

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Performance Progress Report

2. Award Or Grant Number

16-50-M09014

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

10-31-2011

1. Recipient Name

EdLab Group Foundation - Idaho

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:

Idaho

3. Street Address

19020 33rd Avenue West, Suite 210,

8. Final Report?

Yes

No

9. Report Frequency

Quarterly

Semi Annual

Annual

Final

5. City, State, Zip Code

Lynwood, WA 98036-4754

7. Project / Grant Period
Start Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)

11-01-2009

7a. End Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)

10-30-2014

7b. Reporting Period End Date:

09-30-2011

9a. If Other, please describe:

Quarterly

10. Broadband Mapping

10a. Provider Table

Number of Providers Identified	Number of Providers Contacted	Number of Agreements Reached for Data Sharing	Number of Partial Data Sets Received	Number of Complete Data Sets	Number of Data Sets Verified
0	0	0	0	0	0

10b. Are you submitting the required PROVIDER DATA by using the Excel spreadsheet provided by the SBDD grants office? Yes No

10c. Have you encountered challenges with any providers that indicate they may refuse to participate in this project? Yes No

10d. If so, describe the discussions to date with each of these providers and the current status

The LinkIDAHO team completed the fourth round of data collection in Q3 and submitted the final data set to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on October 1, 2011.

The following providers have officially declined to participate in the program, but we continue to reach out to these providers each round. If we can estimate their coverage using 3rd party data, we include it with our submission to NTIA.

** Cactus International Inc.: Had telephone/email discussions to encourage participation. Status: Continue to decline and will try again in future rounds.

** MicroWave DSL: Had telephone/email discussions to encourage participation. Status: Continue to decline and will try again in future rounds.

** Cequel Communications LLC (dba Suddenlink Communications): Had telephone/email discussions to encourage participation, but they say they do not have the time or resources to participate. Status: Estimated their coverage and will again in future rounds.

** Red Spectrum Communication: Had telephone/email discussions to encourage participation, but they say they do not have the resources to participate. Status: Estimated their coverage and will again in future rounds.

The following providers have not officially declined to participate, however they have not provided data in any collection round to date. When possible we estimate for these providers using third party data. We will continue to try to engage them in future collection rounds:

- ** Allied Wireless Communications Corporation
- ** Craner Technology Services
- ** Microserv
- ** Elk River TV Cable CompaNy
- ** Family Friendly Internet Service
- ** Troy Cable
- ** Country Cable
- ** Overarch BroadbaNd
- ** Mullan Cable
- ** Safelink Internet

** Surf1

** North Idaho Connection

** Intermax Networks

** Stat Network Solutions

** CommWorld

** SpeedyQuick Networks

10e. If you are collecting data through other means (e.g. data extraction, extrapolation, etc), please describe your progress to date and the relevant activities to be undertaken in the future

The LinkAMERICA team continues to follow similar procedures across all four LinkAMERICA state projects. We augment provider and Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) data, when necessary, with coverage and speed information from third party sources. In general, we do not substitute third party information for provider-supplied information unless we can independently verify that the provider information is incorrect. Discrepancies between provider and third party data are used to identify areas where additional investigation is required.

If a provider does not supply coverage information, or it is not sufficiently detailed to complete the required data fields, we use third party data and/or infrastructure data and common engineering principles to estimate coverage and speed. We also collect the general public's input via location-specific feedback mechanisms on the state interactive map (discussed below in the verification section).

10f. Please describe the verification activities you plan to implement

The LinkAMERICA Alliance team continues to utilize and improve upon the core verification procedures used in prior data collection rounds. These procedures have been explained in past reports and are included again below.

We believe verification can be segmented into four categories/activities:

** Third Party Data Comparison: As data arrives from providers, we compare it to commercial data sources to identify anomalies or areas for further investigation. An example would be the comparison of an Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers' (ILEC) reported coverage area boundaries with the legal exchange areas shown in the commercial ExchangeInfo data product. Coverage footprints of wireless providers are compared against AmericanRoamer database. This process occurs with each data collection round.

** Provider Validation: Check maps and other tools are produced at the beginning of each data collection round based upon prior submissions. In Q2 2011, the LinkAMERICA Alliance added the ability to supply check maps in GoogleEarth format, allowing providers to update coverage boundaries directly within the check map file itself. This process occurs with each data collection round.

** Data Format Verification: It is important that data be formatted correctly in order to be properly received by NTIA. Proprietary and NTIA-supplied scripts validate the final data set prior to submission, and ensure the data meets NTIA data model requirements. This process occurs with each data collection round.

