

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE BROADBAND ADOPTION

General Information

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration	2. Award Identification Number 13-43-B10576	3. DUNS Number 015505792
4. Recipient Organization GEORGIA PARTNERSHIP FOR TELEHEALTH INC 914 Memorial Drive, WAYCROSS, GA 31501		
5. Current Reporting Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY) 12-31-2011	6. Is this the last Annual Report of the Award Period? <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No </p>	
7. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.		
7a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Certifying Official Lloyd Sirmons	7c. Telephone (area code, number and extension) 866-754-4325	
	7d. Email Address lloyd.sirmons@gatelehealth.org	
7b. Signature of Certifying Official Submitted Electronically	7e. Date Report Submitted (MM/DD/YYYY): 02-29-2012	

PROJECT INDICATORS																																																
<p>1. Does your Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA) project foster a particular broadband technology or technologies? If so, please describe this technology (or technologies) (600 words or less).</p> <p>To address poor health and lack of high quality health care in rural Georgia communities, Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth is proposing a training and outreach program for residents and healthcare providers to improve health and healthcare delivery in the state's 91 designated "counties of persistent poverty." The project, through the use of telemedicine equipment, plans to connect community serving institutions, like hospitals, schools, public health departments, and physicians' offices by expanding the applicant's current open access network to 64 additional community anchor sites. Partners plan to raise awareness of the benefits of broadband for healthcare through outreach campaigns and training for rural physicians, non-physician practitioners, and school nurses. Trainings will be done through Hometown Health Universities online education classes geared toward broadband adoption. Current computer technologies such as laptops are equipped with high definition cameras for live video conferencing. Telemedicine carts are also equipped with high definition cameras, along with high definition otoscopes and digital stethoscopes which allows for full patient exams from site to site.</p>																																																
<p>2a. Please list all of the broadband equipment and/or supplies you have purchased during the most recent calendar year using BTOP grant funds or other (matching) funds, including any customer premises equipment or end-user devices. If additional space is needed, please attach a list of equipment and/or supplies. Please also describe how the equipment and supplies have been deployed (100 words or less).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Manufacturer</th> <th>Item</th> <th>Unit Cost per Item</th> <th>Number of Units</th> <th>Narrative description of how the equipment and supplies were deployed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>NA</td> <td>NA</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>We had no major purchases for the year 2011.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Totals</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="button" value="Add Equipment"/> <input type="button" value="Remove Equipment"/> </p>					Manufacturer	Item	Unit Cost per Item	Number of Units	Narrative description of how the equipment and supplies were deployed	NA	NA	0	0	We had no major purchases for the year 2011.	Totals		0	0																														
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<p>2b. To the extent you distribute equipment/supplies to beneficiaries of your project, please describe the equipment/supplies you distribute, the quantities distributed, and the specific populations to whom the equipment/supplies are distributed (600 words or less).</p> <p>NA</p>																																																
<p>3. For SBA access and training provided with BTOP grant funds, please provide the information below. Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions, figures should be reported <u>cumulatively</u> from award inception to the end of the most recent calendar year. For each type of training (other than open access), please count only the participants who <u>completed</u> the course.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Types of Access or Training</th> <th>Number of People Targeted</th> <th>Number of People Participating</th> <th>Total Training Hours Offered</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Open Lab Access</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Multimedia</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Office Skills</td> <td>251</td> <td>251</td> <td>5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ESL</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GED</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>College Preparatory Training</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Basic Internet and Computer Use</td> <td>4,681</td> <td>4,681</td> <td>51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Certified Training Programs</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (please specify): Telemedicine Education</td> <td>8,400</td> <td>8,400</td> <td>8,120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>13,332</td> <td>13,332</td> <td>13,171</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Types of Access or Training	Number of People Targeted	Number of People Participating	Total Training Hours Offered	Open Lab Access	0	0	0	Multimedia	0	0	0	Office Skills	251	251	5,000	ESL	0	0	0	GED	0	0	0	College Preparatory Training	0	0	0	Basic Internet and Computer Use	4,681	4,681	51	Certified Training Programs	0	0	0	Other (please specify): Telemedicine Education	8,400	8,400	8,120	Total	13,332	13,332	13,171
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<p>4. Please describe key economic and social successes of your project during the past year, and why you believe the project is successful thus far (600 words or less).</p> <p>In Georgia, more specifically in the southern region, there is a clear relationship between poverty, low broadband adoption, rural populations, and poor health. A UGA faculty study published in 2008 on "Persistent Poverty", reported that "Georgia ranks near the bottom in U.S. in terms of the overall health of its citizens" and out of the 159 Georgia counties, 108 counties have poor children's health and working age adult health, and 75 counties have persistent poor seniors' health, signaling a decline in the health status of Georgians compared to the rest of the U.S. The target group that will benefit from Teleconnect Better Health program and Georgia</p>																																																

Partnership For Telehealth services is the 1575 total primary care physicians and approx. 6,000 nurses and 700 non-physician practitioners serving these 91 poverty stricken counties, most of which are designated as Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) and Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (MHPSA) and Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) according to the Georgia Rural Primary Care Plan published by the Georgia Office of Rural Health. The aim of GPT and the Teleconnect Georgia For Betterhealth program is to see a dramatic decrease in these numbers by bringing specialty care to these underserved areas via telemedicine.

5. Please estimate the level of broadband adoption in the community(ies) and/or area(s) your project serves, explain your methodology for estimating the level of broadband adoption, and explain changes in the broadband adoption level, if any, since the project began.

5a. Adoption Level (%):	Narrative description of level, methodology, and change from the level at project inception (600 words or less).
0	NA

6. Please describe the two most common barriers to broadband adoption that you have experienced this year in connection with your project. What steps did you take to address them (600 words or less)?

The teleconnectga project is mainly centered around expanding the Georgia Partnership for Telehealth open access network to an additional 64 partner sights. We have accomplished that goal. Another piece of the project is the outreach and awareness campaign where we go out and do broadband education. The biggest barrier that we have found with adoption is many people struggle to make ends meet and can't afford high speed internet. Another barrier to adoption is lack of access to broadband services in rural areas.

7. To the extent that you have made any subcontracts or sub grants, please provide the number of subcontracts or sub grants that have been made to socially and economically disadvantaged small business (SDB) concerns as defined by section 8(a) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 647, as modified by NTIA's adoption of an alternative small business size standard for use in BTOP. Please also provide the names of these SDB entities. (150 words or less)

NA

8. Please describe any best practices / lessons learned that can be shared with other similar BTOP projects (900 words or less).

Technology must be cost effective and easy to use or operate.