

**Q4 2013 Quarterly Performance Progress Report  
Capacity Building Project  
Questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**

**1. Budget**

No changes to the capacity building project budget occurred in Q4 2013.

As a reminder, however, the following wording was included in the Q3 2013 quarterly performance progress report (PPR). The Federal Funds Awarded for the Subcontracts Total category on the Capacity Building tab was increased by \$14,000 as explained in the comments pertaining to Table 9 of the 2013 Quarterly Performance Progress report included in the document titled 13Q3PPR\_Questions\_9\_10\_11\_12\_UT.docx which is quoted here.

“The Total Federal Funding Amount for the Capacity Building and Data Collection projects in this table has changed since the Q2 2013 Performance Progress Report (PPR) but the net of the changes is zero. The changes to this table reflect the changes explained in the 2013 Q2 Quarterly PPR as follows: “During contract negotiations with the Association of Governments (AOG) it was determined that one AOG (Wasatch Front Regional Council) would require \$14,000 additional funding due to the fact this council covers a much greater share of the Utah population (which includes both rural and urban sections) than the other AOGs and additional funding would be required in order to complete the scope of work required for regional planning activities. In order to fund this activity, the Project has identified savings from the website development activities completed by Utah Interactive (#1 above) which will now be used to fund the incremental \$14,000.” These changes are now reflected in the project totals for Capacity Building and Data Collection in the Q3 2013 Quarterly PPR both in this table and on the PPR SBI Attachment Spreadsheet.

Line 1: Capacity Building, Total Federal Amount: 1,455,123 (+14,000)

Line 2: Data Collection, Total Federal Amount: 2,652,952 (-14,000)

As explained to the Program Officer on May 23, 2013, the net of these changes is zero, and no budget amendment was necessary.”

**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.**

\*\*\*\*Implement recommendations made in State Broadband Plan – The first draft of the State Broadband Plan has been completed. The team anticipates the final plan will include the results of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)-approved Utah regional broadband planning council efforts currently underway within Utah’s seven Associations of Governments (AOGs). This effort is scheduled to be completed mid-2014. Second, in response to the announcement by NTIA that federal funding of State

Broadband Initiative (SBI) programs will not continue beyond 2014, the Project Team has begun work to identify a possible funding mechanism for the continuation of broadband planning beyond 2014. Since the results of these efforts will either affect the content or direction of the final Plan, the team has determined it is appropriate to postpone this milestone until such time that the information and/or results can be included. The Project Team will continue its efforts to develop the overall framework for the plan in order for the Plan to be completed and approved prior in Q3 or early Q4 2014.

\*\*\*\*Execute state event for regional councils and stakeholders – The Utah Broadband Project hosted the 2013 Broadband Tech Summit on October 24, 2013 at the Utah Valley Convention Center in Provo, Utah. More than 250 participants attended the event including broadband providers, local government leaders and regional planning team members. The summit featured keynote speakers from Overstock.com, US Ignite and the University of Utah. Breakout sessions included topics on broadband planning for local governments, broadband and economic development, broadband availability, speed technology and coverage and integrating broadband technology into emergency preparedness. Videos of the summit can be found on the Utah Broadband Project website at <http://broadband.utah.gov/2013/11/27/2013-broadband-tech-summit-videos-available>.

\*\*\*\*Final Version of Public Access Survey to be completed and released publicly – The Utah Broadband Project has released a list of public access centers on the project website at <http://broadband.utah.gov/public-access-wifi-2/>. This information will help non-adopters identify locations where they can use computers and Wi-Fi for free. The project team is also working on adding to this list and updating the functionality of this page. A more advanced version with additional functionality and content will be released during Q1 2014.

**3. If the project team anticipates requesting any changes to the approved project plan in the next quarter, describe these below. Note that any substantive changes to the project plan must be approved by the Department of Commerce before implementation.**

The Project Team does not anticipate any additional changes to the Project Plan but will maintain ongoing communication with its assigned program officer if issues arise.

