

14Q3_Supplemental Answers_Minnesota

Connected Nation, Inc.

Grant Number 27-50-M09043

Reporting Period End Date 09-30-14

14 a_Project Attachment_Data Collection

2. Describe any additional project milestones that have been accomplished over this reporting period (Ex. Updates to state broadband maps and websites, map outreach activities).

The interactive mapping web application, called My ConnectView, continues to be maintained. The application is housed in a highly available, monitored, and managed environment. My ConnectView is publicly available on the program website (www.connectmn.org). There were a total of 1,449 visits to the interactive map between July 1 and September 30, 2014.

During this quarter, the project received a total of 6 broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that was also used for verification purposes totaled 8 for this quarter. Users can also request non-confidential mapping data produced for the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) grant program; 10 such requests were received between July 1 and September 30, 2014.

For this reporting period, 32 field verification tests were conducted along with outreach to providers in support of the semi-annual data submission. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 123 companies (out of a 126 viable providers) totaling 97.62% within the state.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff assisted providers with the development of deployment files for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Form 477 filing. Also, GIS staff created maps of eligible areas for Rural Broadband Experiments based on data released by the FCC.

The final data update submission under the SBI program was completed during the quarter, which included datasets for 99.21% of the Minnesota provider community or 125 of 126 total providers. There were 122 participating providers and 3 additional non-participating providers whose estimated coverage areas were submitted. Of the 122 participating providers, 58 supplied an update to their network or coverage area(s), while 61 reported no change. The remaining 3 represent providers who previously supplied data but were non-responsive in the final update effort; therefore, their previous dataset was put forward as part of this compilation. The 1 provider not represented in the datasets was non-responsive to multiple contact attempts.

This final submission also included business/commercial providers; of the 188 residential datasets represented in this submission, including providers that offer multiple technology types, 164 are broadband datasets that do not distinguish between serving primarily residential or primarily non-residential users (end user category 5). There were 23 business-only broadband datasets (end user category 2) also included in this final submission.

14 b_Project Attachment_Capacity Building

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.

Capacity Building milestones for Year 5, Quarter 3 per approved Project Plan

Milestone: Year 5, Quarter 3 Connect Minnesota Office Administration and Task Force Support

This milestone was met. The program office in St. Paul is fully staffed and interacting with stakeholders, broadband providers, and other representatives across the state. Program staff continues to support the Minnesota Governor's Task Force on Broadband and the state's Office of Broadband Development (OBD) by serving as a reference point for all mapping and research related data and other reference material.

Additional support provided by program staff this quarter included scheduling, planning (preparing invitations, creating agendas, and sending meeting information), and facilitating Task Force meetings in St. Paul and Perham. Other activities included creation of project status reports delivered to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and other stakeholders. Program staff worked with the Office of Broadband Development in support of the Office's preparations for administering the state's \$20 million Infrastructure grant fund. Program staff provided new mapping and broadband availability analysis tools to the Office in support of the grant program.

Program staff continued to provide administrative oversight for milestones included within the project plan by managing workflow and timeline demands to ensure the highest quality of service is provided to the state.

In-depth planning for a 2014 Broadband Conference, to be co-hosted with the Blandin Foundation on November 8-9, commenced. Connect Minnesota will provide technical capabilities for live streaming portions of the event. Planning will be finalized in the early part of Q4 2014.

Program representatives maintain attendance at various events, including those held by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and Fiber to the Home Council (FTTH) in Minneapolis, and continue to document meetings with key stakeholders influencing increasing levels of broadband adoption, access, and use throughout the state. Lastly, the program continues to serve as an invaluable resource to the state of Minnesota on issues related to broadband access, adoption, and use.

Milestone: Conduct Year 5, Quarter 3 Task Force Meetings

This milestone was met. Two (2) meetings of the Governor's Task Force on Broadband were held in Q3 2014. The program manager continues to serve a variety of roles in supporting the activities of the Task Force. Together with the staff of program partner, the Office of Broadband Development, the state program manager participates in the monthly Task Force meetings and frequent conference calls. In addition, the program provides data, mapping, and research that assist the Task Force with their work.

Capacity Building Major Activities for Next Quarter (Q4 2014)

- Year 5, Quarter 4 Connect Minnesota Office Administration and Task Force Support
- Year 5, Quarter 4 Task Force Meetings

4. Provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses this project's progress.

In Q4, Connect Minnesota will release the results of the latest broadband availability data from the October 2014 data submission process.

There are two (2) Task Force meetings scheduled in Q4 2014, and the state program manager will continue to staff the Task Force. In addition, the Task Force's Annual Report to the Governor is scheduled to be completed in Q4 and program staff will, as in years past, be coordinating the drafting of this report with Task Force members and state OBD staff.

