U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	2. Award Or Grant Number
	01-50-M09013

Performance Progress Report	4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
	07-12-2011

1. Recipient Name	6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)	N/A

3. Street Address	8. Final Report?	9. Report Frequency
P.O. Box 5690, 401 Adams Avenue,	◯ Yes ◉ No	◉ Quarterly ◯ Semi Annual ◯ Annual ◯ Final

5. City, State, Zip Code	
Montgomery, AL 36104-5690	

7. Project / Grant Period Start Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)	7a. End Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)	7b. Reporting Period End Date:	9a. If Other, please describe:
11-01-2009	10-30-2014	06-30-2011	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

Total provider count and the status of each provider was supplied in the datapackage.xls file submitted with the complete Round 3 Alabama dataset on April 1, 2011. There was no additional data collection in Q2 2011. The next round of data collection (Round 4) begins on July 11, 2011.

As previously reported, only two providers in Alabama have formally declined to participate in the program through Round 3. They are:

**Broadview Network Holdings, Inc.: Declined to Participate - this provider has declined to participate in the program. We continue to contact them with each new round of data collection, but they have not changed their position.
**Castleberry Communications Inc.: Declined to Participate - this provider has declined to participate in the program. We continue to contact them with each new round of data collection, but they have not changed their position.

As reported last quarter, the remaining providers either participated in the Round 3 data collection effort or were non-responsive to our data requests (but did not formally decline 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

As has been previously reported, the LinkAMERICA team verifies and augments provider and CAI data with coverage and speed information from third party sources. This activity is repeated in each data collection round. We do not substitute third party information for provider-supplied information unless we can independently verify that the provider information is incorrect. More often we use discrepancies to identify areas where further investigation is required.

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. We are also collecting user feedback (discussed below in the verification section) via location-specific feedback mechanisms on the state interactive map.

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

The LinkAMERICA team uses consistent data verification procedures in each data collection round - adding new procedures after they have been developed and tested. These procedures are common to all four LinkAMERICA states. As previously described, we believe verification can be segmented into four distinct categories/activities:

** Third Party Data Comparison: As data arrives from providers we compare submissions against several commercial data sources to identify obviously anomalies or areas for further investigation. An example would be the comparison of an ILECs 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: PDF check maps and other tools are produced at the beginning of each data collection round based upon prior round coverage reports. In Q2 2011 LinkAMERICA added the ability to supply check maps in GoogleEarth format, allowing providers o update coverage boundaries directly within the check map. This new process will be launched in the Round 4 data collection period and will occur with each subsequent data collection round

** Data Format Verification: Proprietary and NTIA-supplied scripts are run against the dataset 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 ConnectingALABAMA interactive map contains a user feedback mechanism that identifies the precise coordinates of each point of feedback. As more user feedback arrives, we are able to examine this data to identify and investigate areas where consumer feedback conflicts with provider information - this process occurs with each data collection round.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities? ◉Yes   ◯No

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

As described above, these activities occur and are improved upon with each data collection round.

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

Our existing verification practices will soon be enhanced as follows:

** Improved user feedback form and display layer: A new layer is being added to the state interactive map to display the location of user feedback points. This additional information will help other users understand where coverage may be in question, and will help the mapping team better identify areas for increased investigation. The feature will be released in Q3 2011.

** 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 - commences in early 2012.

** Mobile Wireless Crowd Sourced Testing: This process will use a proprietary smart phone app, provided by a vendor, to constantly check signal strength and bandwidth/throughput on the user's mobile phone. 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 - commences in early 2012.

Staffing

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

In Q2 2011 SBDD funding resulted in 3 FTEs at the Prime Recipient level and 0.62 total FTEs at the Subrecipient level - for a total of 3.62 FTEs.

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

Due to cuts in state staffing the administrative assistant to the program has not been filled, and we do not currently have an anticipated hire date.

