

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Performance Progress Report

2. Award Or Grant Number

02-50-M09071

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

04-11-2011

1. Recipient Name

Connected Nation, Inc.- Alaska

6. Designated Entity On Behalf 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 42101-2137

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:

03-31-2011

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

• Alaska Communications Systems (ACS): After ongoing discussions with provider, they elected to not participate in this round; however, ongoing discussions and NDA negotiations indicate that ACS may participate in October 2011 submission – Refused to Participate

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

We have not collected any data through extraction programs.

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

ESRI is deploying and hosting our BroadbandStat web application. ESRI hosts the customized 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 area for client access.

Connected Nation also collects consumer feedback in the form of broadband inquiries. 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 collected through the SBDD program. This allows for a real-world comparison of the broadband landscape to 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 inventory maps indicate that they do. If residents within a region state that they are without broadband, but the broadband maps show otherwise, this allows Connected Nation to approach providers within that area in an effort to trim their coverage to more accurately represent real-world availability.

Field validation activities and provider outreach have been planned for May through August of 2011. For example, the Alaska Telephone Association's annual meeting will be held in Valdez and a representative from Connected Nation will be in attendance and conducting on-site field validation activities. Three companies will be targeted for initial validation during this period in order to achieve a total field validation rate equal to or exceeding 68% (currently 54.55%).

Connected Nation intends to use these travel opportunities to attempt to meet with representatives from federally recognized tribal communities and community anchor institutions.

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 and received a total of 200 visits between January 1, 2011 and

March 31, 2011.

During this quarter, the Connect Alaska project received a total of 4 broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that can also be used for verification purposes totaled 1 for this quarter.

Connected Nation's staff has conducted extensive field validation tests in Alaska on the following providers: Ace Tekk Wireless Internet, AlasConnect, Inc., Alaska Telephone Company, AT&T, Borealis Broadband, Clearwire Corporation, Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative Inc., GCI Internet, Ketchikan Public Utilities, Matanuska Telephone Association, SPITwSPOTS LLC, and TelAlaska Long Distance Inc.

To date, Connected Nation has completed field validation testing against 12 companies (out of a universe of 22 viable providers) totaling 54.55% 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?

2.71

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 in their respective areas and by leveraging their expertise the project benefits by their 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

The positions not currently staffed are related to Connect Alaska's new broadband capacity, technical assistance, and application development activities that are only just beginning and as such have no impact on the project's time line. The positions are expected to be filled during the second and third quarters of 2011.

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

4.71

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Associate Counsel	2	09/14/2009
Business Programmer Analyst	1	04/02/2007
CAI Coordinator	42	09/16/2009
CAI Coordinator	3	12/13/2004
CAI Data Analyst	8	03/24/2009
CAI Data Manager	2	08/09/2010
ETS Analyst	2	07/13/2009
ETS Analyst	2	11/01/2007
ETS Analyst	1	08/03/2009
ETS Manager	4	07/01/2007

ETS Sr. Analyst	20	02/18/2010
General Counsel	5	01/01/2007
GIS Analyst	10	10/19/2009
GIS Services Manager	4	05/15/2007
Outreach & Awareness Manager	4	03/24/2009
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	4	02/02/2009
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	4	10/01/2007
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	1	01/03/2010
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	6	01/04/2010
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	14	01/04/2010
Project Coordinator	5	04/01/2005
Project Management Director	11	12/20/2004
Project Manager	7	01/14/2008
Project Manager	3	12/16/2009
Project Manager	3	08/20/2007
Project Manager	25	03/16/2010
Project Manager	1	09/01/2006
Project Manager	1	01/14/2008
Provider Relations Manager	8	02/17/2005
Research & GIS Analyst	1	05/14/2007
Research Analyst	21	02/01/2010
Research Analyst	3	06/01/2009
Research Manager	14	05/14/2007
State Services Associate	1	12/20/2009
State Services Manager	28	07/01/2007

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
Thoroughbred Research Group	Research Surveys	Y	Y	02/09/2010	02/08/2012	87,350	0
State of Alaska	Planning Activities and Application Development Activities	N	N	06/01/2010	05/31/2015	1,000,000	125,000
Contract Labor	Contract Labor	N	Y	06/01/2010	05/31/2015	266,416	194,791

Add Row

Remove Row

Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$834,316 10q. How much Remains? \$5,543,882

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$361,032 10s. How much Remains? \$1,237,250

