

14Q2 Supplemental Answers Texas

Connected Nation, Inc.

Grant Number 48-50-M09064

Reporting Period End Date 06-30-14

14 a Project Attachment Data Collection

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

The following maps were updated using the most recent semi-annual State Broadband Initiative (SBI) broadband datasets:

- Broadband Availability at 768K (kilobyte)/200K
- Density of Unserved Households
- Broadband Availability at 3M (megabyte)/768K
- Maximum Advertised Download Speed
- Multi-Single Platform
- Provider Density
- Underserved Areas
- Broadband Growth
- Broadband Availability at 3M/768K by Congressional District

In addition, the interactive map was also updated with the datasets and analyzes listed above.

The interactive mapping web application, called My ConnectView, continues to be maintained. The application is housed in a highly available, monitored, and managed environment. My ConnectView is publicly available on the program website (www.connectedtx.org). There were a total 1,073 visits to the interactive map between April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

During this quarter, the project received a total of 8 broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that was also used for verification purposes totaled 3 for this quarter. Users can also request non-confidential mapping data produced for the SBI grant program; 3 such data requests were received between April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

For this reporting period, 559 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 203 companies (out of 215 viable providers) totaling 94.42% within the state of Texas.

Engineering and Technical Services (ETS) staff began the semi-annual data collection process, by soliciting data and providing pertinent deadlines to ensure the highest level of participation during the submission cycle. ETS staff also worked with providers to give them information regarding Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 477, in order to help providers become more familiar with the data

collection process in the future and to help safeguard against issues that could arise between the SBI submission and the new FCC submission process.

ETS staff assisted, as subject matter experts, in several Texas Council of Government regions in review and evaluation of the current state of broadband in their areas.

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 list of providers by county, along with the maximum advertised download/upload speeds and websites, were updated and published online; the list is available in both PDF and spreadsheet formats.

Based on information released by the FCC, maps were created of price-cap carriers and eligible census blocks after review and comparison of the information.

Community Anchor Institution data collection was encouraged on a local perspective through planning team efforts. Community outreach has provided an opportunity to reach multiple sectors on a local level.

Broadband availability numbers were calculated at various speed tiers and technology types based on the semi-annual SBI datasets. This research was posted on the program website and released publicly via press release, blog posts, and social media posts. Some of the key findings include:

- Since October 2011, fixed wireless broadband availability has increased over 23 percentage points and has seen an increase from 73 to 119 in the total number of fixed wireless providers represented on the map.
- Since October 2011, rural broadband availability at 768 Kbps (kilobytes per second) download/200 Kbps upload (excluding mobile wireless and satellite services) has increased over 3 percentage points.
- 55.82% of Texas households now have access to broadband service of at least 25 Mbps (megabytes per second) download/1.5 Mbps upload; this is an increase of 14 percentage points since October 2011 (excluding mobile wireless and satellite services).
- 51.58% of Texas households now have access to broadband service of at least 50 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload; this is an increase of 16 percentage points since October 2011 (excluding mobile wireless and satellite services).
- 30.61% of Texas households now have access to broadband service of at least 100 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload; this is an increase of 13 percentage points since October 2011 (excluding mobile wireless and satellite services).

14 b 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 next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Broadband Capacity Building Milestones Year 5, Quarter 2 per approved project plan:

Milestone: 2014, Quarter 2, Connected Texas program office administration

This milestone was met. The program office in Austin remains fully staffed and interacting with stakeholders, such as the Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Public Utilities Commission, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Education Agency, Texas Computer Education Association, Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Economic Development Council, Texas Department of Information Resources, and the University of Texas, broadband providers, broadband-related partners, and other representatives throughout the state through periodic status reports, continual direct interactions, addressing requests for information or data, and raising awareness of broadband-related news and information through a variety of media. The Texas SBI program remains the go-to subject matter expert for all state agencies with needs regarding broadband adoption, access, and use.

Milestone: Conduct 2014, Quarter 2, Stakeholder Group meeting

This milestone was met. Stakeholder group meetings occurred throughout the quarter, through group settings and/or individual meetings with stakeholders from multiple Councils of Government (COG) including the East Texas COG, Ark-Tex COG, Brazos Valley COG, Rio Grande COG, and Rural Capital COG, as well as meetings with various regional representatives of the Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Education Agency, Texas Workforce Commission, and Texas Economic Development Council. The program manager set the agenda, met with the stakeholders, and utilized these recurring meetings in order to present state partners with programmatic updates and solicit feedback. Notable updates are communicated publicly via blog posts on the program website, Facebook page, and Twitter feed. Stakeholder meetings have allowed staff to continue highlighting program successes with SBI projects such as local community engagement.

Q2 2014 Capacity Building Challenges and Mitigation:

No major challenges were encountered during the quarter.

Capacity Building Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

2014, Quarter 3, Connected Texas program office administration

Conduct 2014, Quarter 3, Stakeholder Group meeting

14 b 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 next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Technical Assistance Milestones Year 5, Quarter 2, per approved project plan:

Milestone: Peer Review of the 2014 statewide residential survey

This milestone was not met. In 2012 the timeline for the statewide residential survey was revised. In an effort to ensure methodologically sound surveys the timeline for all subsequent residential surveys was adjusted, such as the 2014 statewide residential survey. As a result, this survey is scheduled to be

initiated in Q3 2014. The peer review of the residential survey cannot take place until the survey is complete. This milestone is anticipated to be met in Q3 2014.

Milestone: Analyze 2014 business survey research results

This milestone was partially met. The 2014 business survey was initiated in Q1 2014 and completed in Q2 2014. Research staff analyzed the business survey data and created the initial results. The initial results, survey script, and methodology documents were sent for peer review. Survey results will be presented to the NTIA and state stakeholders upon completion of the peer review. Furthermore, discussions will be held regarding the format of the final report and customizable analysis options for the survey data. A report outlining the initial results of the 2014 statewide business survey will be released to our stakeholders as appropriate.

