

**Broadband Florida Q3 2013 PPR Report Details  
Project Attachment – Technical Assistance (Grants)**

**Question 2. Describe your progress meeting each major activity/milestone approved in the Project Plan for this project; any challenges or obstacles encountered and mitigation strategies you have employed; planned major activities for the next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.**

Planned Major Activities and Mitigation Strategies for the Next Quarter

Our focus is on broadband-related resource development for healthcare community anchor institutions. Specifically, the team will maximize the Universal Service HealthCare Connect Fund to support broadband discounts to a consortium of state agency healthcare provider sites. The team's goal is to return the maximum amount of Universal Service funding into Florida for state agency healthcare providers. We hired a staff member to support the team who has a background in health care at the beginning of the third quarter.

Third Quarter Major Accomplishments

During the third quarter of 2013, the team concluded outreach to eligible public state agency healthcare providers purchasing enterprise telecommunications services from the Florida Department of Management Services. The Florida Departments of Health, Juvenile Justice, Veterans Affairs and Children and Families support the creation of a consortium to apply for the Universal Service Healthcare Connect Fund for their healthcare provider sites. This consortium is called "Florida Connect" and the Broadband Florida Program Grant Technical Assistance Team leads it. We estimate that about 450 public health care provider sites will be included in the consortium application. We are gathering Letters of Agency from these organizations now.

We provide consulting to non-state agency eligible health care providers who use Florida Department of Management Systems enterprise telecommunication services as well. These organizations may include Florida State University College of Medicine, Desoto and Hendry Memorial Hospitals, and others. We will assist with their applications as consultants. The organizations will certify and submit the application and forms themselves.

Deliverables

The remainder of the third quarter report describes performance based on these major activities. These performance measures are tracked and occasionally refined to address unforeseen challenges. The quarterly deliverables are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Grant Deliverables for the Grants Assistance Team from the NTIA Grant Scope

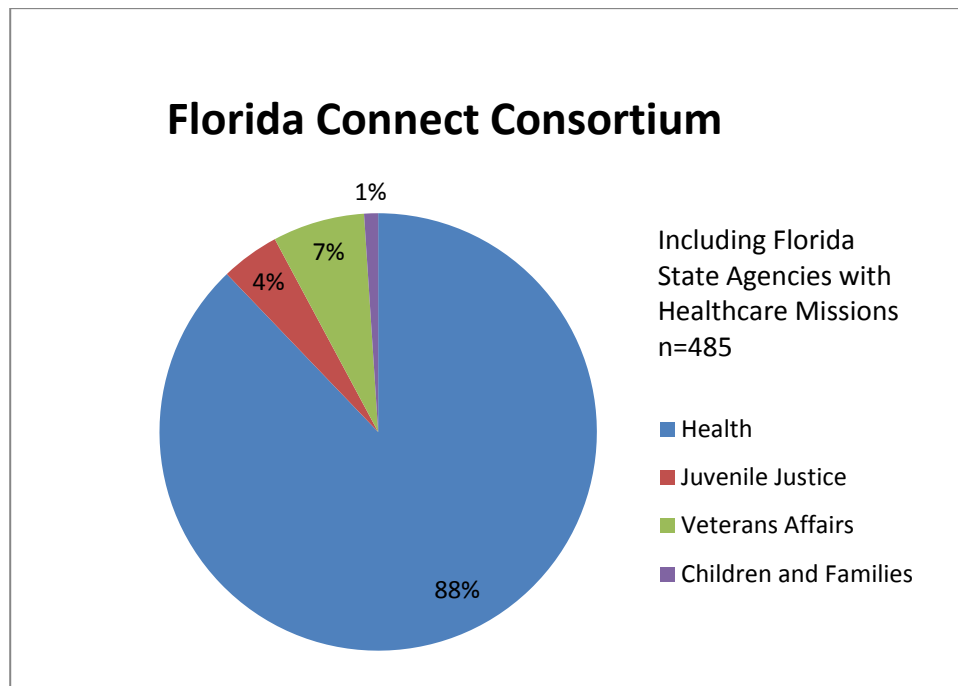
1. Research, Review and documentation of <b>Universal Service</b> based funding programs
2. Determine Community Anchor Institutional grant applicants and needs
3. Communicate grant opportunities to stakeholders
4. Provide technical assistance and program management support to grant applicants
5. Incorporate grant program research results into grant database and web portal
6. Provide quarterly report and newsletter to stakeholders of quarter activities and results
7. Continue Grant Program outreach and awareness building with public and private institutions
8. Grant program Training to Community Anchor Institutions
9. Document funding program requirements for applicants

