

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Performance Progress Report

2. Award Or Grant Number

02-50-M09071

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

07-06-2011

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 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:

06-30-2011

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 Holding, Inc. (ACS): Although ACS executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with Connected Nation on June 2, 2011, as of the date of this report ACS has yet to provide data for inclusion on the state map. Non-Responsive to Multiple Attempts.

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

N/A

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

ESRI is deploying and hosting Connected Nation's BroadbandStat (BBStat) web application. ESRI will house 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.

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 which was collected through the State Broadband Initiatives (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.

Before December 31, 2011 Connected Nation will target 1 additional company in order to achieve a field validation rate equal to or exceeding 68.18% (currently 64.64%). Additionally, Connected Nation will continue to utilize these on-the-ground data validation opportunities to continue personal outreach to 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 133 visits between April 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011.

During this quarter, the Connect Alaska project received a total of 3 broadband inquiries. For this reporting period, 33 field verification tests were conducted. Connected Nation's staff has now conducted multiple tests on the following providers: Ace Tekk Wireless Internet, AlasConnect Inc., 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, Connected Nation has completed validation testing against 14 companies (out of a universe of 22 viable providers) totaling 64.64% 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?

5.50

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. By leveraging the expertise of the subject matter experts the project benefits from 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

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?

5.50

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Associate Counsel	6	09/14/2009
Business Programmer Analyst	2	04/02/2007
CAI Coordinator	4	12/13/2004
CAI Coordinator	30	09/16/2009
CAI Data Analyst	7	03/24/2009
CAI Data Manager	2	08/09/2010
ETS Analyst	1	08/24/2009
ETS Analyst	2	11/01/2007
ETS Analyst	21	07/13/2009
ETS Manager	14	07/01/2007
ETS Sr. Analyst	11	02/18/2010
General Counsel	4	01/01/2007
GIS Analyst	16	10/19/2009
GIS Services Manager	2	05/15/2007
Outreach & Awareness Manager	9	03/24/2009

Outreach & Awareness Specialist	2	01/03/2010
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	6	02/02/2009
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	6	01/04/2010
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	7	10/01/2007
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	14	01/04/2010
Program Coordinator	54	05/23/2011
Program Manager	61	05/23/2011
Project Coordinator	5	04/01/2005
Project Management Director	3	12/20/2004
Project Manager	1	01/01/2007
Project Manager	1	08/20/2007
Project Manager	1	01/14/2008
Project Manager	2	12/16/2009
Project Manager	2	07/01/2004
Project Manager	6	01/14/2008
Project Manager	9	09/01/2006
Project Manager	29	03/16/2010
Provider Relations Manager	6	02/17/2005
Research Analyst	1	06/01/2009
Research Analyst	15	02/01/2010
Research Analyst	64	02/16/2010
Research Analyst	64	02/16/2010
Research Analyst	14	02/16/2010
Research Manager	18	05/14/2007
State Services Manager	27	07/01/2007
State Services Specialist	1	02/02/2009

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
Throughbred Research Group	Research Surveys	Y	Y	02/09/2010	02/08/2012	143,175	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	05/31/2013	266,416	194,791
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Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,048,638 10q. How much Remains? \$5,329,560

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$408,401 10s. How much Remains? \$1,189,881

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	\$280,378	\$49,688	\$330,066
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$356,364	\$24,513	\$380,877	\$58,810	\$19,856	\$78,666
Travel	\$436,598	\$0	\$436,598	\$84,779	\$837	\$85,616
Equipment	\$132,432	\$0	\$132,432	\$63,687	\$0	\$63,687
Materials / Supplies	\$47,610	\$0	\$47,610	\$25,963	\$0	\$25,963
Subcontracts Total	\$1,802,334	\$319,791	\$2,122,125	\$215,686	\$81,923	\$297,609
Subcontract #1	\$476,827	\$0	\$476,827	\$60,769	\$0	\$60,769
Subcontract #2	\$1,000,000	\$125,000	\$1,125,000	\$12,843	\$0	\$12,843
Subcontract #3	\$266,416	\$194,791	\$461,207	\$128,365	\$81,923	\$210,288
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	\$7,130	\$214,358	\$221,488
Total Direct Costs	\$4,638,688	\$1,568,282	\$6,206,970	\$736,433	\$366,662	\$1,103,095
Total Indirect Costs	\$1,739,510	\$30,000	\$1,769,510	\$312,205	\$41,739	\$353,944
Total Costs	\$6,378,198	\$1,598,282	\$7,976,480	\$1,048,638	\$408,401	\$1,457,039
% Of Total	80	20	100	72	28	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-\$10,051
- 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 server, security application, additional backup replication solution, computers, a spectrum analyzer, GPS units, BroadbandStat maintenance, ESRI ArchInfo/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

