
Broadband Florida Q2 2014 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

The technical assistance team is focusing on broadband-related resource development for healthcare community anchor institutions by maximizing the Federal Communications Commission HealthCare Connect Fund (HCF) broadband discounts to state agency healthcare provider sites. The goal is to return the maximum amount of funding to these healthcare providers. We have three staff members. Michelle Gomez, our newest staff member, specializes in outreach, data collection, and validation. Jackie Archer is our data manager and expert on the HCF form submission process. Melanie Simmons manages program reporting, tracking, and external relations with the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) and the beneficiaries of the HealthCare Connect program.

Second Quarter Major Accomplishments

The Florida Department of Health's consortium was identified as applicable for the HealthCare Connect Fund. This consortium is moving forward as our largest client. We estimate that about 400 Department of Health sites will require a Form 460 per site to be submitted to determine eligibility. We estimate a savings of over \$1 Million in the first year of the program.

We also provide technical assistance to other health care providers who are eligible to use Florida Department of Management Services enterprise telecommunication services. These organizations include Desoto and Hendry Memorial Hospitals, and others. We provide advice to assist their applications, but these organizations certify and submit the HCF application themselves.

Deliverables

These performance measures listed in Table 1 are tracked and occasionally refined to address unforeseen challenges.

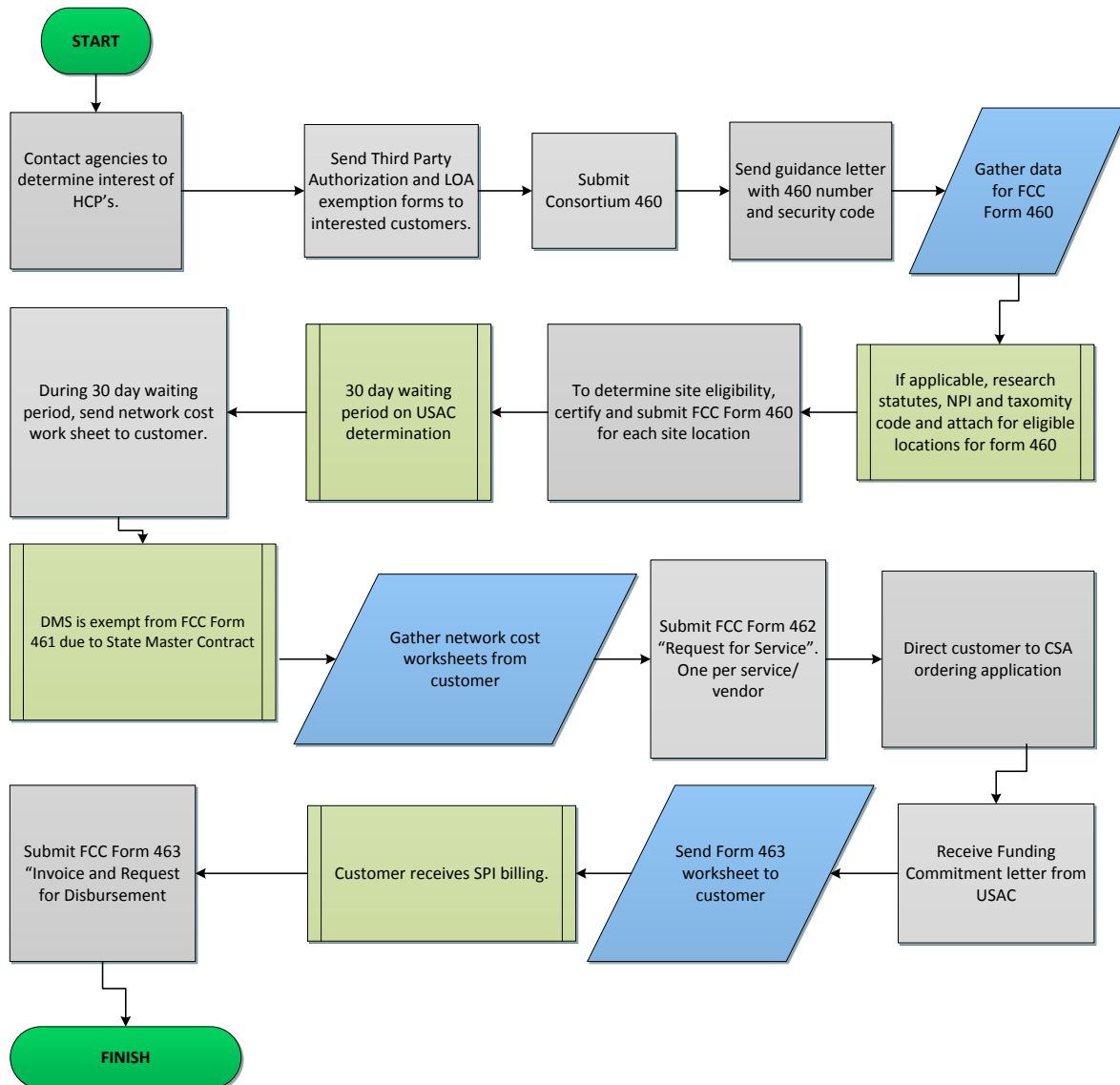
Table 1: Deliverables for the Grants Assistance Team

