New York has collaborated with subrecipient and vendors to ensure key components of the Connected Foundations program are delivered. Over the years, these partnerships have provided public high schools across the five boroughs with the following key deliverables:

(1) Acer Netbook Computers: Through CFY partnership with the NYC Department of Education, the City was able to cumulatively provide 5,160 broadband-ready Acer netbooks (with Ethernet and Wi-Fi Capability) to high school students and their families who fully participated and attended the DIG/IT course and Expo.

(2) The New York City Department of Education was able to distribute over 400 Laptop computers and over 100 supply items (including headphones, A/V equipment, laptop carts, hard drives and monitors) across 69 program high schools to support DIG/IT and Blended Learning course instructions within the classroom.

3. For SBA access and training provided with BTOP grant funds, please provide the information below. Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions, figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the most recent calendar year. For each type of training (other than open access), please count only the participants who completed the course.

Types of Access or Training	Number of People Targeted	Number of People Participating	Total Training Hours Offered
Open Lab Access	0	0	0
Multimedia	0	0	0
Office Skills	0	0	0
ESL	0	0	0
GED	0	0	0
College Preparatory Training	0	0	0
Basic Internet and Computer Use	2,320	2,320	4,640

Types of Access or Training	Number of People Targeted	Number of People Participating	Total Training Hours Offered
Certified Training Programs	0	0	0
Other (please specify): DIG/IT Course	9,303	5,120	286,682
Total	11,623	7,440	291,322

4. Please describe key economic and social successes of your project during the past year, and why you believe the project is successful thus far (600 words or less).

The inception of Connected Foundations project enabled Prime Recipient, subrecipient and vendors to hire staff members to implement and promote broadband adoption and Internet access across public high schools in New York City. Collectively, these partners have helped the target population of over-aged, under-credited high school students gain much-needed skills and competencies as well as on-line educational opportunities. During the past year, the project budget spend down rate and reduction of implementation activities has led to a decrease in the number of jobs resulting in 1.43 Full Time Equivalent jobs being created or retained with Federal dollars during the Q4 2013 reporting period.

Despite the decrease in staffing, this year continued to deliver social successes for NYC Connected Foundations' participants that includes the following:

- (1) The successful distribution of 5,160 Acer net-books to program students enabling them to be better prepared for college, the changing workplace and achieving educational successes post BTOP funding.
- (2) The Department of Education has decided to subsidize DIG/IT web platform and other Blended Learning course licenses to help foster professional development training for teachers so that Digital Literacies remain a part of New York City students' educational curriculum.
- (3) Best practices and lessons learned from Connected Foundations' implementation activities will be used to inform Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Readiness future initiatives on getting students digitally ready. Examples of such practices includes: 1-Professional development on blended learning; 2-Mastery-based grading and formative assessment; 3-Online and blended curriculum development; 4-Online tools for teachers feedback to students; 5-Building of students' digital literacy skills.

5. Please estimate the level of broadband adoption in the community(ies) and/or area(s) your project serves, explain your methodology for estimating the level of broadband adoption, and explain changes in the broadband adoption level, if any, since the project began.

5a. Adoption Level (%):	Narrative description of level, methodology, and change from the level at project inception (600 words or less).
51	Based on our analysis of the City's NYC Connected Foundations (NYC-CF) program, approximately 45% of families were broadband subscribers prior to program implementation of Expos. The current adoption level is higher than the 50% broadband subscribership rate that was originally estimated in the baseline plan.

6. Please describe the two most common barriers to broadband adoption that you have experienced this year in connection with your project. What steps did you take to address them (600 words or less)?

We believe that significant barriers continued to be (1) affordability and (2) perceived relevance. However, attempts were made to mitigate low broadband adoption yields through the expansion of Connected Foundations program offerings (i.e. discounted program and DIG/IT Expos) in existing and new schools to reach and serve the total target number of students.

7. To the extent that you have made any subcontracts or sub grants, please provide the number of subcontracts or sub grants that have been made to socially and economically disadvantaged small business (SDB) concerns as defined by section 8(a) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 647, as modified by NTIA's adoption of an alternative small business size standard for use in BTOP. Please also provide the names of these SDB entities. (150 words or less)

Program subrecipient CFY contracts with 2nd Nature, a Small Disadvantaged Business, to provide local shipping support for the NYC Connected Foundations program on an as needed basis.

8. Please describe any best practices / lessons learned that can be shared with other similar BTOP projects (900 words or less).

NYC Connected Foundations has provided 69 New York City public high schools, students and teachers with access to discounted broadband services and technology access over the years. Program participants' ability to embrace and engage in educational strategies has delivered positive educational outcomes across the five boroughs. Through blended learning courses and competency-based instructional strategies, students have increased proficiency in digital literacy thereby becoming more college/career ready. In addition, school administrators and teachers have enhanced their technology awareness and instructional practices to teaching and learning. Below are few examples of best practices and lessons learned:

- (1) We observed that the usage of DIG/IT or Digital Literacies courses to improve learning, increased students' digital literacy skills and enhanced learning across participating public high schools.
- (2) The inclusion of blended learning strategies to access educational web platform helped students to better acquired educational competency and workforce skills which improved overall engagement and learning.
- (3) Teachers utilization of computer-based instructional model helped increase the efficiency of teaching methodologies which helped them to enhance the ability to better monitor educational content based on students' level.
- (4) The Connected Foundations program Expo format model has positively impacted students' ability to successfully navigate technology while increasing quality of academic work such as writing, presentation and research skills.
- (5) The modification of Digital Literacies courses and DIG/IT web platform education model helped to ensure students learning environment remained supportive. Additionally, the provision of ongoing professional development for teachers led to the development of educational incentives such as badging to better align student/teacher learning experience.
- (6) The inclusion of program management oversight by DoITT has helped to streamline Connected Foundations grant program administration (i.e. contracting, budgetary management, program implementation workflow activity processes,etc.) across the multiple partnership model utilized.