

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Performance Progress Report**

2. Award Or Grant Number

55-50-M09015

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

04-25-2012

1. Recipient Name

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:

Wisconsin

3. Street Address

610 North Whitney Way,

8. Final Report?

Yes

No

9. Report Frequency

Quarterly

Semi Annual

Annual

Final

5. City, State, Zip Code

Madison, WI 53705

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

11-01-2009

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

10-30-2014

7b. Reporting Period End Date:

03-31-2012

9a. If Other, please describe:

na

**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

The Round 5 Data Collection was submitted to NTIA on March 31,2012. The provider information below is current as of that data submission.

The following providers have officially declined to participate in the SBI Program:

\*\*Fibernet Communications Company

\*\*Geneva On-Line, Inc.

\*\*Lakefield Telecom, Inc. (CLEC) - The provider has informed us that they will not be reporting information for their CLEC. They will report information for the ILEC only.

The providers below have not responded to requests for data for the SBI Program. (When available we submit estimated 3rd party data for these providers) We will continue to reach to this group to encourage participation in future rounds.

- Rapid Communication LLC
- Community Antenna System, Inc
- Mid West Data Systems - DBA CyberZone
- DiscoverNet - DBA Wireless WiscoNsin
- GRANITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS LLC - DBA Granite Broadband, Inc
- KAUKAUNA UTILITIES
- NEXVO LLC
- T6 Wireless, Inc. - DBA T6 Broadband
- AirRunner Networks LLC
- Air-Speed.Net
- Tri-County Electronics & Internet Service
- Niagara Community TV Coop.
- Broadview Networks Holdings, Inc.
- CANNON TELEPHONE COMPANY
- CIMCO Communications, Inc.
- Computer Dynamics of NW Illinois, LLC
- Hiercomm Networks

Interlink Computers Tecnology Inc. - DBA UP Logon  
Nextera Holding, LLC - DBA Nextera Wireless  
S & K TV SYSTEMS  
Telephone Associates Telephone Associates  
WISCONSIN RSA #5 CORP

The following provider is no longer in business:  
IBEC

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

The LinkAMERICA team continues to follow consistent procedures within each of our four state projects. We augment provider and CAI data, when necessary, with coverage and speed information from third party sources. We do not substitute third party information for provider-supplied information, however, unless we can independently verify that the provider information is incorrect. Discrepancies between provider and third party data are investigated to ensure data accuracy.

If providers do not submit data, but we are able to verify infrastructure information through other sources, we use common engineering principles to estimate coverage and speed.

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

The following verification processes are under review and have not yet been implemented. Our verification process is provided in section 10h.

**\*\* Mobile Wireless Broadband Drive Testing:** This process will use a special device from a vendor to test signal strength and bandwidth/throughput on multiple mobile wireless signals at the same time. This technology will be used in areas where there is a large discrepancy between provider-reported coverage/speed and consumer-reported coverage/speed to determine the actual coverage and speed characteristics. The feasibility and accuracy of this type of testing is currently under review. If approved a vendor will be selected in 2012.

**\*\* Mobile Wireless Crowd Sourced Testing:** This process will use a proprietary smart phone application, provided by an outside vendor, to constantly check signal strength and bandwidth/throughput on users' mobile phones. The application will be available on multiple phone platforms and will be downloadable by consumers in each LinkAMERICA state. It runs in the background on the consumer's phone and does not impact phone performance. Data is sent from the vendor to LinkAMERICA for use in validating provider coverage and speed reports. A vendor will be selected for this effort in 2012.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities?  Yes  No

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

**\*\* Third Party Data Comparison:** As data arrives from providers we compare submissions against commercial data sources to identify obvious anomalies or areas for further investigation. An example would be the comparison of an ILEC's reported coverage area boundaries with the legal exchange areas shown in the commercial ExchangeInfo data product. Coverage footprints of wireless providers are compared against AmericanRoamer database. This process occurs with each data collection round.

**\*\* Provider Validation:** Check maps and other tools are produced at the beginning of each data collection round, in both Google Earth and PDF format, based upon prior round coverage reports. This flexibility allows Providers the option of updating their coverage boundaries directly within the check map file itself.

**\*\* Data Format Verification:** Proprietary and NTIA-supplied scripts are run against the data set prior to submission to ensure the data is properly formatted and will be fully received upon submittal. This process occurs with each data collection round.

**\*\* Consumer Feedback/Verification:** The LinkWISCONSIN interactive map contains a user feedback mechanism that identifies the precise coordinates of each point of feedback. This layer publicly displays the results from all user feedback and incorporates speed testing into the feedback form to help verify provider-reported speeds.

