

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Performance Progress Report**

2. Award Or Grant Number  
19-50-M09047

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)  
04-03-2012

1. Recipient Name  
Connected Nation, Inc. - Iowa

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:  
State of Iowa

3. Street Address  
1020 College Street, P.O. Box 3448,

8. Final Report?  Yes  No  
9. Report Frequency  
 Quarterly  
 Semi Annual  
 Annual  
 Final

5. City, State, Zip Code  
Bowling Green, KY 42102-3448

7. Project / Grant Period  
Start Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)  
01-01-2010

7a. End Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)  
12-31-2014

7b. Reporting Period End Date:  
03-31-2012

9a. If Other, please describe:  
N/A

**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

Amberwave Communications: The provider was non-responsive during the April 2012 mapping cycle to NTIA. Multiple contact attempts were made, and as of February 11, 2012, the provider remained non-responsive.

Mechanicsville Telephone Company: The provider was non-responsive during the April 2012 mapping cycle to NTIA. Multiple contact attempts were made, and as of February 11, 2012, the provider remained non-responsive.

Netconnect: The provider elected not to participate during the April 2012 mapping cycle to NTIA. On January 13, 2012, a company representative provided notification.

Schaller Telephone Company: The provider was non-responsive during the April 2012 mapping cycle to NTIA. Multiple contact attempts were made, and as of February 11, 2012, the provider remained non-responsive.

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

No data has been collected through extraction or extrapolation.

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

Connect Iowa has deployed an interactive mapping web application. The application is housed in a highly available, monitored, and managed environment. The application includes a staging environment for data verification and compatibility as well as a production environment for client access.

Consumer feedback in the form of broadband inquiries is also collected. These inquiries represent any type of communications received from the public regarding broadband service. Once broadband inquiries are received across the state, this information is overlaid with the broadband availability information which was collected through the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) program. This allows for a real-world comparison of the broadband landscape to the information received from broadband inquiries. Broadband inquiries are able to provide three types of information: 1) residents who do not have broadband but want it; 2) residents who have broadband but want a different provider; and 3) residents who do not have broadband, but the broadband inventory maps indicate that they do. If residents within a region state that they are without broadband, but the broadband inventory maps show otherwise, this allows Connected Nation to approach the providers within that area in an effort to trim down their coverage to more accurately represent real-world availability on the ground.

As of this report, field validation has been completed on 50.99% of the provider universe. One additional coverage estimation field audit will be completed on a non-participating provider which, by nature of the methodology, is similar to conducting a data validation on participating providers. The year-end goal for 2012 will be a cumulative validation rate of 60.00% of the provider universe.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities?  Yes  No

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

The interactive broadband map is publicly available on the Connect Iowa website (<http://www.connectiowa.org/interactive-map>) and received a total of 401 visits between January 1, 2012, and March 31, 2012.

During this quarter, the project received a total of 5 broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that can also be used for verification purposes totaled 3 for this quarter.

For this reporting period, 8 field verification tests were conducted. Thus far, project staff conducted multiple tests on the following providers: Algona Municipal Utilities; Ambercomm; AT&T Inc.; Aventure Communications; Ayrshire Farms Mutual Telephone Company; Brooklyn Mutual Telecommunications Cooperative; Cable ONE Inc.; Cedar Falls Utilities; Central Scott Telephone; CenturyLink (acquired Qwest Corporation); Chat Mobility; Circle Computer Resources (d.b.a. Cramer IT); Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative; Clarence Telephone Company; Clearwire Corporation; CML Telephone Cooperative Association of Meriden, Iowa; Colo Telephone Company; Community Cable Television Agency of O'Brien County; Complete Communication Services; Cooperative Telephone Exchange; Cornbelt Telephone; CoxCom, Inc.; Cumberland Telephone; Danville Mutual Telephone Company; East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative; Ellsworth Cooperative Telephone Exchange; Evertek Enterprises; Farmers & Merchants Mutual Telephone Company; Farmers Cooperative Telephone Company-Dysart; Farmers Mutual Cooperative Telephone Company – Harlan; Farmers Mutual Telephone Company-Jesup; Farmers Telephone Company-Essex (also d.b.a. Heartland Net); Farmers Mutual Telephone of Stanton; Fenton Co-Op Telephone Company; FiberComm LC; Frontier Communications Corporation; Goldfield Access Network; Grand Mound Cooperative; Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation;

...Please refer to the Iowa Q1-2012 Supplemental Answers document for further information.