- *Revised the project schedule, budget, and work breakdown structure with the revised State Broadband Initiatives (SBI) timeline.
- *Updated Connect Alaska amended project plan as instructed by National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and resubmitted. Approved by the granting agency on June 14.
- *Established the Connect Alaska program office in Anchorage.
- *Interviewed candidates and hired a Connect Alaska Program Manager and Program Coordinator based in Anchorage, responsible to manage the Connect Alaska program of activities and community engagements.
- *Conducted presentations to the Alaska Broadband Task Force and other stakeholders on the past, current, and future activities of the Connect Alaska program.
- *Maintained Connect Alaska website, speed tests, and broadband inquiries.
- *Continued to gather and process Community Anchor Institution (CAI) information.
- *Produced and distributed bi-weekly status reports, data collection activity logs, and website statistics to the Connect Alaska project team.
- *Distributed and executed a non-disclosure agreement with an Alaskan broadband provider.
- *Continued to solicit and process broadband coverage datasets from the provider community.
- *Submitted the required quarter 1 2011 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and NTIA quarterly progress reports.
- *Integrated aerial imagery data sets belonging to the State of Alaska for use in the Connect Alaska broadband mapping project.
- *Created new broadband availability maps, general underserved area maps, multi/single platform maps, provider density maps, and provider advertised speed maps.
- *Created Connect Alaska Facebook and Twitter social media sites to post announcements and relevant broadband information.
- *Conducted multiple field validation tests of broadband provider data.
- *Created and released Alaska Business Technology Survey Assessment.
- *Initiated statewide residential broadband survey and statewide broadband non-adopter specific survey.

10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing
Connect Alaska continues to provide the NTIA with broadband database updates every six months, beginning in June 2010. Contacts and discussions between Connect Alaska and the Alaskan broadband providers began in September 2009, several months before Connect Alaska's first data submission in June 2010 to the NTIA. Since that initial submission, Connect Alaska has provided the NTIA with two semiannual updates (October 2010 and April 2011). Alaska Communications Systems (ACS) has recently signed an NDA but as of this writing has yet to provide to Connect Alaska a complete broadband availability assessment in Alaska. Outreach activities continue in order to obtain the data, however the lack of this broadband availability assessment with the size of the broadband provider may have an impact on the broadband maps and data for Alaska.

In June of this year, Connected Nation provided a white paper to the Federal Communications Commission describing Connected Nation's validation and verification processes, including an engineering review process and extensive field testing by Connected Nation's engineering team, for estimating broadband service availability for providers who choose not to share data with us for use in the SBDD mapping. This strategy may be employed by Connect Alaska if it deems necessary.

10cc. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project
Updated Connect Alaska maps were used to further identify unserved and underserved areas and to expand service to unserved households. <http://connectak.org/mapping/>

A video was produced about the field validation process in all Connected Nation state programs. <http://youtu.be/tNMEQKHbDIs>

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) finalized the survey instruments for the 2011 Residential Technology Assessment and the non-adopter telephone surveys, incorporating recommendations received from state stakeholders and third party consultants where appropriate. These surveys are designed to measure trends in technology adoption, barriers to adoption, and awareness of available broadband service among Alaska residents. In Q2 2011 CN started surveying respondents across Alaska for both of these surveys. In addition, Connected Nation created and publicly released a report documenting technology adoption and barriers among businesses across the state.

11b. 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 the state of Alaska's recommendations to ensure that our work, as well as the work of our subcontractors, exceeds expectations. During Q2, 2011, there were no significant obstacles during the planning process.

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

- Connect Alaska released business survey data and launched an interactive webpage providing easy to use information about business insights. The data shows that approximately 5,500 businesses in Alaska are not using broadband. The survey reveals which economic sectors are lagging behind in broadband adoption as well as the types of platforms they are using, the prices they're paying, and much more.

- o http://connectak.org/_documents/AKBTAPR_FINAL.pdf

- o <http://connectak.org/research/>

- o http://connectak.org/_documents/AK_BizAssessment.pdf

- o http://connectak.org/_documents/AK_BizWhitePaper_FINAL.pdf

- A meeting of Connect Alaska and the state's new broadband task force was held.

- State news outlets did articles on the Alaska Business Technology Assessment report generating more than 6,000 positive outreach impressions:

- o Sample: Connect Alaska Releases New Broadband and Business Report (Alaska Business Monthly, 6/27/11)

- Connect Alaska Facebook and Twitter pages were launched:

- o <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Connect-Alaska/250666760649>

- o <http://twitter.com/#!/connectalaska>

- A quarterly Connect Alaska CAI Newsletter was distributed to further identify state CAIs and collect information from them: http://connectak.org/mapping/Community_Anchor_Institution_Data_Collection.php

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)

07-28-2011