Milestone: Finalize 2014 residential survey script

This milestone was partially met. The development of the 2014 residential survey script began in Q2 2014. Internal discussions and a draft of the survey script were completed during the quarter. Feedback has been solicited from our program partner, the Texas Department of Agriculture. Any feedback will be considered and may be incorporated into the survey script. The survey script will be finalized in Q3 2014 immediately prior to the scheduled initiation of the 2014 statewide residential survey.

Milestone: Plan the 2014 Annual Statewide Strategic Broadband Planning Meeting

This milestone was partially met. Initial discussions were held with the Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) and the University of Texas in anticipation of holding a joint event in Q4 of this year. Further planning sessions will occur in Q3 2014 working toward a date in October 2014 for the Annual Statewide Strategic Broadband Planning Meeting.

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

Year 5, Quarter 1, Outstanding Milestone: Finalize and distribute 2013 residential survey research results

This milestone was met. The peer review of the 2013 residential survey was completed during Q2 2014 and the results were finalized during the same quarter. The survey results were distributed in person to the Texas Department of Agriculture. Results were also released to other stakeholders and the public via an update to the program website, including through the use of an interactive graphical trends designed to highlight data within the results. A media release and social media postings were also completed as part of the distribution.

Year 5, Quarter 1, Outstanding Milestone: Peer Review of the 2014 business survey

This milestone was partially met. The 2014 business survey was completed in Q2 2014. Research staff analyzed the business survey data and created initial results. The initial results, survey script, and methodology documents were sent for peer review. Dr. Sharon Strover from the University of Texas at Austin, began a peer review of the business survey in Q2 2014, and is still conducting the review process. Peer review is expected to be completed in Q3 2014.

Year 4, Quarter 3, Outstanding Milestone: Peer Review of the 2013 residential survey

This milestone was met. Dr. Sharon Strover from the University of Texas at Austin began the peer review process last quarter, however during the peer review the reviewer encountered technical difficulties with the statistical software package being used to review Connected Texas' initial results. The technical difficulties were resolved, and the peer review of the 2013 statewide residential survey was completed

in Q2 2014. Dr. Stover agreed with the survey instrument used and generally agreed with the survey results. Some minor discrepancies were noted in the findings; however, no changes were needed.

Year 5, Quarter 2, Technical Assistance Challenges and Mitigation:

No major challenges were encountered during the quarter.

Technical Assistance Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

Finalize and distribute 2014 business survey research results

Initiate 2014 residential survey research

Facilitate the 2014 Annual Statewide Strategic Broadband Planning Meeting

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

According to the 2013 Residential Technology Assessment released this quarter, 77% of households in the state subscribe to home broadband service, up from 62% in 2010. Mobile broadband usage has also grown in Texas. Nearly two thirds of Texas adults (66%) use mobile broadband service, up from 37% in 2010 when Connected Texas began measuring this trend. More than 953,000 school-age children in Texas still may not have broadband access at home. More than 4.4 million working-age adults in Texas would need assistance with tasks that are often required by employers, such as creating a spreadsheet, going online from a mobile device, using a word processor, or sending an e-mail. Nearly four out of five non-adopters in Texas (79%) say that it would be easier for them to shop, seek out healthcare information, or interact with government offices if they had Internet access at home. Statewide, more than two million households still do not subscribe to home broadband service. For many of these households, the main barrier to home broadband adoption is the belief that broadband is not relevant or beneficial to them.

14 b 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 next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Planning Teams Milestones Year 5, Quarter 2 per approved project plan:

Milestone: Conduct Year 5, Quarter 2 planning team meetings

This milestone was met. Program staff planned, scheduled, and facilitated meetings with multiple communities during the quarter. These planning meetings discussed the Connected community engagement program, identified broadband resources in the communities, conducted local broadband planning, or gathered information to assemble a Technology Action Plan to work toward meeting Connected certification requirements. Invitations were prepared, agendas created, sign-in sheets gathered, and meeting notes taken during these meetings.

A regional community engagement effort commenced, in the northeastern part of the state, in partnership with the East Texas and Ark-Tex Council of Governments. Program staff will lead the 23

counties under the COGs' jurisdictions through the Connected community engagement program to complete community assessments regarding broadband access, adoption, and use. The goal is to develop a regional broadband plan to benefit the COGs and their communities.

Eighteen (18) communities in Texas are actively engaged in the Connected community engagement program and are working toward completion of a technology action plan. Fourteen communities in Texas have completed technology action plans during the life of the program. These 32 communities contain a total of 269 planning team members.

Maps depicting the status of counties/communities engaged in the Connected program were updated and have been provided via the "14Q2_Project Attachment_Question 5_Texas" document.

The City of Sealy, Texas completed a technology action plan at the end of the quarter, but it was not released to the public. An event to announce and release the plan is scheduled for Q3 2014.

Q2 2014 Challenges and Mitigation:

No major challenges were encountered.

Technical Assistance Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

Conduct Year 5, Quarter 3 planning team meetings

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

Multi-sector technology planning teams participating in the Connected community engagement program have identified the following technology assets within their own communities:

Total planning team members: 269

Public computer centers: 61

Digital literacy programs: 31

Broadband awareness programs: 57

Broadband programs focused on vulnerable populations: 86

These assets are inventoried during each community's assessment of local broadband access, adoption, and use and can be leveraged to develop locally relevant digital inclusion strategies during the community team's action planning process in an effort to continue to close the digital gaps in their communities.