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

N/A

## Staffing

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

6.32

Connect Iowa's FTEs reported for the quarter include 6.24 FTEs for staff, 0.03 FTEs for permanent consultants, and 0.05 FTEs for temporary, cyclical contractors. The project is fully staffed with a base of 6.27 FTEs.

Connected Nation has numerous staff, consultants, and contractors working on the Connect Iowa project, some at only a small percentage of their time. This approach is beneficial to the project in various ways: some staff provide necessary project support, many staff work together utilizing a team approach, and others are subject matter experts in their respective areas, and by leveraging their expertise the project benefits by their knowledge and skills without the necessity of supporting a more expensive full-time resource.

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

N/A

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

This project is fully staffed with a base of 6.27 FTEs.

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Connected Nation - Business Programmer Analyst	1	04/02/2007
Connected Nation - CAI Coordinator	3	09/16/2009
Connected Nation - CAI Coordinator	14	12/13/2004

Connected Nation - CAI Data Analyst	2	03/24/2009
Connected Nation - CAI Data Manager	2	08/09/2010
Connected Nation - Compliance Coordinator	6	08/01/2008
Connected Nation - Director Program Support	5	12/01/2004
Connected Nation - ETS Analyst	1	07/13/2009
Connected Nation - ETS Analyst	5	07/13/2009
Connected Nation - ETS Analyst	51	11/01/2007
Connected Nation - ETS Analyst	89	8/03/2009
Connected Nation - ETS Manager	9	07/01/2007
Connected Nation - GIS Analyst	1	04/01/2010
Connected Nation - GIS Analyst	1	05/14/2007
Connected Nation - GIS Analyst	4	11/16/2009
Connected Nation - GIS Analyst	56	09/17/2007
Connected Nation - GIS Services Manager	4	05/15/2007
Connected Nation - Grants Management Officer	7	02/24/2003
Connected Nation - Outreach & Awareness Manager	10	03/24/2009
Connected Nation - Outreach & Awareness Specialist	8	10/01/2007
Connected Nation - Outreach & Awareness Specialist	9	02/02/2009
Connected Nation - Outreach & Awareness Specialist	11	01/04/2010
Connected Nation - Outreach & Awareness Specialist	29	01/04/2010
Connected Nation - Program Director	11	08/04/2008
Connected Nation - Program Manager	100	08/22/2011
Connected Nation - Project Coordinator	1	11/16/2010
Connected Nation - Project Coordinator	7	04/01/2005
Connected Nation - Project Management Director	7	12/16/2009
Connected Nation - Project Manager	2	08/20/2007
Connected Nation - Project Manager	3	01/14/2008
Connected Nation - Project Manager	4	09/04/2007
Connected Nation - Project Manager	6	01/14/2008
Connected Nation - Project Manager	6	09/01/2006
Connected Nation - Project Manager	40	03/16/2010

Connected Nation - Provider Relations Manager	9	02/17/2005
Connected Nation - Research & GIS Analyst	8	05/14/2007
Connected Nation - Research Analyst	1	10/17/2011
Connected Nation - Research Analyst	3	09/19/2011
Connected Nation - Research Analyst	5	06/01/2009
Connected Nation - Research Analyst	41	02/01/2010
Connected Nation - Research Manager	7	05/14/2007
Connected Nation - State Services Manager	3	07/01/2007
Connected Nation - State Services Specialist	4	03/24/2009
Connected Nation - State Services Specialist	26	02/02/2009
Connected Nation - State Services Sr. Specialist	2	12/20/2009
Consultant - Associate Counsel	2	09/14/2009
Consultant - General Counsel	1	01/01/2007
GISbiz, Inc. - Programmer	3	02/27/2012
GISbiz, Inc. - Systems Architect	2	02/27/2012

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**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
Thoroughbred Research Group	Research Surveys	Y	Y	02/09/2010	02/08/2012	167,350	0
Contract Labor	Contract Labor	N	Y	01/01/2010	12/31/2014	359,346	250,280

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**Funding**

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$2,434,059      10q. How much Remains? \$3,335,883

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$495,119      10s. How much Remains? \$951,355