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

During the quarter, the project team completed the following milestones based on recommendations made in the June 2012 Utah Broadband Advisory Council Report:

#### **Education**

Promote the continuation of the Utah Education Network (UEN) model for the aggregated utilization of E-Rate funding for schools, libraries and state offices, which has been vital for connectivity in rural and low-income communities.

- Participated in the UEN Advisory Council and discussed ways to maximize the utilization of E-Rate funding for the benefit of schools, libraries and other qualified community anchor institutions.

Work with Utah's telecommunications providers, continue to meet the communication and information technology needs of UEN stakeholders with cost-effective services and solutions.

- Published the [November 2013 Map of the Month](#) which gave an overview of Utah's current student to computing ratios and held a discussion at the November Utah Broadband Advisory Council on current and future classroom technology needs.

### **Economic Development**

Continue meeting with local economic development groups and service providers to collaborate on strategies to improve high-capacity access and redundancy.

- Worked with the multiple stakeholders including the Sundance Film Festival, Summit County, Park City and Big Water, to identify broadband availability issues and discuss options for future actions to promote broadband deployment.

### **Public Safety**

Coordinate with Utah's FirstNet designee on opt-in or opt-out plans for the NPSBN and State and/or Local grant efforts.

- Continued meetings with the State Interoperability Executive Committee's Broadband Subcommittee to advise the State of Utah on the establishment of FirstNet and on the build out of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN).

### **Tribal Broadband Access**

Work with tribal representatives to develop strategies to improve broadband access and availability on tribal lands.

- Attended a Tribal Leadership Meeting where broadband access on tribal lands was discussed. The tribes are working with the Utah Broadband Project and Utah's FirstNet designee to develop strategies to improve access on tribal lands.
- Met with the Navajo tribe to discuss mobile broadband coverage on tribal lands.

### **Transportation**

Develop a strategy to improve coordination with cities and counties and encourage them to follow UDOT's model of laying conduit during road construction projects where feasible.

- Worked with regional broadband planning councils to develop measurable milestones. All of the planning councils plan to work with local communities to encourage best practices including dig-once policies.

### **Additional Milestones**

- Met with new providers to encourage participation on the project and inclusion on the Utah Broadband Map.

- Completed second wireless broadband verification drive test and will work with the mapping team to analyze data and conclude results during the upcoming quarter.
- Continued meetings of the Utah Broadband Advisory Council, which featured presentations on Utah's Mobile Drive Test, broadband access on tribal lands as presented by the Utah Telehealth Network, the project's upcoming Residential Demand Survey, and Utah's Regional Broadband Planning Councils initiative. The meetings were conducted on September 19 and December 5, 2013.
- Conducted site visits to all of Utah's seven Regional Broadband Planning Councils.
- Worked with Regional Broadband Planning Councils to complete milestones to date which included developing measurable milestones, conducting regional needs assessments, and assisting in the planning and execution of the 2013 Broadband Tech Summit.

### **Western Regional SBI Workshop**

Representatives of the Project discussed issues surrounding changing the proposed Regional Broadband Summit to a regional SBI workshop with the NTIA Program Officer in December 2013. Based on these conversations and NTIA input it was decided a regional SBI Grantee workshop would better suit the needs of the project and is currently scheduled for February 7, 2014.

### **5. Attach as a separate document any success stories or best practices you have identified. Please be as specific as possible.**

**Best Practice: Project Newsletter** – The project team continued the publication of its monthly project newsletter. The newsletter is distributed to approximately 714 unique email recipients, many of whom are executive-level contacts. The newsletters are also helping drive traffic to the project website, map and blog. Click on the following links to view the [October](#), [November](#) and [December](#) newsletters.

**Best Practice: Map of the Month Series** – The project team also continued work on its Map of the Month series. The series is being used to highlight broadband availability and other pertinent issues using context from Utah's rich collection of digital mapping data.

- The [October 2013 Map of the Month](#) analyzed broadband speed changes in Utah from 2010 to 2013.
- The [November 2013 Map of the Month](#) analyzed Utah's student to computer ratio.
- The [December 2013 Map of the Month](#) analyzed broadband availability on federal lands.