**\*\* In Round 5 we included the NTIA technology/speed trips into our test code to check for Provider data that fell outside of the normal range as determined by NTIA. We tested Provider data submitted in the previous Round as well as new data submissions. If the data "tripped" a warning flag, clarification was requested from the Provider.**

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

Verification processes are followed each Round. Additional verification options are under review for possible implementation in year 3 & 4.

**Staffing**

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

An analysis of actual hours worked in Q1 2012 shows that the project resulted in .77 FTE jobs created/retained at the Prime Recipient and Sub Recipient level in that quarter. It should be noted that this figure does not include a substantial personnel contribution by the PSCW in order to meet matching fund requirements. It also does not include positions staffed by vendors involved in the project.

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

The program is fully staffed at this time.

10m. When fully staffed, how many full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs do you expect to create or retain as a result of this project?

.77 to 1.0

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
CEO - Supervisory Role	0	11/01/2009
Project Director	4	11/01/2009
Project Manager	25	09/05/2011
GIS Director	20	11/01/2009
Internal System Support/Architecture	2	11/01/2009
Provider Relations Manager	26	11/01/2009

**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
CostQuest Associates Inc./LinkAMERICA Alliance	Project Management/GIS Programming & Planning Services	Y	Y	11/01/2009	10/30/2011	1,717,684	0
CostQuest Associates Inc./LinkAMERICA Alliance	Project Management/GIS Programming & Planning Services	Y	Y	10/31/2011	10/31/2014	1,917,826	0

## Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,676,110 10q. How much Remains? \$2,864,042

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$446,784 10s. How much Remains? \$684,618

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	\$417,150	\$472,331	\$889,481	\$0	\$191,968	\$191,968
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$105,277	\$172,255	\$277,532	\$0	\$73,375	\$73,375
Travel	\$27,500	\$5,784	\$33,284	\$0	\$3,104	\$3,104
Equipment	\$62,418	\$0	\$62,418	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$0	\$27,086	\$27,086	\$0	\$9,406	\$9,406
Subcontracts Total	\$3,635,510	\$0	\$3,635,510	\$1,676,110	\$0	\$1,676,110
Subcontract #1	\$1,717,684	\$0	\$1,717,684	\$1,676,110	\$0	\$1,676,110
Subcontract #2	\$1,917,826	\$0	\$1,917,826	\$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	\$292,297	\$382,580	\$674,877	\$0	\$168,931	\$168,931
Total Direct Costs	\$4,540,152	\$1,060,036	\$5,600,188	\$1,676,110	\$446,784	\$2,122,894
Total Indirect Costs	\$0	\$71,366	\$71,366	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$4,540,152	\$1,131,402	\$5,671,554	\$1,676,110	\$446,784	\$2,122,894
% Of Total	80	20	100	79	21	100

## Hardware / Software

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

10v. If yes, please list

No hardware or software was purchased for the program in Q1 2012. The following purchases were made in previous Quarters and documented on prior reports.

Laptop computer and software for Sub Recipient Project Manager (WI allocated portion): \$352.78

Laptop computer and software for Sub Recipient Vendor Relations Manager (WI allocated portion): \$339.48

Dell Precision T5500 Workstation w/ArclInfo C (WI allocated portion): \$3,458.59\*

\*The ArclInfo software was a necessary purchase to enable CostQuest to run the validation script, on provider data, that NTIA & FCC require for the SBDD program. Purchasing the hardware/software bundle was the most cost effective way to acquire the needed software. Without the hardware the cost for the software alone would have been \$1000 higher. This expense was allocated evenly to each of the four LinkAMERICA states.

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

\*\* Additional hardware and software in the amount of \$30,928 has been allocated for the "Address File" project approved in the Supplemental grant award.

\*\* Additional hardware and software in the amount of \$25,000 for the Mapping project has been approved in Year 5 via the Supplemental grant award. This equipment has not yet been purchased because it will not be needed until the last year of the project as the state assumes responsibility for hosting and management of the provider database and interactive maps.

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

10y. If yes, please list

\*\*American Roamer: Market area boundary and speed data on mobile cellular providers was purchased in Q1 2012 - \$625

\*\*Media Prints: Cable franchise boundary database was purchased in Yr 2. We are reviewing options for this data in Yr 3.

\*\*ExchangeInfo: Legal exchange area boundary database for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers was purchased in Yr 2. We are reviewing options for this data in Yr 3.

