

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Performance Progress Report

2. Award Or Grant Number

02-50-M09071

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

01-04-2012

1. Recipient Name

Connected Nation, Inc.- Alaska

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:

The State of Alaska

3. Street Address

1020 College Street,

8. Final Report?

Yes

No

9. Report Frequency

Quarterly

Semi Annual

Annual

Final

5. City, State, Zip Code

Bowling Green, KY 42102-3448

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

06-01-2010

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

05-31-2015

7b. Reporting Period End Date:

12-31-2011

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

Nothing to Report.

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

No data has been collected through extraction or extrapolation.

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

Esri is deploying and hosting the BroadbandStat (BBStat) web application. Esri houses the customized BBStat application in their highly available, monitored, and managed environment. The scope of services includes setting up a staging environment for data verification and compatibility as well as a production environment for client access.

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.

Within the previous Performance Progress Report (PPR), Connected Nation proposed to target 1 additional company in order to achieve a field validation rate equal to or exceeding 68.18% before December 31, 2011. As of this report, field validation has been completed on 68.18% of the provider universe. Project staff will continue to accumulate multiple service verification points across all previously reported companies.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities? Yes No

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

BroadbandStat is publicly available on the Connect Alaska website (<http://www.connectak.org>) and received a total of 107 visits between October 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011.

Project to date, multiple tests have been conducted on the following providers: Ace Tekk Wireless Internet; AlasConnect, Inc.; Alaska Communications Systems Holdings, Inc. (d.b.a. ACS); Alaska Power and Telephone Company; AT&T, Inc.; Borealis Broadband; Clearwire Corporation; Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Cordova Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; GCI Internet; Ketchikan Public Utilities; Matanuska Telephone Association; SPITwSPOTS LLC; TelAlaska Long Distance, Inc.; and Verizon Wireless.

To date, field validation testing has been completed against 15 companies (out of a universe of 22 viable providers) totaling 68.18% within the state.

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

N/A

Staffing

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

5.69

Connected Nation has numerous staff working on the Connect Alaska project, some at only a small percentage of their time. This approach is beneficial to the project in various ways: some staff provide necessary project support, many staff work together utilizing a team approach, and others are subject matter experts (SMEs) in their respective areas. The project benefits by leveraging the SMEs' knowledge and skills, without the necessity of supporting a more expensive full-time resource.

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?

Connect Alaska's FTEs reported for the quarter include 1.14 FTEs for temporary, cyclical consultants and a base of 4.55 FTEs that consistently contribute to the project. All of our base positions are fully staffed.

This project is fully staffed with a base of 4.55 FTEs.

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Associate Counsel	1	09/14/2009
Business Programmer Analyst	1	04/02/2007
CAI Coordinator	3	12/13/2004
CAI Coordinator	32	09/16/2009
CAI Data Analyst	9	03/24/2009
CAI Data Manager	4	08/09/2010
ETS Analyst	2	11/01/2007
ETS Analyst	6	07/13/2009
ETS Manager	3	07/01/2007
ETS Sr. Analyst	2	02/18/2010
General Counsel	2	01/01/2007
GIS Analyst	1	11/16/2009
GIS Analyst	15	10/19/2009

GIS Services Manager	1	05/15/2007
Outreach & Awareness Manager	6	03/24/2009
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	4	02/02/2009
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	6	01/04/2010
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	13	01/04/2010
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	19	10/01/2007
Program Coordinator	92	05/23/2011
Program Director	15	08/04/2008
Program Manager	42	11/28/2011
Project Coordinator	1	08/01/2008
Project Coordinator	2	04/01/2005
Project Management Director	5	12/16/2009
Project Manager	1	01/14/2008
Project Manager	3	09/04/2007
Project Manager	7	01/14/2008
Project Manager	11	09/01/2006
Project Manager	33	03/16/2010
Provider Relations Manager	6	02/17/2005
Research & GIS Analyst	2	05/14/2007
Research Analyst	2	03/22/2010
Research Analyst	5	06/10/2009
Research Analyst	27	09/19/2011
Research Analyst	35	02/01/2010
Research Analyst	56	02/16/2010
Research Analyst	56	02/16/2010
Research Manager	23	05/14/2007
State Services Manager	5	07/01/2007
State Services Specialist	10	02/02/2009

