

13Q1_Supplemental Answers_Nevada

Connected Nation

Grant Number 32-50-M09056

Reporting Period End Date 3-31-13

During the preparation of this report staff identified the need to reclassify between projects Planning Team consultant matching funds. In previous quarters, \$88,334 received from the Planning Team consultants was reported in the Data Collection project in error. Corrections have been made within the budget worksheet and Project Attachment of this PPR submission. As a result, the subcontracts match line item of the Data Collection project will decrease while the same line within the Planning Teams project will increase.

14a_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).

Connect Nevada continues to maintain the interactive mapping web application, called My ConnectView. The application is housed in a highly available, monitored, and managed environment. My ConnectView is publicly available on the program website (<http://www.connectnv.org/interactive-map>). There were a total of 184 visits to the interactive map between January 1, 2013, and March 31, 2013.

During this quarter, My ConnectView underwent an upgrade to the server software and the application programming interface (API), as well as additional enhancements to improve the user experience. The server was upgraded to ArcGIS for Server 10.1 and the ArcGIS API for Flex was upgraded to version 3.0. A new button to create permanent links allows users to develop a customized display of My ConnectView with various data layers turned on with a specific zoom level and then send the permanent link to another user, who will then get the same display in the interactive map setting. A date display was also added to the legend to inform the user of the current nature of the broadband data. Lastly, the pop-up window style was enhanced to allow users to scroll through multiple record selections, as well as view a better display of the record's information.

During this quarter, the project received 1 broadband inquiry.

From program initiation through this reporting period, in-the-field validation testing has been completed against 49 companies (out of a universe of 60 viable providers) totaling 81.67 percent within the state of Nevada.

During this quarter, broadband growth maps were developed and made public on the program website. The analysis behind these maps shows where broadband coverage has changed in comparison to the October 2010 datasets: where coverage 1) has been added where it already existed in October 2010, 2) has been removed, and 3) has been added in previously unserved areas.

4. Provide any other information or statistics that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your broadband data collection, validation, and publication activities.

In support of FirstNet applications, additional broadband availability analyses based on the October 2012 State Broadband Initiative (SBI) data collection were completed to include in the state's application. A breakdown of geographic area and household broadband availability by speed tier was completed to assist in understanding where the gaps exist in mobile broadband service and fixed broadband service to citizens in rural areas.

During this quarter, maps and tables were completed and made public on the Connected Nation website, <http://www.connectednation.org/fcc-maps>, displaying the analysis of census blocks eligible for Phase I of the Connect America Fund broadband subsidy program in comparison with the most recent October 2012 SBI broadband data collection. The maps and analysis published reflect the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) data release of eligible census blocks on January 4, 2013.

Throughout the first quarter of 2013, the program partook in a public safety campaign to generate excitement and educate stakeholders about the role of broadband in the public safety sector. As a result of the campaign, the program saw a slight uptick in the number of Community Anchor Institution (CAI) survey responses received and data collected. Staff solicited missing and/or new data from stakeholders as they traveled to communities throughout the quarter.

14b_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 4, Quarter 1 per approved project plan:

Milestone: State broadband program office administration complete.

This milestone was met. The program maintained office space at the Nevada State Library and Archives in Carson City. The state program manager oversaw meeting deliverables as described in the Project Plan including managing timelines for creation of 14 local technology plans, verifying accuracy of information supplied by the communities, creating agendas and follow-up documentation post meeting, and gathering additional information for the communities. Staff

also supported the logistical and administrative needs of the Nevada Broadband Task Force including scheduling presentations, drafting agendas, coordinating locations and information technology (IT) support, adhering to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, and taking minutes. The SBI program is a standing agenda item, whereas project status updates were presented at each meeting of the Task Force; those meetings took place on January 22 and March 21 this quarter. Two community tech team specialists plan, coordinate, and host planning team meetings in each of the 14 counties. This quarter, staff answered inquiries from the Nevada State Legislature and most recently hosted and participated in a meeting on March 13 with key state stakeholders to determine best practices between the Bureau of Land Management and Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation, a Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) recipient.