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

A total of 3.5-4. FTEs (depending upon number of hours worked by Prime and Sub-Recipient staff members each quarter)

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
CEO_Supervisor Role	1	11/01/2009
Project Director	3	11/01/2009
Project Manager	20	11/01/2009
GIS Director	9	11/01/2009

Internal System Support/Architecture	6	11/01/2009
Provider Relations Manager	23	11/01/2009
Regional Coordinator	100	09/07/2010
Regional Coordinator	100	09/07/2010
Regional Coordinator	100	08/30/2010

Add Row	Remove Row

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 and Planning	N	Y	11/09/2009	10/31/2011	1,499,424	475,567
TBD	Develop Measurement and Evaluation Tools	N	N	10/03/2011	09/30/2014	1,760,324	347,302

Add Row	Remove Row

Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? $1,233,748   10q. How much Remains? $3,640,394

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? $518,025   10s. How much Remains? $701,458

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	$903,096	$228,405	$1,131,501	$77,752	$0	$77,752
Personnel Fringe Benefits	$434,254	$85,318	$519,572	$42,085	$0	$42,085
Travel	$88,715	$0	$88,715	$7,781	$0	$7,781
Equipment	$64,700	$0	$64,700	$0	$0	$0
Materials / Supplies	$19,044	$0	$19,044	$5,460	$0	$5,460
Subcontracts Total	$3,259,748	$895,752	$3,607,050	$1,065,750	$518,025	$1,583,775
Subcontract #1	$1,499,424	$475,028	$0	$1,065,750	$518,025	$1,583,775
Subcontract #2	$1,760,324	$347,302	$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	$841	$0	$841
Total Direct Costs	$4,769,557	$1,209,475	$5,979,032	$1,199,668	$518,025	$1,457,885
Total Indirect Costs	$104,585	$10,008	$114,593	$34,079	$0	$34,079
Total Costs	$4,874,142	$1,219,483	$6,093,625	$1,233,748	$518,025	$1,751,773
% Of Total	80	20	0	25	42	0

Hardware / Software

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

10v. If yes, please list

Laptop computer and software for Sub Recipient Project Manager (AL allocated portion): $352.78
This is the same list of equipment provided in previous reports:

Laptop computer and software for Sub Recipient Vendor Relations Manager (AL allocated portion): $339.48
2 Desktop PCs: $2464.00
1 Presentation Projector: $374.00
1 Uninterrupted Power Supply: $121.00
1 Printer: $375.10

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

Once again, as previously noted, all software/hardware listed in the budget for Years 1-2 has been purchased. Software and Hardware for transition of the interactive maps to state hosting, in the amount of $44,700 will be purchased in 2012. This purchase will include a Database Server, Web/GIS Server, and external storage device, and the necessary MS SQL Server and ESRI software licenses.

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

10y. If yes, please list

American Roamer: Wireless coverage information - $5147
Media Prints: Cable system information - $500
ExchangeInfo: ILEC exchange area boundaries - $3805

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

10aa. If yes, please list

In mid-May 2011 the LinkAMERICA team updated the ConnectingALABAMA interactive map with the newest data collected and submitted to NTIA on April 1st. Several additional features were added to the map at the same time, making it easier for users to see Maximum Advertised Speed available for each technology type.

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

No significant challenges were encountered in Q2. However, as we began planning for the Round 4 data submission cycle it became clear that the transition to 2010 Census Blocks and other changes requested by NTIA will slightly complicate our efforts in Q3 2011. We do not anticipate any serious setbacks, however, and will report upon our progress against these obstacles in next quarter's report.

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

"The National Broadband Map continued to create a small number of complaints from both consumers and providers in Q2 2011. Providers are particularly frustrated that the Round 3 data has not yet appeared on the NBM. It is now over three and half months from the submission date (April 1) and six and a half months from "vintage" date for the last round (Dec. 31, 2010).   Providers question the value of maps with such dated information and are concerned that consumers won't be properly informed on their most recent efforts to expand broadband coverage and speed. We are concerned that this frustration may result in some providers dropping out of the program. We encourage NTIA to make map updates a priority after each data submission round."

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

The following milestones were contained in our original Project Plan. These milestones have been listed in prior Quarterly reports and have been updated to reflect their status as of the end of Q2 2011.