** Consumer Feedback/Verification: The LinkIDAHO interactive map contains a user feedback mechanism that identifies the precise coordinates of each point of feedback. As user feedback arrives, we are able to identify and investigate areas where consumer feedback conflicts with provider data.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities? Yes No

10h. If yes, please describe the status of your activities

All of the above activities are performed in each data collection round. In addition, an expanded consumer feedback layer was developed for the interactive map and released to the state for testing. This layer will publicly display all user feedback and will incorporate speed testing to help verify provider-reported speeds. Browser issues were discovered in testing, and are currently being addressed. This feature will be available to the public in Q4.

10i. If verification activities have not been initiated please provide a projected time line for beginning and completing such activities

Current verification activities will be enhanced over time as follows:

** Improved user feedback form and display layer: As mentioned above, a new layer is being added to the state interactive map to display the location of user feedback. This additional information will help all users/consumers understand where provider-reported coverage may be in conflict with what users report "on the ground". This will help the mapping team better identify areas for further investigation. The feature will be loaded on the interactive map in October 2011.

** Mobile Wireless Broadband Drive Testing: This process will use a device provided by a vendor to test signal strength and bandwidth/throughput on multiple mobile wireless signals at the same time. This technology will be used in areas where there is a large discrepancy between provider-reported coverage/speed and consumer-reported coverage/speed to determine the actual coverage and speed characteristics. This commences in early 2012.

** Mobile Wireless Crowd Sourced Testing: This process will use a proprietary smart phone application provided by a vendor to constantly check signal strength and bandwidth/throughput on users' mobile phones. The application will be available on multiple phone platforms and will be downloadable by consumers in each LinkAMERICA Alliance state. It runs in the background on the consumer's phone and does not impact phone performance. Data is sent from the vendor to the LinkAMERICA Alliance for use in validating provider coverage and speed reports. This commences in early 2012.

Staffing

10j. How many jobs have been created or retained as a result of this project?

An analysis of actual hours worked in Q3 2011 shows that the project resulted in 1.14 FTE jobs created or retained (0.08 FTEs jobs created or retained at the Prime Recipient level plus 1.06 FTE jobs created or retained at the Sub Recipient and Vendor levels).

10k. Is the project currently fully staffed? Yes No

10l. If no, please explain how any lack of staffing may impact the project's time line and when the project will be fully staffed

This project is currently fully staffed.

10m. When fully staffed, how many full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs do you expect to create or retain as a result of this project?

At fully staffed capacity, we expect to create or retain between 1.5 and 1.7 FTEs. Please see 11L for further comments regarding staffing in Q3.

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Sub Recipient CEO - Supervisory Role	1	11/01/2009
Sub Recipient Project Director	8	11/01/2009
Sub Recipient Project Manager	22	09/05/2011
Sub Recipient GIS Director	20	11/01/2009
Sub Recipient Internal System Support/Architecture	9	11/01/2009
Sub Recipient Provider Relations Manager	18	11/01/2009
Prime Recipient Executive Director	2	11/01/2009
Prime Recipient Operations Manager	2	11/01/2009
Prime Recipient Contracts Coordinator	2	11/01/2009
Prime Recipient Project Manager	2	11/01/2009
Consulting	28	07/01/2011

Add Row

Remove Row

Sub Contracts

10o. Subcontracts Table

Name of Subcontractor	Purpose of Subcontract	RFP Issued (Y/N)	Contract Executed (Y/N)	Start Date	End Date	Federal Funds	In-Kind Funds
CostQuest Associates Inc./LinkAMERICA Alliance	Project Management/GIS Programming & Planning Services	N	Y	11/01/2009	10/31/2014	3,008,599	548,665
Region IV Development Association	Statewide Broadband Coordinator	N	N	11/01/2011	10/31/2014	330,628	82,657
To Be Determined	Monitoring and Evaluation of Capacity Building Efforts	Y	N	12/15/2011	10/31/2014	219,327	65,681
VISIONTECH360	Capacity Building	N	N	11/01/2011	10/31/2014	188,743	9,437
To Be Determined	Technical Assistance and Funding Identification	N	N	01/02/2012	10/31/2014	75,000	15,000
To Be Determined	Training of Key Leaders and Stakeholders	N	N	11/01/2012	10/31/2014	40,000	8,000

Fedarra	Federal Reporting	N	N	04/01/2011	10/31/2012	7,578	0
---------	-------------------	---	---	------------	------------	-------	---

Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,263,633 10q. How much Remains? \$3,222,581

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$354,491 10s. How much Remains? \$767,139