A delegation of Malaysian government officials, visiting the United States for the Fourth Annual Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council meeting in New York, travelled to Louisville, Kentucky to meet with representatives of Connected Nation's eight SBI programs. Meetings, which took place at various sites across Kentucky and Ohio, provided a forum for Malaysian representative to orient Connected Nation leadership to their benchmark based goals for increasing access, adoption and use of broadband. Connected Nation program representatives shared information about broadband mapping best practices, community engagement for technology planning, and capacity building for technology growth at the community level. The comparison and contrast of national practices with regard to technology planning and expansion provided an opportunity to showcase Connected Nation programs locally. Local media where Connected Nation has programs took note of the Malaysian guests and inquirers. This media coverage brought favorable attention to Connected Nation programs and increased awareness to our stakeholders.

14 b_Project Attachment_Technical Assistance

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.

Technical Assistance milestones for Year 5, Quarter 3 per approved Project Plan

Milestone: Initiate 2014 residential survey research

This milestone was met. Research staff offered state stakeholders the opportunity to offer recommendations on the survey and finalized the 2014 residential survey script, then created a survey instrument for data collection. The survey is in the field for data collection, and the process is anticipated to be finished early Q4 2014.

Milestone: Initiate 2014 residential survey peer review

This milestone was partially met. Research staff is currently contacting potential peer reviewers to check their availability and willingness. Once a peer reviewer is identified and the data collection is finished, staff will be able to execute a contract with the peer reviewer and provide them with the survey results.

Milestone: Finalize and distribute 2014 business survey research results

This milestone was met. Based on the state interest and the peer reviewer's (Jack Geller, at University of Tampa) suggestions, research staff finalized the 2014 business survey research results and its methodology document and summarized research findings with various formats such as Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, PDF infographic, and interactive online tool (<http://www.connectmn.org/survey->

[results/business](#)). Then the team distributed the finalized results to the NTIA and state stakeholders before making them public through a press release and website update which is included in the “14Q3_Project Attachment_Question 5_Minnesota” section of this report.

Milestone: Analyze 2014 non-adopter oversample survey results

This milestone was met. Research staff conducted various analyses on the 2014 non-adopter oversample survey such as willingness to pay and main barriers to broadband adoption. They also generated a spreadsheet for peer review and developed a survey methodology document that outlines the method of data collection, weighting, and analysis.

Milestone: Facilitate 2014 Quarter 3 Minnesota Broadband Summit planning efforts

This milestone was met. Program staff continued planning efforts in conjunction with the Blandin Foundation for the 2014 Broadband Conference to be held November 8-9. The state program manager will be moderating two panels: one focused on state broadband policy and the other on federal broadband policy. Additional program staff will be on hand to conduct a livestream of the Conference.

Outstanding Technical Assistance Milestones (not met or partially met) from previous quarters:

Year 5, Quarter 2 Milestone: Peer review of the 2014 business survey research completed

This milestone was partially met in Q2 2014 and met in full this quarter. Research staff received the final reviewing documents from Jack Geller, a professor from University of Tampa. The peer reviewer was able to verify the research results of the 2014 business survey as well as proof the survey methodology and survey instrument.

Year 5, Quarter 2 Milestone: Analyze 2014 statewide business survey research results and present initial findings to stakeholders

This milestone was met this quarter. Research staff conducted analysis on the 2014 business survey research before finalizing the same and providing the results to NTIA and state stakeholders. Subsequently, survey results were released publicly via the press release and website update.

Technical Assistance Major Activities for Next Quarter (Q4 2014)

- Analyze 2014 residential survey research results
- Finalize and distribute 2014 statewide residential survey research results
- Finalize and distribute 2014 non-adopter oversample survey results
- Peer review of 2014 survey research completed
- Development and execution of the Minnesota Regional Broadband Adoption Survey
- Execution of Minnesota 2014 Annual Broadband Summit

4. Provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses this project's progress.

In Q4, Connect Minnesota will release the results of the 2014 Residential Broadband Adoption Survey. In Q3 2014, outreach and awareness staff distributed, via press release and website postings, the latest data from the Minnesota Business Survey.

According to the 2014 business survey, 78% of Minnesota businesses use broadband for their daily operations, leaving 32,000 businesses not connected. Findings indicate 21,000 Internet-connected businesses want more bandwidth, and of those, nearly two-fifths (39%) report that they can't get faster

service where they are located. Nearly half of Minnesota businesses (46%) say they spend their own time and resources training new employees on the software that their business uses. Online sales represented more than \$36.8 billion dollars in revenues for Minnesota businesses last year.