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
Throughbred Research Group	Research Surveys	Y	Y	02/09/2010	02/08/2012	167,350	0

Various	AK Planning & Application Development	N	N	06/01/2010	05/31/2015	18,622	0
Contract Labor	Contract Labor	N	Y	06/01/2010	05/31/2015	149,973	97,794

Add Row

Remove Row

Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,679,695 10q. How much Remains? \$4,698,503

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$495,155 10s. How much Remains? \$1,103,127

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	\$1,661,362	\$113,635	\$1,774,997	\$462,675	\$69,406	\$532,081
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$356,364	\$24,513	\$380,877	\$93,057	\$27,548	\$120,605
Travel	\$436,598	\$0	\$436,598	\$112,395	\$924	\$113,319
Equipment	\$132,432	\$0	\$132,432	\$69,284	\$0	\$69,284
Materials / Supplies	\$47,610	\$0	\$47,610	\$33,179	\$0	\$33,179
Subcontracts Total	\$1,802,334	\$319,791	\$2,122,125	\$353,767	\$97,794	\$451,561
Subcontract #1	\$476,827	\$0	\$476,827	\$167,350	\$0	\$167,350
Subcontract #2	\$1,000,000	\$125,000	\$1,125,000	\$18,622	\$0	\$18,622
Subcontract #3	\$266,416	\$194,791	\$461,207	\$149,973	\$97,794	\$247,767
Subcontract #4	\$20,408	\$0	\$20,408	\$10,044	\$0	\$10,044
Subcontract #5	\$38,683	\$0	\$38,683	\$7,778	\$0	\$7,778
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$201,988	\$1,110,343	\$1,312,331	\$23,972	\$257,744	\$281,716
Total Direct Costs	\$4,638,688	\$1,568,282	\$6,206,970	\$1,148,329	\$453,416	\$1,601,745
Total Indirect Costs	\$1,739,510	\$30,000	\$1,769,510	\$531,366	\$41,739	\$573,105
Total Costs	\$6,378,198	\$1,598,282	\$7,976,480	\$1,679,695	\$495,155	\$2,174,850
% Of Total	80	20	100	77	23	100

Hardware / Software

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

10v. If yes, please list

Hardware/Software purchases for the project to date include the following:

BroadbandStat - \$63,636

Computers & Software - \$19,229

Speed Test Software - \$4,081

GIS Software Maintenance - \$1,840

Google Earth Pro - \$266

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

Remaining purchases may include SQL server for mapping geodatabase, SQL server software, multiple dedicated storage server, security application, additional backup replication solution, computers, a spectrum analyzer, GPS units, interactive map upgrades/maintenance, esri ArcInfo/ArcGIS maintenance, and speed test updates as well as computers and software maintenance.

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

10y. If yes, please list

Connect Alaska received an Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative Orthoimagery dataset from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources as part of an in-kind match contribution to assist Connect Alaska with its mapping and planning goals - \$177,933

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

10aa. If yes, please list

During Q4 2011, Connect Alaska, working in close coordination with the state of Alaska, continued gathering data on the location and broadband connectivity of Community Anchor Institutions (CAI), in accordance with the data requirements of the SBI Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Technical Appendix. Efforts have been focused on conducting outreach and raising awareness of this important project through a statewide campaign.

Connect Alaska continues to identify key CAI contacts with a specific focus this quarter on the education sector and tribal communities. This quarter Connect Alaska partnered with the State Technology Coordinator at the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED) to gather connectivity data from schools across the state. Additionally Connect Alaska presented a workshop at the Alaska Federation of Natives conference and provided the CAI survey to all attendees. All data gathered from these initiatives will be submitted to National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for the April 2012 submission.