10t. Budget Worksheet

Mapping Budget Element	Federal Funds Granted	Proposed In-Kind	Total Budget	Federal Funds Expended	Matching Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended
Personal Salaries	\$346,895	\$287,489	\$634,384	\$47,306	\$169	\$47,475
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$86,724	\$5,556	\$92,280	\$9,922	\$35	\$9,957
Travel	\$17,920	\$0	\$17,920	\$2,574	\$0	\$2,574
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$4,225	\$0	\$4,225	\$100	\$133	\$233
Subcontracts Total	\$3,869,875	\$729,440	\$4,599,315	\$1,126,415	\$336,327	\$1,462,742
Subcontract #1	\$3,008,599	\$548,665	\$3,557,264	\$1,124,819	\$336,327	\$1,461,146
Subcontract #2	\$330,628	\$82,657	\$413,285	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #3	\$219,327	\$65,681	\$285,008	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #4	\$188,743	\$9,437	\$198,180	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$122,578	\$23,000	\$145,578	\$1,596	\$0	\$1,596
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$16,908	\$0	\$16,908	\$55,398	\$0	\$55,398
Total Direct Costs	\$4,342,547	\$1,022,485	\$5,365,032	\$1,241,715	\$336,664	\$1,578,379
Total Indirect Costs	\$143,667	\$99,145	\$242,812	\$21,918	\$17,827	\$39,745
Total Costs	\$4,486,214	\$1,121,630	\$5,607,844	\$1,263,633	\$354,491	\$1,618,124
% Of Total	80	20	100	78	22	100

Hardware / Software

10u. Has the project team purchased the software / hardware described in the application? Yes No

10v. If yes, please list

Laptop computer and software for Sub Recipient Project Manager (Idaho allocated portion): \$352.78

Laptop computer and software for Sub Recipient Vendor Relations Manager (Idaho allocated portion): \$339.48

Dell Precision T5500 Workstation w/ArclInfo C (Idaho allocated portion): \$3,458.59*

* The ArclInfo software was purchased to enable CostQuest to run data validation scripts that NTIA and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) require for the SBDD program. Purchasing the hardware/software bundle was the most cost effective way to acquire the needed software. Without the hardware the cost for the software alone would have been \$1,000.00 higher. This expense was allocated evenly to each of the four LinkAMERICA Alliance states.

10w. Please note any software / hardware that has yet to be purchased and explain why it has not been purchased

We do not anticipate the purchase of any additional hardware/software for the project.

10x. Has the project team purchased or used any data sets? Yes No

10y. If yes, please list

- ** American Roamer: Market area boundary and speed data on mobile cellular providers - \$5147
- ** Media Prints: Cable franchise boundary database - \$500
- ** ExchangeInfo: Legal exchange area boundary database for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers - \$3805

10z. Are there any additional project milestones or information that has not been included? Yes No

10aa. If yes, please list

** Data Collection Round 4: Data was processed and prepared for the October 1, 2011 data submission to NTIA. Status: Completed in September 2011.

10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing
The Data Collection for Round 4 proved to be especially challenging due to the change of the 2010 Census vintage. The LinkAMERICA Alliance found that many providers were not equipped to make this transition and needed assistance. The move to the new Census vintage resulted in a significant change in block counts in the LinkAMERICA states, and we anticipate the reflection of that change to impact the view of provider coverage on the interactive map. We have communicated extensively with providers throughout the Round 4 collection period to make them aware of the change and to assist with the resulting data issues. Additionally, we continue to encounter difficulty in reconciling reported provider speeds with the NTIA speed range parameters. We envision this problem becoming more pronounced as the program requires a more granular reporting of provider speed information.

10cc. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project
As reported for all four of the LinkAMERICA Alliance states, consumers and providers are raising concerns about the frequency in which the National Broadband Map (NBM) is updated. Providers are particularly concerned that the recent data has not yet appeared on the NBM and that consumers and policy makers won't be properly informed on their most recent efforts to expand broadband access.

The current Funding Table reflects amended figures as a result of recent approval of our detailed project plan and refinements of the data development and capacity building budgets. Also, we currently have 7 budgeted contracts but the Funding Table only allows us to show 5. Please see the Excel spreadsheet that was submitted as an attachment to this report for a detailed breakdown the 3 subcontracts that could not be listed in the table.

11. Broadband Planning

11a. Please describe progress made against all goals, objectives, and milestones detailed in the approved Project Plan. Be sure to include a description of each major activity / milestone that you plan to complete and your current status

The following are the key Planning activities/objectives described in the original project plan:

** Key Stakeholder Interviews: Perform interviews with 20+ influential cross-disciplinary stakeholders within the state to determine most critical barriers to broadband expansion and adoption. Due: June 2010. Status: Complete

** Publish Initial Broadband Vision Summary: Publish draft, review with stakeholders and state, and then finalize summary report of emerging state broadband priorities. Due: August 2010. Status: Complete.