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	\$1,781,593	\$154,543	\$1,936,136	\$710,588	\$1,689	\$712,277
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$382,149	\$45,123	\$427,272	\$143,076	\$362	\$143,438
Travel	\$284,757	\$0	\$284,757	\$87,443	\$582	\$88,025
Equipment	\$146,140	\$0	\$146,140	\$87,322	\$0	\$87,322
Materials / Supplies	\$49,415	\$0	\$49,415	\$28,681	\$0	\$28,681
<b>Subcontracts Total</b>	<b>\$1,187,286</b>	<b>\$295,447</b>	<b>\$1,482,733</b>	<b>\$546,040</b>	<b>\$250,280</b>	<b>\$796,320</b>

Mapping Budget Element	Federal Funds Granted	Proposed In-Kind	Total Budget	Federal Funds Expended	Matching Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended
Subcontract #1	\$301,831	\$0	\$301,831	\$167,350	\$0	\$167,350
Subcontract #2	\$829,232	\$295,447	\$1,124,679	\$359,346	\$250,280	\$609,626
Subcontract #3	\$17,540	\$0	\$17,540	\$9,506	\$0	\$9,506
Subcontract #4	\$38,683	\$0	\$38,683	\$9,838	\$0	\$9,838
Subcontract #5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$37,181	\$896,648	\$933,829	\$26,244	\$239,885	\$266,129
Total Direct Costs	\$3,868,521	\$1,391,761	\$5,260,282	\$1,629,394	\$492,798	\$2,122,192
Total Indirect Costs	\$1,901,421	\$54,713	\$1,956,134	\$804,665	\$2,321	\$806,986
Total Costs	\$5,769,942	\$1,446,474	\$7,216,416	\$2,434,059	\$495,119	\$2,929,178
% Of Total	80	20	100	83	17	100

### Hardware / Software

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

10v. If yes, please list

Hardware/Software purchases for the project to date include the following:

- Interactive Mapping Application - \$60,000
- GIS Software & Maintenance - \$15,719
- Computers & Software - \$11,090
- Spectrum Analyzer - \$9,008
- Speed Test Software - \$4,081
- Google Earth Pro - \$585

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

Remaining purchases may include SQL server for mapping geodatabase, SQL server software, multiple dedicated storage servers, security application, additional backup replication solution, computers, GPS units, interactive map upgrades/maintenance, ArcInfo/ArcGIS maintenance, and speed test updates as well as computers and software maintenance.

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

10y. If yes, please list

Connect Iowa received a listing of Community Anchor Institution (CAI) addresses and technology data from the Iowa Communications Network as part of an in-kind match contribution to assist Connect Iowa with its mapping and planning goals - \$25

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

10aa. If yes, please list

Connect Iowa (CIA) successfully submitted to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) an update to the state broadband dataset. The data update submission includes datasets for 98.02 percent of the provider community, or 198 of 202 total providers. There were 196 participating providers and 2 additional non-participating providers whose estimated coverage areas were submitted. Of the 196 participating providers, 55 supplied an update to their network or coverage area(s), while 133 reported no change. The remaining 8 represent providers who previously submitted data but were non-responsive in this update. The 4 providers that were not represented in the dataset have refused to participate in the voluntary program or were non-responsive to multiple contact attempts.

10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing  
The Connect Iowa program continues to be challenged with educating Community Anchor Institutions on the importance and the nature of gathering data on location and broadband connectivity in accordance with the requirements of the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Technical Appendix. The challenge is minimized by engaging sector and organizational leaders, with the assistance of our state clients, as stakeholders to distribute a CAI broadband survey on our behalf. Response has been significantly higher when the survey is distributed by the sector leaders. Connect Iowa will focus on one sector per month to better direct attention and outreach efforts toward specific sectors.

For Q1 2012, Connect Iowa's match percentage based on total expenditures was 16.90%. Thus Connect Iowa will fall short of the required match percentage by 3.14%. Connect Iowa is working with the Iowa Economic Development Authority to identify additional sources of match. Through the receipt of in-kind match from sub-recipient, the Iowa Association of Regional Councils, volunteers participating in the Local/Regional Technology Planning Teams and CIA Advisory Committee, as well as datasets from various state entities, Connect Iowa expects to meet its required match percentage in Q2 2012.

10cc. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project

CIA releases Universal Service Fund (USF) Mobility Fund eligibility maps & analysis

(<http://www.connectiowa.org/blog/post/connect-iowa-releases-usf-mobility-fund-eligibility-maps-analysis>)

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced its plans to distribute \$300 million in wireless infrastructure subsidies to support the construction of high-speed mobile broadband networks. These subsidies – called the Mobility Fund – will be allocated later this year. In response, Connect Iowa released maps and analyses comparing the FCC's list of areas eligible for subsidies to its own broadband inventory information. This analysis confirmed that the vast majority of the areas of Iowa lacking 3G technology do not, in fact have adequate mobile broadband service. However, it also appears that many parts of Iowa that do not have access to high-speed mobile broadband service are not on the FCC's list of eligible areas.