Connect Alaska has an ongoing mission to educate CAI throughout the state on the importance of participating in the project. We continue to utilize our online survey available on the Connect Alaska website and raise awareness of the importance of CAI broadband connectivity. Additionally Connect Alaska is continuing to work closely with members of the Alaska Broadband Task Force who represent key CAI sectors to assist with outreach and data-gathering efforts on behalf of the project.

Additional activities conducted this quarter included:

*Maintained and updated the program files, project plan, and budget for Connect Alaska.

*Compiled the quarterly American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) reports.

... please refer to the Q4 2011 ALASKA Supplemental Answer Document.

10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing
Connect Alaska, during Q4 2011, filled the previously vacated Program Manager position within the Connect Alaska State Program Office. The new Connect Alaska Program Manager assumed the role on November 28, 2011.

In advance of a rollout, the Connect Alaska digital literacy and community engagement program continues to be customized with Alaska stakeholder input to fit the unique broadband landscape and demographics within the state.

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

Connect Alaska maps were used to further identify unserved and underserved areas and to expand service to unserved households.
<http://connectak.org/mapping/>

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

Broadband Capacity Milestones, Year 2, Quarter 4, per approved project plan

* Year 2, Quarter 4 Connect Alaska program office administration – This milestone was met. The Connect Alaska Program Office in Anchorage is now fully staffed and interacting with our Alaskan stakeholders.

* Year 2, Quarter 4 Meeting of the Alaska Broadband Task Force complete – This milestone was met. The Alaska Broadband Task Force convened meetings on October 12 and November 17, 2011.

Broadband Capacity Annual Milestones Year 2

* A Connect Alaska program office run by a program manager will be established in Anchorage within the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) Offices to administer the Connect Alaska program of activities. Activities and deliverables from the program office include a variety of tasks that involve administering the project plan, managing workflow and the timeline, verifying work quality, gathering documentation in support of community projects, and preparing reports as required by DCCED, the Alaska Broadband Task Force, and/or other Alaska stakeholders. – This milestone was met.

* Connect Alaska will work in tandem with the state of Alaska to establish the Alaska Broadband Task Force. The Task Force will meet

at least quarterly to review program progress and offer recommendations for the program and other related programs. Task Force recommendations will be communicated with stakeholders via stakeholder meetings, Connect Alaska website updates, blogs, press releases, reports, or as required by Task Force. – This milestone was met.

... please refer to the Q4 2011 ALASKA Supplemental Answer Document.

11b. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing
Broadband Capacity Building

* The Connect Alaska Program Manager position overseeing the Connect Alaska Program Office in Anchorage, AK was vacated in Q3 2011. A new Connect Alaska Program Manager assumed the role on November 28, 2011 and is currently overseeing the program.

Technical Assistance

* Connected Nation continues to develop a peer review process in conjunction with other state programs. Connected Nation began speaking with potential peer reviewers, established the roles/responsibilities of the peer reviewers, and created the documents for review. At this time, a potential peer reviewer has been identified and the results have been formatted for review. The peer review process is anticipated to be completed in Q1 2012.

* The future research plan is under evaluation. Connect Alaska is working closely with our program stakeholders to ensure upcoming research is meaningful and conducted in a manner so the results can be used to make an impact on broadband access, adoption and use throughout Alaska.

* Connect Alaska continues to conduct outreach with many Alaskan entities. During the outreach process, organizations are researched to determine their ability to replace or co-exist with the ARDORs in partnership activities should any ARDORs decline to participate in the program.

Application Usage and Development

* Discussions on the E-Government Assessment have commenced with our stakeholders but have not been finalized. Further discussions will be conducted in order to refine the E-Government Assessment process. Outside entities may be brought in to conduct or consult on the assessment.