Milestone: Meeting of the Year 4, Quarter 1 Nevada Broadband Task Force complete

This milestone was met. The Nevada Broadband Task Force met January 22 and March 21. Program staff provided a report at the January 22 meeting that included updates regarding the Nevada Broadband Summit and regional planning development. Staff also facilitated the presentation of Commnet (Mobility Fund Auction Winner) to the Task Force, and coordinated presentations from the Nevada Hospital Association, the Nevada Health Information Technology project, and sustainability plans from other American Recovery and Reinvestment Act awardees including Las Vegas Urban League, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation.

At the March 21 meeting of the Task Force, updates were provided that included the date and location for the Nevada Broadband Summit (University of Nevada, Reno on November 18), development of criteria for a broadband hero award slated for presentation at the summit, results of the residential survey and resulting white paper entitled "Technology Use Among Rural Nevada Businesses," the success of Connect Nevada in finding a low-income residential discounted Internet service, and the progress of local planning teams. Program staff sought input from the Task Force on possible agenda items and feedback for the next summit as well as future research topics of interest. Meetings with the Chair, Daphne DeLeon, and Vice Chair, Randy Brown, of the Nevada Broadband Task Force occur on a weekly basis where more detailed discussions take place.

Program staff managed and created the agenda for both Task Force meetings in collaboration with the Chair, Daphne DeLeon. Sign-in sheets and meeting minutes are collected to ensure proper tracking of in-kind match. As a standing item on Task Force meeting agendas, Connect Nevada ensured the review and follow-up of action items from previous meetings, garnered recommendations for future agenda meetings, and scheduled future meeting dates. Recommendations provided by the Task Force were immediately communicated to staff and were incorporated in media releases, mapping updates, and future research initiatives.

Broadband Capacity planned major activities for the next quarter:

- State broadband program office administration complete
- Meeting of the Year 4, Quarter 2 Nevada Broadband Task Force complete

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

Connect Nevada has helped a small community in Baker identify a potential provider willing to expand both mobile broadband and fixed wireless (in partnership with another company). Baker has been working for many years to get mobile service and had been previously ignored and turned down by all major providers in the area.

Here are some words from the community:

“Connect Nevada, under the leadership and drive of Lindsey Niedzielski, has championed Baker, Nevada, the little town bypassed by the cyber-highway. Even though mobile access is not its primary mission, Connect Nevada has been working the challenging problem of bringing mobile access (cell phone coverage) to Baker, gateway to the Great Basin National Park, Nevada's only national park. Visitors, residents, ranchers, and business owners are at a public safety deficit without cell service. It looks like a solution is going to happen, thanks to the determination and dedication of Lindsey and Connect Nevada. We hope that it happens, and that the Snake Valley's mobile access and broadband access will be able to serve its diverse users and sustain connectivity into the future.” – Abby Johnson

“Baker, Nevada has long been the orphan child when it comes to updates in infrastructure. Ranchers, sheepherders, stranded motorists, and visitors to Great Basin National Park, as well as restaurant, motel, and campground owners would all benefit from cell phone service in Snake Valley. Spanning the Nevada-Utah border, the valley is located in a particularly remote part of the nation — remote and beautiful — but with no cell phone service.

Thanks to Connect Nevada, our organization has been working with a cell phone service provider since November 2012 to change that. Four months later, plans for a new tower are nearly completed. Residents are eagerly looking forward to joining the Information Age. Without the support of Connect Nevada, none of this would have been possible.” – Lynne Hoffman Chairperson, Baker Area Citizens Advisory Board

Connect Nevada also identified an alternative provider for Storey County and their county government offices. The provider offered a more reliable service at a cheaper price. This was a provider not currently serving the area, but who made adjustments to their business plan to accommodate the county.

As a result of the Nevada Broadband Summit in Q4 2012, many providers took advantage of a presentation by SWITCH, Nevada's largest server farm, which allowed some providers to reduce costs that could in turn be passed on to consumers.

