

Award # 16-50-M09014

EdLab Group (*Designated SBDD / SBI entity for the State of Idaho*)

Quarter (Q)4-2012 Performance Progress Report

PPR_SBI_Project-Attachment_Section-2_Technical-Assistance_ID

Section 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.

The following comprises ongoing activities related to the LinkIDAHO **technical assistance** efforts that began in Q2-2012:

Milestone 1: Complete database/list development comprising technical leaders across the state

Objective 1: Work with the broadband provider community and the Regional Planning Teams to identify key resources that might benefit from training in technology and policy change

This objective was completed during Q2-2012; however, ongoing efforts during Q4-2012 related to this objective included outreach to additional targeted groups, such as public safety officials. Stakeholders identified will receive notices of webinars and other resources.

Status: Complete; Ongoing.

Milestone 2: Supply the state's leaders with current technology/policy news through content distribution (RSS feed)

Objective 2: Provide brief online or on-site training for state leaders on subscribing to and benefiting from RSS feeds

Activities and accomplishments during Q3-2012 included preparing User's Guide and YouTube Tutorial Video on using the RSS feeds. During Q4-2012, attendees at the 2012 Broadband Summit, held on October 16, 2012, received information and training on the RSS feeds and tutorial tools. Following the Summit, additional outreach included planning for launch of the RSS feed to ensure this resource reaches a larger audience.

Status: Complete.

The following comprises activities toward finalizing the LinkIDAHO Q3-2012 **technical assistance** objectives:

Milestone 1: Informed group of technical leaders on the latest broadband technologies and broadband policy changes

Objective 2: Develop content and facilitate an online webinar on the latest broadband technologies for use in rural delivery and leveraging the middle mile and designing last mile solutions [or other topic(s) that will best meet the needs of the state]

It was determined that the better timing for training on broadband technologies was Q4-2012. As a result, a webinar on the “*Latest Technologies for Rural Broadband Delivery*” was presented by LinkIDAHO technical assistance partner ICF International on November 29, 2012. The webinar provided a discussion on the latest broadband technologies for use in rural broadband delivery, including how to leverage the new BTOP middle-mile networks and design last-mile solutions. Sixty (60) people participated in the webinar and an additional eighteen (18) persons downloaded the webinar slides post-event.

Status: Complete.

The following comprises activities toward finalizing the LinkIDAHO Q4-2012 **technical assistance** objectives:

Milestone 1: Informed group of technical leaders on the latest developments with Universal Service Funding (USF) and the Collecting America Fund (CAF)

Objective 1: Develop content and facilitate an online webinar on Universal Service Funding and the CAF [or other topic(s) that will best meet the needs of the state]

During Q3-2012, technical assistance partner ICF, presented a webinar “*Preparing for the Transition from the Universal Service Fund (USF) to the Connect America Fund (CAF)*” to approximately 25 stakeholders. The webinar focused on USF from a provider perspective. At the October 16, 2012, Broadband Summit, ICF presented a similar presentation on USF Reform and the CAF to Summit participants. The presentation documents were added to the LinkIDAHO website.

In addition, planning began during Q4-2012 on a webinar to educate stakeholders on the forthcoming FirstNet program. This webinar is currently planned for February 2013.

Status: Complete.

Efforts Planned for Q1-2013

Milestone 1: Technical leaders well informed on avenues of available funding for broadband projects

Objective 1: Develop content and facilitate an online webinar on broadband funding sources or other topic that will best meet the needs of the state. Current plans are to deliver a webinar on the federal FirstNet program and forthcoming funding during February 2013.

Objective 2: Deliver an updated broadband funding manual to help stakeholders successfully navigate grant and loan programs for broadband programs.