**Complete interviews with key statewide stakeholders to determine initial state and region-specific broadband expansion/adoption goals - Due 3/31/2010 - Status: completed
**Publish interview results through a series of interactive video segments to educate public and promote planning project goals - Due 9/30/2010 - Status: completed
**Hire Statewide Coordinator and four Regional Coordinators to coordinate assembly of regional planning teams. Due 9/30/10 - Status: completed
**Open office at Alabama State University and hire interns to assist with CAI and community development efforts. Due 9/30/10 - Status: completed
**Form 12 Regional Action Teams to formulate regional plans for broadband expansion and adoption. Due 12/31/10 - Status: completed (all 12 teams in place and first meetings held by this date)
**Publish DRAFT regional investment plans. Due 6/30/10 - Status: Partially complete. (The tornadoes in late April caused a delay in the completion of DRAFT plans by the end of June. However, work continues and draft plans for all regions will be complete by mid-

August.)
**Publish FINAL regional investment plans. Due 9/30/10 - Status: pending
**Develop up to five prototype engagement and outreach modules for implementation of regional plans in Years 3-5. Due 10/31/10 - Status: pending

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

**Tornado disaster recovery efforts - By far the largest challenge to the Planning process this Spring was the devastation caused by a series of tornadoes in late April. Many of our rural regions were hit especially hard and their focus understandably turned to disaster recovery. The state Planning Team assisted in these recovery efforts and believes broadband will play a key role in long term recovery for many of these regions. As a result, we have redoubled our efforts to complete the draft regional plans as quickly as possible.

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

n/a

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?
Year 3-5 milestones as presented in the Supplemental Application.

**Select a University Partner to develop the measurement and evaluation tools: develop and issue RFP to eligible Alabama Research Universities.
**Completion of the development of a database/list of technical leaders across the state; working with broadband providers and Regional Planning Teams to identify leaders who might benefit from training in technology and policy issues.

**Begin Planning of Broadband Summit: Contact ARRA awardees as speakers, develop listing of potential vendors; develop summit planning committee.
**Refine regional broadband investment priority M&E: Review all 12 regional plans and identify required monitoring and evaluation data metric and training required for successful implementation; Identify resources required to meet M&E and training needs in each of 12 regions
**Finalize Joint Partner Work Plan:Organize and implement joint 2 day scoping workshop engaging key partners including VisionTech 360/LinkAMERICA personnel, ADECA state broadband director and staff positions, and selected university partner: Create a detailed capacity building plan including operation of state broadband Director's office, ADECA staff team and capacity building vendors; Specifically define roles and responsibilities for ConnectingALABAMA Broadband Director, ConnectingALABAMA Statewide Coordinator, VisionTech360 and selected university partner; Assess any resource gaps and develop a strategy to address those gaps within the project implementation
**Inform the group of technical leaders in Alabama on the latest broadband technologies and broadband policy change: Develop content and facilitate an one (1) on-site seminar on the following: 1) Current technology protocols for delivery of broadband, 2) the future direction of broadband delivery, and 3) Legal and Regulatory changes that will influence technology delivery and use.
**Create and test intial M&E data collection tools.

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

The only challenge anticipated is as the State develops it's long term community recovery program (as a result of the April Tornados) staff may be partially assigned to assist in the recovery process. We anticipate little to know interference, a strong project team thus far has enable the Director of the program to participate heavily in the states recovery efforts; therefore only minor delays may result.

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

The State of Alabama would like to stress the need for provider relations to be fostered not only at the federal level but also in consideration with the tasks assigned to the states. Establishing a provider list has been extremely difficult because we are still unsure how NTIA wants us to handle parent/subsidiary relationships.
Also, just to reiterate, the mapping at the Census Block level will erodes the planning process and will leave many unserved.

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 Jessica Dent	12c. Telephone (area code, number, and extension)	
	12d. Email Address jessica.dent@adeca.alabama.gov	
12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official Submitted Electronically	12e. Date Report Submitted (Month, Day, Year) 08-29-2011	