

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE BROADBAND ADOPTION**

**General Information**

<b>1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted</b> Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration	<b>2. Award Identification Number</b> 13-43-B10576	<b>3. DUNS Number</b> 015505792
<b>4. Recipient Organization</b> GEORGIA PARTNERSHIP FOR TELEHEALTH INC 914 Memorial Drive, WAYCROSS, GA 31501		
<b>5. Current Reporting Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY)</b> 12-31-2012	<b>6. Is this the last Annual Report of the Award Period?</b> <p style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes    <input type="radio"/> No</p>	
<b>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.</b>		
<b>7a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Certifying Official</b>  Lloyd Sirmons	<b>7c. Telephone (area code, number and extension)</b> 866-754-4325	
	<b>7d. Email Address</b> lloyd.sirmons@gatelehealth.org	
<b>7b. Signature of Certifying Official</b> Submitted Electronically	<b>7e. Date Report Submitted (MM/DD/YYYY):</b> 12-04-2012	

PROJECT INDICATORS				
<p><b>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).</b></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><b>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).</b></p>				
Manufacturer	Item	Unit Cost per Item	Number of Units	Narrative description of how the equipment and supplies were deployed
NA	0	0	0	No equipment to report.
<b>Totals</b>		0	0	
Add Equipment			Remove Equipment	
<p><b>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).</b></p> <p>NA</p>				
<p><b>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.</b></p>				
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	0	0	7,800	
<b>Total</b>	4,932	4,932	12,851	
<p><b>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).</b></p> <p>There is no doubt that The Teleconnect Georgia For Better Health program was has been, and will continue to be a success. The grant provided funding for telemedicine equipment for hospitals, physician practices, nursing homes, school systems and community service boards. The funds made it possible for Georgia Partnership for Telehealth (GPT) to not only expand its network to the additional 64 sites as outlined in the grant, but really made it possible for the network to grow to its current size at 259 partners. Without the 80% match from BTOP, most, if not all 64 additional partners, would not have been able to participate. With BTOP funding GPT was</p>				

successful in expanding the network and making the Georgia network one of the most robust telehealth networks in the United States. Another piece of the Teleconnect Georgia for Better Health project was to educate communities in underserved parts of Georgia on broadband. We accomplished this by creating a website, www.teleconnectga.com, that gave information about broadband. GPT used a character called Peachy to help spread the word. Peachy visited approximately 5,000 elementary students teaching them about broadband through games that could be accessed via the website. Each child received a goody bag from Peachy along with information for parents that introduced Peachy and directed them to the website where they could learn more about broadband. Strategic Health Partners built a database that liaisons used as they went out into the field visiting with community anchor institutions, such as hospitals, physician offices, nursing homes and schools. GPT now uses the database to capture liaison activity.

**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.**

<b>5a. Adoption Level (%):</b>	<b>Narrative description of level, methodology, and change from the level at project inception (600 words or less).</b>
0	The teleconnectga project is one of three telemedicine projects awarded and mainly centered around expanding the Georgia Partnership for Telehealth open access network to an additional 64 partner sights. Another piece of the project is the outreach and awareness campaign where we go out and do broadband education. The broadband awareness campaign reached over 5,000 children and families.

**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 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).**

There is no doubt that telemedicine is going to play a major role in the way healthcare is delivered as we move into the future across the country. The biggest obstacle that we have seen is the cost of equipment being a hindrance. However, as telemedicine becomes more widely used there is more and more funding available, through grants and other sources, to assist with startup cost.