1. Research, review and documentation of USAC based funding programs
2. Determine Community Anchor Institutional (CAI) 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 CAIs
9. Document funding program requirements for applicants

Research, Review and Document Federal Funding Programs

The team developed and implemented a process to assist healthcare organizations and consortiums with applying for the Universal Service Healthcare Connect fund.

Chart 1: Universal Service HealthCare Connect application process



Determination of Community Anchor Institution Needs

As we prepare the HCF applications for the Florida Department of Health's consortium, the team assesses broadband speeds and evaluates if more bandwidth is needed. The Florida Department of Health reports that their rural sites are in desperate need for additional bandwidth. They have implemented cloud-based enterprise software and electronic health records. These programs are dominating the bandwidth and the rural clinics are anxious for more funding for additional broadband capacity. After the HealthCare Connect Funding becomes available, the Florida Department of Health will increase bandwidth to these rural sites first.

Communicate Grant Opportunities to Stakeholders and Provide Technical Assistance and Program Management Support to Grant Applicants

The team has concluded outreach for the Healthcare Connect Fund. Until the end of the grant, the team will act as a consultant to the agencies to assist with their applications. We will submit forms 460, 462, and train recipients on necessary activities for ongoing program sustainability.

In the second quarter, the team assisted on the consortia applications and provided consulting to other HealthCare Connect applicants.

Universal Service HealthCare Connect Fund

State agency consulting clients:

1. Florida Department of Health

Other consulting Clients:

1. Hendry Memorial Hospital
2. Desoto Memorial Hospital
3. Florida State University
4. Community Health IT

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. For the remainder of the grant until November 2014, we are focused solely on the Universal Service Healthcare Connect Program application and management for consulting clients.

Grant Program Training to Community Anchor Institutions

A training program for the agencies will be developed in the third quarter of 2014 and followed by training sessions in the fourth quarter of 2014. The training will allow each agency to sustainably manage their consortium into the future.

Document Funding Program Requirements for Applicants

Chart 2 shows the progress of the Department of Health application requirements. "Data Validation" documents the progress of updating the address, clinic and site activities and IT Director for each site. The remaining tracking data concern the eligibility of each Form 460 and include denied, pending and approved (meaning eligible). The team has validated 54 percent of the data and entered almost 24 percent of the 460s by the second quarter.

Next Steps

In the third quarter, the team will finalize entry of all of the Form 460s for the individual Florida Department of Health Sites. The team will then submit the Form 462 and develop the training modules for the Florida Department of Health to continue the program after the end of our grant.

Chart 2: Florida Department of Health Universal Service Application: Form 460 Progress June 30, 2014.

