

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Performance Progress Report

2. Award Or Grant Number

01-50-M09013

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

01-09-2012

1. Recipient Name

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:

n/a

3. Street Address

P.O. Box 5690, 401 Adams Avenue,

8. Final Report?

Yes

No

9. Report Frequency

Quarterly

Semi Annual

Annual

Final

5. City, State, Zip Code

Montgomery, AL 36104-5690

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:

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

Total provider count and the status of each provider is supplied in the datapackage.xls file submitted with the complete Alabama dataset from Round 4 which was submitted to NTIA on October 1, 2011. There was no additional data collection in Q4 2011. The next round of data collection (Round 5) begins in January 2012.

As previously reported, only two providers in Alabama have formally declined to participate in the program through Round 4. 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.

The following providers did not provide data in Round 4, but also have not formally decline to participate. We will continue to reach out to these providers to encourage their participation in future Rounds.

****Interglobe Comm**

****Residential Data Solutions (RDASOL)**

****Cellular South**

****Cavalier Telephone**

****James Cable - AL**

****Open Range**

****DSL by Air**

****pcAirLiNk Wireless**

****Rapid Cable**

****Utopian Wireless Corporation**

****Mobile Internet Services**

****Shelby Telecom**

****Aerowire, Inc**

****Boondocks Wireless**

****Dixie Land Internet Services**

****Traveler Information Services**

****Media3**

****VeriQik**

**Gosuto
**NetSpeedNow.com
**Beyond Communications
**Scottsboro Electric Power Board
**Network Solutions
**S and V Wireless
**Harbor Communications, LLC
**HorizonWisp.net
**Cobridge Communication
**Conexus Communications
**JMF Solutions, Inc
**Ragland Telephone Company
**Cable Star
**WP Media
**CTSWireless.NET

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 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 obvious 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 are produced at the beginning of each data collection round based upon prior round coverage reports. In Q3 2011 LinkAMERICA began providing check maps in GoogleEarth format also. These tools allow providers the opportunity to update their coverage boundaries and speed directly on the check map.

** 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 is collected, we are able to identify and investigate areas where consumer feedback conflicts with provider information. This feature was enhanced in Q4 so that it is now viewable as a display layer on the interactive state map so that consumer feedback can be compared against provider supplied data.

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, when necessary, 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

** 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 - Targeted start date - 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 - Targeted start date - 2012.

Staffing

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

An analysis of actual hours worked in Q4 2011 shows that the project resulted in 0.66 FTE jobs created/retained at the Sub Recipient level for the quarter. An additional 2.42 FTEs were created/retained at the Prime Recipient level for a grand total of 3.08 FTEs. It should be noted that this figure 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

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?

A total of 3.5-4.5 FTEs (depending upon number of hours worked by Prime and Sub-Recipient staff members each quarter). PLEASE REFER TO 11L FOR FURTHER COMMENTS REGARDING STAFFING.

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Sub-Recipient CEO-Supervisory Role	1	11/01/2009
Sub Recipient Project Director	13	11/01/2009
Sub Recipient Project Manager	26	09/05/2011
Sub Recipient GIS Director	7	11/01/2009
Sub Recipient Internal System Support/Architecture	3	11/01/2009
Sub Recipient Provider Relations Manager	16	11/01/2009
Prime Recipient Regional Coordinator	86	09/07/2010
Prime Recipient Regional Coordinator	86	09/07/2010
Prime Recipient Regional Coordinator	70	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 & Planning Services	Y	Y	11/01/2009	11/01/2012	2,249,424	549,909
University Partner (not procured yet)	Measurement and Evaluation	N	N	04/02/2012	10/01/2014	250,000	100,000

Add Row

Remove Row

Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,556,929 10q. How much Remains? \$3,317,213

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$1,219,483 10s. How much Remains? \$656,531

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	\$884,896	\$228,405	\$1,113,301	\$126,731	\$8,154	\$134,885
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$427,454	\$85,318	\$512,772	\$63,781	\$29,899	\$66,771

Mapping Budget Element	Federal Funds Granted	Proposed In-Kind	Total Budget	Federal Funds Expended	Matching Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended
Travel	\$98,715	\$0	\$98,715	\$11,675	\$0	\$11,675
Equipment	\$64,700	\$0	\$64,700	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$19,044	\$0	\$19,044	\$7,713	\$0	\$7,713
Subcontracts Total	\$3,259,748	\$895,752	\$4,155,500	\$1,298,746	\$551,808	\$1,850,554
Subcontract #1	\$1,499,424	\$475,028	\$0	\$1,298,746	\$549,909	\$1,848,655
Subcontract #2	\$1,760,324	\$420,724	\$0	\$0	\$1,898	\$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	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$3,200	\$0	\$3,200
Total Direct Costs	\$4,769,557	\$1,209,475	\$5,979,032	\$1,511,845	\$562,952	\$2,074,797
Total Indirect Costs	\$104,585	\$10,008	\$114,593	\$45,084	\$0	\$45,084
Total Costs	\$4,874,142	\$1,219,483	\$6,093,625	\$1,556,929	\$562,952	\$2,119,880
% Of Total	80	20	0	32	46	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