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

10aa. If yes, please list

Round 5 Data Submission was delivered to NTIA on March 31, 2012. One day prior to the April 1, 2012 deadline. Status: Complete

10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing

We continue to encounter difficulty in reconciling reported provider speeds for some providers with the NTIA speed range parameters. Providers whose reported data falls outside of the speed norms identified by NTIA are contacted for clarification of their submission. In most instances we find that Providers were using enhanced technologies to achieve the speed reported. Supporting documentation is collected in all instances. Our findings were including in the methodology document we submitted with the Round 5 data submission.

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

We look forward to continued dialog with NTIA regarding the scoring process being used to evaluate SBI data submissions. While we understand and appreciate the need to develop a process that can be used across states to determine the effectiveness of the SBI effort, we are concerned that the complexity of the information being evaluated often makes the validation results difficult to interpret. We have made an effort to develop relationships with the Provider community and be transparent in our processes. We are currently working on developing more robust internal mechanisms to better compare Provider submitted data against third party data-sets identified by NTIA for validation purposes. Assistance and direction in this endeavor is appreciated.

## 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

Pending from Q4 2011

Pending Milestone: Development of available broadband adoption and use outreach and engagement modules including at a minimum identification of delivery partners and budget.

Activities/Accomplishments: Wisconsin Public Service Commission and LinkWisconsin staff reviewed available broadband adoption/ use outreach and engagement modules to determine delivery strategy. It was determined initially that delivery of the modules would be through Regional Planning Teams with leadership from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission Staff and the Statewide Broadband Director to be appointed. No additional training partners are required at this time. The modules are available on-line and no significant budget was determined to be required to support the initial delivery. Status: Complete

Q1 2012 Milestones (additional detail is included in attachment)

1: Implementation of available broadband adoption and use outreach and engagement modules will be launched.

Activities/Accomplishments: All five broadband adoption and use outreach and engagement modules are available on-line for use by Regional Planning Teams. A training and orientation to the five modules was provided to Wisconsin Public Service Commission Staff.

Status: Pending - Initial implementation has been made. Final work pending appointment of Statewide Broadband Director in May 2012.

2: Delivery of on-going training and technical assistance to support broadband adoption and use outreach and engagement initiatives.

Activities/Accomplishments: Training provided to WI PSC on utilizing the LinkWisconsin Demand Survey and Mapping Tool and associated modules. WI PSC delivered an orientation to the Demand Survey and Mapping Tool in two locations in Q1.

Status: On-going through Q2 2012

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

The delay in hiring a Statewide Broadband Director resulted in some lost momentum. It is expected that with this position expected to be filled in May 2012 plans will get back on track without a significant slip in schedule.

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

No changes to report at this time.

### 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

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?

Below are the Q1 2012 key elements of LinkWISCONSIN Capacity Building and Technical Assistance project plan for Yrs. 3-5 (additional detail is included in attachment):

#### Capacity Building Q1

\*\*Establish Wisconsin Statewide Broadband Director. Target Date: Mar 2012– Status: Pending - position has been established and budgeted: Expected to fill position in May 2012.

\*\*Refine Joint Partner Capacity Bldg Plan - Target Date: Mar 2012 – Status: Pending - Two meetings held in Q1 to refine partner roles and working plan, final work to be completed after appointment of Statewide Broadband Director and selection of in-state university partner.

\*\*Refine M&E plans for all nine Wisconsin Planning regions including data collection needs. Status: Pending - A list of possible metrics including inputs, actions, outcomes and impacts has been compiled by VisionTech360 and WI PSC staff. Refinement of M&E metric and development of a data collection plan awaits the identification and contracting with an appropriate Wisconsin University Partner.

\*\* Organize and implement joint, two-day planning workshop engaging key partners including VisionTech360/LinkAMERICA personnel, appointed statewide Broadband Director, in-state Monitoring and Evaluation Partner and in-state capacity training partner. Status: Pending appointment of Statewide Broadband Director and selection of in-state partner.

Tech. Assistance:

\*\*Identify Technical Leaders across the State. Date: Mar. 2012 - Status: Pending hiring of Statewide Broadband Director

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

The delay in selecting a University Partner will impact the accomplishment of key objectives associated with the Wisconsin Monitoring and Evaluation deliverable. We anticipate that this will cause a delay to the current schedule and push the final M&E work out to Quarter 1, 2013. This delay is not anticipated to significantly impact the overall success of the Wisconsin Monitoring and Evaluation initiative.

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

In section 10t, the Budget Worksheet, amounts reported here for Travel and Materials/Supplies are correct. Certain of these entries differ from previous PPRs, because in those earlier filings the entries for the Proposed In-Kind column (and thus the Total Budget column) had been reversed between these two categories.

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

Gary Evenson

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

12d. Email Address

Gary.Evenson@wisconsin.gov

12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official

Submitted Electronically

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

06-06-2012