** Idaho Household Broadband Survey: Perform a statistically significant study of household internet usage and attitudes to help direct broadband planning. Due: December 2010. Status: Complete.

** Facilitate Regional Planning Teams: Divide the state into appropriate regions and recruit local stakeholders and other in-state partners to draft regionally specific broadband development plans. Due: January 2010. Status: Complete.

** Recruit durable in-state sponsor: Identify and formalize relationship with educational or economic development entity that can assist in regional plan develop across the state and who can work to implement plans beyond Year 2. Due: December 2010. Status: Complete (The "Region IV Development Association" recently agreed to accept this role).

** Publish Regional Broadband Investment Plans: Work with Regional Planning Teams (RPT) to identify most productive short-term activities to expand broadband access and adoption in each region. Document steps to implement those activities and release final report to the public. Due: Q4 2011. Status: Underway.

11b. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing

The Planning team did not experience any significant challenges or obstacles in Q3 2011. The process continues to move forward on schedule in all six Idaho regions.

11c. Does the Project Team anticipate any changes to the project plan for Broadband Planning? Yes No

11d. If yes, please describe these anticipated changes. Please note that NTIA will need to approve changes to the Project Plan before they can be implemented

At this time, we do not anticipate changes to the project plans for the remainder of Year Two or the Supplemental Capacity Building period (Years 3-5).

Funding

11e. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$0 11f. How much Remains? \$0

11g. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$0 11h. How much Remains? \$0

11i. Planning Worksheet

Personal Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontracts Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #4	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Direct Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
% Of Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Additional Planning Information

11j. Are there any additional project milestones or information that has not been included?

As mentioned in prior reports, the program was granted an extension for filing the Year 3-5 Detailed Project Plan. The plan was filed in Q3. Details of the Capacity Building effort were detailed in that plan, and the key elements are as follows:

**** Build in-state Capacity Training Resources:** LinkIDAHO will seek a vendor to assist with developing, hosting, and managing of capacity building training material to: 1) Expand capacity of Idaho’s small business sector to access, adopt and utilize broadband, 2) Improve capacity of RPTs to advance current and future targeted broadband investments, 3) Strengthen regional leadership capacity to successfully identify and receive broadband-related grant resources, 4) Build in-state capacity for the sustainable use and future development of the broadband planning tools developed for RPTs.

**** Develop robust Broadband Monitoring & Evaluating (M&E) modules to track program achievement:** LinkIDAHO will seek a vendor to assist with the design and implementation of a research process to monitor the progress of broadband investment activities and evaluate the resulting outcomes and impacts.

**** LinkIDAHO will seek a qualified vendor to assemble and distribute policy trends relevant to federal and state public policy, Universal (USF) and Connect America Fund (CAF).**

**** Establish a State Broadband Coordinator's office to facilitate and coordinate capacity training, monitoring, and evaluation, and the**

ongoing regional planning process. This full time, in-state staff member will: 1) Provide a "statewide awareness clearinghouse" for broadband development activities and funding opportunities, 2) Track best practices from within state and coordinate the implementation of those practices within each region, 3) Log and communicate policy-related developments to the LinkIDAHO advisory team, regional teams, and all other stakeholders, 4) implement statewide program communications strategy.

11k. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the Project Team is employing

No challenges have yet been encountered in promoting the Year 3-5 goals.

11l. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project

A change in staffing occurred in Q3 with the Project Manager leaving the program in September. The Provider Relations Manager was promoted to fill the vacancy and steps were taken to backfill that position. There was no impact to the project time-line as the Round 4 data collection period deadline had passed and the staff on hand was able to assist with needed tasks during the short time the position was not staffed. A new Provider Relations Manager has been hired and will start in Q4. As the program has been fully staffed (with the exception of the short interim described above) we do not expect any changes to the FTEs that have been reported to date. The Date of Hire for the Project Manager on 10n reflects the date that the Provider Relations Manager assumed that role. The FTE associated with the Provider Relations Manager and the Project Manager reflects the hours associated with those positions for Q3.

CostQuest Associates submitted their audit to EdLab Group for review. EdLab Group has worked with CostQuest Associates to ensure the deficiencies identified by the auditor have been remedied. Per federal regulations, the audit was submitted to the Office of Inspector General and the Department of Commerce on June 30, 2011.

12. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purpose set forth in the award documents.

12a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official

Kathy Johnson

12c. Telephone
(area code, number, and extension)

12d. Email Address

kjohnson@edlabgroup.org

12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official

Submitted Electronically

12e. Date Report Submitted
(Month, Day, Year)

11-28-2011