* The Alaska Broadband Task Force has not directed any action to be taken for the purposes of the Application Development Fund at this time. It may do so in 2012.

11c. Does the Project Team anticipate any changes to the project plan for Broadband Planning? Yes No

11d. If yes, please describe these anticipated changes. Please note that NTIA will need to approve changes to the Project Plan before they can be implemented

Broadband Capacity Building

Nothing to report.

Technical Assistance

The State of Alaska desires to have Connected Nation work with Alaska and the Broadband Task Force to administer the Planning Grant portion of the grant in a compliant and efficient manner. Connected Nation will be responsible for implementing the Planning Grant based on the project priorities, scope of work and grant budget for the Planning Grant as established generally by the Alaska Broadband Task Force. A Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted to outline the relationship for administering the grant and funds going forward and is currently under review.

The Alaska Broadband Task Force wishes to use planning funds to develop a set of scenarios to model the types of e-commerce, economic diversification, distance education, public safety, and telemedicine that might result from higher broadband speeds. The modeling would also determine the middle mile infrastructure needed to deliver faster broadband and the rate communities and end users would adopt broadband.

Application Usage and Development

E-Government Assessment functions have not progressed as originally planned due to turnover in the Program Manager role. As a result of the turnover, our Digital Literacy Program Coordinator performed many of the duties of the vacant Program Manager position this quarter. Discussions are ongoing regarding the assessment including the form it should take and how it will be completed.

Funding

11e. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$0

11f. How much Remains? \$0

11g. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$0

11h. How much Remains? \$0

11i. Planning Worksheet

11i. Planning Worksheet						
Personal Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontracts Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Direct Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
% Of Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Additional Planning Information

11j. Are there any additional project milestones or information that has not been included?

*Conducted presentations and meetings with Alaska stakeholders on the past, current, and future activities of the Connect Alaska program.

*Attended the Alaska Federation of Natives annual conference to discuss the broadband landscape across Alaska and resources available from Connect Alaska for individuals and communities.

*Built and unveiled a new interactive website at <http://www.connectak.org> to help support the building of connected communities across the state.

*Created multiple broadband related postings on the Connect Alaska website and on the Connect Alaska Facebook and Twitter sites.

*Reviewed and discussed Universal Service Fund reform developments and implications for Alaska with several Alaskan stakeholders.

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

No additional obstacles or challenges were encountered during the quarter.

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

Broadband Capacity Building

Connect Alaska's presence at the annual Alaska Federation of Natives Conference (AFN) in October 20 offered Alaska Native leaders a direct voice in state broadband planning. Each year the AFN Convention draws more than 4,000 attendees. Connect Alaska offered one-hour discussion workshops at four different times over the course of the convention in order to help give the village leaders a voice in planning for the expansion on quality broadband services in their region. <http://www.connectak.org/blog/post/alaska-native-leaders-being-offered-direct-voice-state-broadband-planning>

Connect Alaska unveiled a new interactive website to help support the building of Connected Communities across the state. <http://>

www.connectak.org/

Technical Assistance

Connect Alaska released residential technology research and launched an interactive webpage providing easy-to-use information about broadband access, adoption, and use in Alaska homes. The data shows that 27% of Alaska residents are without broadband and only 56% of Alaska minorities subscribe to broadband, including many of the state's Natives in bush Alaska. <http://www.connectak.org/survey-results/residential>

Connect Alaska's participation in Seldovia's town meeting and discussion of local broadband on October 13 has resulted in ACS Alaska (Alaska Communications Systems Holdings, Inc.) making Seldovia a demonstration project. ACS Alaska plans to begin installing up to 10mb service to Seldovia in January 2012.

Application Usage and Development

Nothing to Report

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

Bernie Bogle

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

12d. Email Address

bbogle@connectednation.org

12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official

Submitted Electronically

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

01-30-2012