1 Dell Precision T5500 Workstation w/ArcInfo C (AL allocated portion): \$3,458.59*

*The ArcInfo 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

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: Market area boundary and speed data on mobile cellular providers - \$5147

**Media Prints: Cable franchise boundary database - \$500

**ExchangeInfo: Legal exchange area boundary database for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers - \$3805

The above data sets were purchased for validation purposes in years 1 & 2. LinkAMERICA anticipates purchasing updates for these data sets in January 2011 for validation purposes in year 3.

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

10aa. If yes, please list

**For Round 4 the the collection of CAI data was transitioned from the sub-recipient, CostQuest, to ADECA. CostQuest will continue to support ADECA with processing and reporting of the data to NTIA.

**Round 4 Data Collection: Data collected for Round 4 was submitted to NTIA on schedule on October 1.- Status: Complete

**Check-maps were created for participating providers in December 2011 in preparation of the Round 5 Data Collection.- Status: Complete

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

LinkAMERICA found that many providers had difficulty with the transition to 2010 Census vintage in Round 4. The move to the new Census vintage resulted in a significant change in block counts in the LinkAMERICA states and was reflected on the view of provider coverage on the interactive state map. As the NBM still reflects data using 2000 Census Vintage providers were confused about why their data was shown differently on the two maps. We communicated the issue to providers and will field questions as they arise. Additionally, we continue to encounter difficulty in reconciling reported provider speeds with the NTIA speed range parameters. We have identified providers that have submitted data that fall outside of the parameters provided by NTIA are working with them to get better data for Round 5.

10cc. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project
Providers continue to be frustrated in the lag time between data collection and posting to the NBM and question the value of maps with such dated information. They are concerned that consumers won't be properly informed on their most recent efforts to expand broadband coverage. We encourage NTIA to make map updates a priority after each data submission round. Additionally, sufficient time and instruction are needed before changes to the format and/or type of data being requested, for a collection period, is communicated to the provider community.

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 Q4 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, and post to public site for review. Due June 2010 - Status: Completed

**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: Completed

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

All year 1 and year 2 objectives planning objectives are completed

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? \$1,556,929 11f. How much Remains? \$3,317,213

11g. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$562,952 11h. How much Remains? \$656,531

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?

- Completion of the development of a database/list of technical leaders across the state.
- Begin Planning of Broadband Summit
- Refine Regional Broadband Investment Priority M&E and Training Needs for all 12 regions
- Finalize Joint Partner Work Plan
- Inform the group of technical leaders in Alabama on the latest broadband technologies and broadband policy change.
- Continue Planning of Broadband Summit
- Create and test initial M&E data collection tools
- Regional Teams next phase orientation meetings
- Inform the group of technical leaders in Alabama on the latest broadband technologies for use in rural areas.
- Finalize Planning of Broadband Summit
- Design initial broadband capacity building training content and delivery plan
- First interim monitoring and evaluation report
- Inform the group of technical leaders in Alabama on the latest developments with Universal Service Funding and the CAF.
- Implement capacity building training in support of M&E field data collection, utilization of results and other issues
- First State Broadband Summit
- Have technical leaders in Alabama well informed on avenues of available funding for broadband projects.
- Begin Planning of Second Annual Broadband Summit
- Design and test prototype social and economic impact model
- Expand Alabama Broadband development capacity training portfolio
- Implement appropriate public outreach and engagement supporting participation in capacity training activities
- Apply social and economic impact model to conduct preliminary assessment for additional broadband investment cases
- Launch delivery of year 4 capacity training programs
- Inform the technical leaders of the results of the Alabama Statewide Cost Model.
- Prepare initial report on broadband investment and social and economic impact model
- Comprehensive technical review of M&E processes
- Second Annual Broadband Summit

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

No obstacles have been encountered.

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

A change in staffing occurred in Q3 with the Project Manager leaving the program in September. The Provider Relations Manager was promoted to fill the vacancy and steps were taken to backfill that position. There was no impact to the project time-line as the Round 4 data collection period deadline had passed and the staff on hand was able to assist with needed tasks during the short time the position was not staffed. A new Provider Relations Manager was hired in Q4. As the program has been fully staffed with the exception of the short interim, described above, we do not expect any changes to the FTEs that have been reported to date. The Date of Hire for the Project Manager and Provider Relations Manager on 10n reflects the date that these positions were originally staffed.

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)

01-31-2012