CIA releases updated broadband availability estimates

(<http://www.connectiowa.org/blog/post/connect-iowa-releases-updated-broadband-availability-estimates>)

Connect Iowa's latest broadband availability estimates, using the most recently published 2010 Census household data, indicates:

- 97.6% of Iowa households have access to fixed broadband service of at least 768 kilobytes per second (Kbps) downstream and 200 Kbps upstream (excluding mobile and satellite services).
- 92.5% of Iowa households have access to fixed broadband service of at least 3 megabytes per second (Mbps) downstream and 768 Kbps upstream (excluding mobile and satellite services).
- 2.4% of Iowa households remain unserved by any fixed broadband provider, representing approximately 29,400 unserved households that do not have access to a fixed wireless or wired broadband service offering (excluding mobile and satellite services).

...Please refer to Iowa Q1-2012 Supplemental Answers document for further information.

## 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

Broadband Capacity Building Quarterly Milestones Year 3, Quarter 1

Milestone: Connect Iowa Office Administration and Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board support.

This milestone was partially met. Connect Iowa continued to provide administrative project oversight involving a variety of tasks that encompass administering the project plan, managing workflow and timeline, verifying work quality, gathering documentation in support of community outreach/projects, and preparing reports as required by the Iowa Economic Development Authority and other stakeholders. The continued implementation of the position of Program Manager for the Connect Iowa program proves to be extremely beneficial towards providing support for the program and expanding the broadband adoption rates in the state of Iowa. However, due to circumstances outside of Connect Iowa's control, the Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board (IBDGB) has not been reinstated, as such Connect Iowa's program staff have not held bi-monthly meetings as described within the approved project plan.

Milestone: Conduct the meeting(s) of the Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board

This milestone was not met. The Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board (IBDGB) has not been reinstated with new members assigned to carry out the work of broadband adoption in the state. The IBDGB has not convened since April 2011 and has yet to reorganize, and therefore, the future of the statutorily created IBDGB remains uncertain at this time. Connect Iowa has worked in conjunction with the Iowa Economic Development Authority to pursue alternative methods of completing this milestone in future periods via either a reconstituted IBDGB or alternative methods.

...Please refer to Iowa Q1-2012 Supplemental Answers document for further information.

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

Broadband Capacity Building

The status of the statutorily created Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board is still unknown at this time. Connect Iowa, in conjunction with the Iowa Economic Development Authority, continues to pursue alternative methods for holding bi-monthly and or quarterly state stakeholder meetings in future periods. Connect Iowa has recently instituted a Connect Iowa Advisory Committee, which held its first meeting during the quarter.

Technical Assistance

The peer review process was unable to be finalized before the end of Q1 2012. At this time, an appropriate peer review partner has been identified and a contract agreement has been signed. The peer review process is anticipated to be completed in Q2 2012.

Local/Regional Technology Planning Teams



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

Nothing to report.

11l. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project  
Connect Iowa counted over 652.9 million (652,939,698) positive mainstream media stories in Q1 2012. Stories that point to CIA's research and work and raise awareness of the CIA program include:

#### Broadband Capacity Building

CIA forms a new Advisory Committee with an inaugural meeting in January in Des Moines. (<http://www.connectiowa.org/recent-news/connect-iowa-iowa-economic-development-authority-launch-new-advisory-committee-broadband>)

Connect Iowa and program sponsor, the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), convened the first Connect Iowa Advisory Committee meeting, kicking off a new community engagement effort to expand broadband access, adoption, and use across the state. Community leaders from around Iowa are now joining forces to oversee the expansion of high-speed Internet to every corner of the state. Connect Iowa's new broadband advisory committee includes elected officials, public service agency representatives, providers, educators, librarians, and business people. Their common goal is to support and guide the Connect Iowa initiative.

The Q1 2012 Connect Iowa eNewsletter is provided as a PDF attachment as a part of this report.

#### Technical Assistance

Nothing to report.

...Please refer to Iowa Q1-2012 Supplemental Answers document for further information.



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

Bernie Bogle

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

12d. Email Address

bbogle@connectednation.org

12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official

Submitted Electronically

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

04-27-2012