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	\$208,645	\$36,634	\$245,279
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$356,364	\$24,513	\$380,877	\$43,386	\$14,805	\$58,191
Travel	\$436,598	\$0	\$436,598	\$64,421	\$0	\$64,421
Equipment	\$132,432	\$0	\$132,432	\$63,687	\$0	\$63,687
Materials / Supplies	\$47,610	\$0	\$47,610	\$20,033	\$0	\$20,033
Subcontracts Total	\$1,802,334	\$319,791	\$2,122,125	\$170,759	\$71,834	\$242,593
Subcontract #1	\$476,827	\$0	\$476,827	\$43,675	\$0	\$43,675
Subcontract #2	\$1,000,000	\$125,000	\$1,125,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #3	\$266,416	\$194,791	\$461,207	\$113,375	\$71,834	\$185,209
Subcontract #4	\$20,408	\$0	\$20,408	\$7,871	\$0	\$7,871
Subcontract #5	\$38,683	\$0	\$38,683	\$5,838	\$0	\$5,838
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$201,988	\$1,110,343	\$1,312,331	\$5,296	\$196,020	\$201,316
Total Direct Costs	\$4,638,688	\$1,568,282	\$6,206,970	\$576,227	\$319,293	\$895,520
Total Indirect Costs	\$1,739,510	\$30,000	\$1,769,510	\$258,089	\$41,739	\$299,828
Total Costs	\$6,378,198	\$1,598,282	\$7,976,480	\$834,316	\$361,032	\$1,195,348
% Of Total	80	20	100	70	30	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
- GIS Software Maintenance-\$1,840
- Computers & Software-\$5,826
- Speed Test Software-\$2,686
- 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 servers, security application, additional backup replication solution, computers, GPS units BroadbandStat maintenance, ArchInfo/Arc GIS 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

All data sets used in this project have been contributed in-kind. Data sets used by the project to date and their respective in-kind contribution value are as follows:

- Incorporated Town Boundaries-\$2,000
- Federal and State Land Ownership Data-\$7,800
- AK Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative's Orthoimagery Dataset - \$177,933

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

10aa. If yes, please list

- * Revised the project schedule, budget, and work breakdown structure with the revised SBDD timeline
 - * Conducted planning discussions on the supplemental grant awarded by the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program
 - * Submitted project plans to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for the awarded supplemental grant
 - * Continued to process speed tests and broadband inquiries from the Connect Alaska website
 - * Updated the project outreach plan
 - * Produced and distributed bi-weekly status reports, data collection activity logs, and website statistics to the Connect Alaska project team
 - * Created and distributed an electronic newsletter to email contacts throughout Alaska to assist in identifying and collecting data from Community Anchor Institutions within Alaska
 - * Continued to solicit and process broadband coverage datasets from the provider community
 - * Submitted Alaska broadband provider mapping data updates in accordance with the NTIA semi-annual requirements
 - * Previewed the results of the Connect Alaska business technology survey to Alaska stakeholders and discussed opportunities for a public release
 - * Created and uploaded broadband provider density maps, provider-reported download speed maps, underserved area maps, and Multi/Single platform maps to the Connect Alaska website
 - * Updated the BroadbandStat application with coverage additions and new color displays
 - * Created and posted job descriptions for the Connect Alaska Program Manager and Connect Alaska Program Coordinator positions
 - * Interviewed candidates for the Connect Alaska Program Manager and Program Coordinator positions
 - * Submitted the required quarterly project reports to the NTIA
 - * Attended the inaugural meeting of the Alaska Broadband Task Force and provided an overview of the Connect Alaska program
 - * Investigated aerial imagery data sets belonging to the State of Alaska for use in the Connect Alaska broadband mapping project
- 10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing

All deadlines have been achieved. There currently have not been any obstacles encountered.

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

On September 27, Connect Alaska received notice of a grant award extending SBDD mapping and planning activities for an additional three years. The project plan has been revised to include these new activities and has been formally submitted to NTIA for approval during this quarter.

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

On behalf of the state of Alaska, Connected Nation (CN) worked with its subcontractors to analyze demand-side data collected through statistical telephone surveys of 817 businesses statewide. Initial data analysis was completed in Q4 2010, and a report containing in-depth survey analysis was provided to the state in Q1 2011. CN designed these surveys to measure technology adoption, barriers to adoption, and awareness of available broadband service among Alaska businesses, and those results were compared to statewide availability figures provided by participating Internet service providers.

In addition, CN wrote the survey instrument for the 2011 Residential Technology Assessment telephone survey, incorporating recommendations received from state stakeholders where appropriate. These surveys are designed to measure trends in technology

developing this survey instrument.

Connect Alaska composed and submitted the first SBDD Detailed Project Plan, Timeline, and Budget (Project Plan). As of the close of the quarter, the Project Plan has been accepted and recommendations for changes have been received. Those changes are in process with resubmission pending.

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

Connected Nation has been relying heavily on Alaska's recommendations to ensure that our work, as well as the work of our subcontractors, exceeds expectations.

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

All planning costs have been combined with the mapping costs and reported in the mapping section above.

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)

06-16-2011