#### Research, Review and Document Federal Funding Programs

The Team is focused on developing and implementing applications for the Universal Service Healthcare Connect fund. Analysis from previous quarters showed that our best return on time invested is assisting applicants to access this fund.

#### Determination of Community Anchor Institution Needs

The Florida Department of Health is our biggest client with potentially 426 health care sites eligible for discounts from the Universal Service Fund. The Florida Departments of Juvenile Justice, Veterans Affairs and Children and Families have 59 sites that are potentially eligible for the program. We are consulting with these organizations now to determine their needs for broadband and other related services. As we apply for funding for all of the state agencies using SUNCOM, we will assess their speeds and evaluate if more bandwidth is needed. The Healthcare Connect Fund allows the consortium three years to become rural-majority. Until that time, all eligible sites should receive the 65 percent discount.



Next quarter, the Team will complete the consortium and site eligibility applications and submit the telecommunications procurement contracts to the Universal Service Fund for review and approval. Once approved and eligible, we will begin completing the remaining forms required by the program and invoice the Universal Service Fund for the Healthcare Connect discount for the applicants included in the Florida Connect consortium.

#### Communicate Grant Opportunities to Stakeholders

The team concluded outreach for the Healthcare Connect Fund. This quarter, we are applying for funds for our members.

#### Provide Technical Assistance and Program Management Support to Grant Applicants

In the third quarter, the Team assisted on the consortium application and provided consulting to other HealthCare Connect applicants. See Appendix 1 to view our application process for consortium members and consulting clients.

#### *Universal Service HealthCare Connect Fund*

##### Consortium Applicants:

1. Florida Department of Health
2. Florida Department of Children and Families
3. Florida Department of Veterans Affairs
4. Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

##### Consulting Clients:

1. Florida State University
2. Hendry Memorial Hospital

### 3. Desoto Memorial Hospital

Although the HealthCare Connect Fund officially began July 1, 2013, the portal to register did not open until mid-September 2013. The Team will finalize submission of eligibility forms on behalf of members this quarter. Funding is expected to begin in January 2014.

#### Incorporate Grant Program Research Results into Grant Database and Broadband Florida Initiative Web Portal

The Team is fully engaged in building a portal to host the funding opportunity database, facilitate outreach, store recorded webinars, and enable outreach subscription and dissemination.

#### Continue Grant Program Outreach and Awareness Building with Public and Private Institutions

The Team concluded our outreach efforts in July 2013. For the remainder of the grant until November 2014, we are focused on the Universal Service Healthcare Connect Program application and management for consortium and consulting clients.

#### Grant Program Training to Community Anchor Institutions

The Team attended the HealthCare Connect training session in Washington D.C., in September 2013. The knowledge we received will be used to apply for funding for our consortium. Training will be provided to consulting clients as needed.

#### Document Funding Program Requirements for Applicants

We documented the funding program requirements in the draft Universal Service HealthCare Connect Application Process Flow Chart on the next page. The process differs for consortium members and consulting clients. At the end of the process, eligible healthcare provider sites will receive a 65 percent discount on the cost of broadband.

# Broadband Florida Grant Team Draft Universal Service HealthCare Connect Application Process Flow Chart