14b_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 4, Quarter 1 per approved project plan:

Milestone: 2012 residential survey research results released publicly

This milestone was met. In Q1 2013, NTIA approved the program's revised Project Plan. In accordance with the new research schedule, the 2012 residential survey was initiated in Q3 2012 and the results were analyzed in Q4 2012. These results were peer reviewed in Q1 2013, with initial results provided to the Task Force, state stakeholders, and NTIA. The results were finalized and released publicly in Q1 2013.

Milestone: Initiate planning activities for the community broadband summit 3

This milestone was met. Lessons learned from community broadband summit 2 were gathered and reviewed with members of the Task Force in Q4 2012 at the November 29 Task Force meeting. The event framework including timeline, venue, attendee participation, and communications items were also presented at the meeting. Daphne DeLeon, Task Force Chair, reported a number of successes that she witnessed including positive outcomes from working sessions. The vice chair shared his concern over the low attendance by members of the Task Force. This quarter, the Nevada Broadband Task Force met January 22 and March 31. At the January 22 meeting, program staff provided a report that included updates regarding the third Nevada Broadband Summit. At the March 31 meeting, updates were provided that included the date and location for the Nevada Broadband Summit (University of Nevada, Reno on November 18) and development of award criteria for a broadband hero award to be presented at the summit. Connect Nevada sought input from the Task Force on possible agenda items and feedback for the next summit during both gatherings. On February 19, regularly scheduled project team meetings were established where initiating activities commenced and tasks began to be identified for tracking. Lastly, meetings with the Task Force Chair and Vice Chair of the Nevada Broadband Task Force occur on a weekly basis where additional, detailed feedback is garnered.

Technical Assistance milestones outstanding from previous quarters:

Year 3, Quarter 4 Milestone: Peer review of the 2012 residential survey research completed.

This milestone was met in Q1 2013. In accordance with the new research schedule included in the most recently approved Project Plan, the 2012 residential survey was initiated in Q3 2012 and the results were analyzed in Q4 2012. These results were peer reviewed in Q1 2013, with initial results provided to the Task Force, state stakeholders, and NTIA.

Year 3, Quarter 1 Milestone: Confirm research plan for Years 3 through 5.

This milestone was met in Q1 2013. In Q1 2012, conversations were held during the Nevada Broadband Task Force meetings regarding the methodology and results of Connect Nevada's surveys and stakeholder input was incorporated into research plans for years 3-5, including

plans to focus on industry sectors that align with the Governor's Economic Development Plan and as well as the differences between rural and urban businesses. The resulting plan was submitted and ultimately confirmed by NTIA in Q1 2013.

Year 3, Quarter 3 Milestone: Finalize and distribute 2012 statewide residential survey research results

This milestone was met in Q1 2013. The 2012 residential survey commenced in Q3 2012 and the results were analyzed in Q4 2012. These results were peer reviewed in Q1 2013. Initial results were provided to the Task Force, state stakeholders, and NTIA in Q1 2013. Finally, the results were finalized and released publicly in Q1 2013 through a press release and via an interactive widget accessible on the program website <http://www.connectnv.org/survey-results/residential>.

Technical Assistance planned major activities for the next quarter:

- Finalize planning activities for the community broadband summit 3
- Develop 2013 residential survey script

14b_Project Attachment_Planning Teams

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.

Planning Teams milestones for Year 4, Quarter 1 per approved project plan:

Milestone: Facilitate Year 4, Quarter 1 local broadband planning team activities

This milestone was met. Program staff have identified champions in 14 counties and held community kick-off meetings to initiate the planning process in all 14 counties. As a result of this planning effort, 11 community assessments have been completed and 9 community planning drafts have been initiated; 2 plans have been finalized and presented to the communities, each of which are tailored specifically for that community's unique challenges and opportunities. Additional meetings in Douglas County, Nevada's first certified Connected Community, have been conducted in an effort to start implementing the plan. This has led the county public safety department to make a future tower investment in Genoa, NV on top of the East Fork Fire Department, as well as start a plan to incorporate Wi-Fi connectivity in senior citizen transport vans and develop local speed test competition to better understand access issues in the county. In addition, Lyon County has started gathering community names for implementation of their plan.

Connect Nevada has partnered with initiatives like Stronger Economies Together and the creation of the Western Nevada Development District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to inform local, broadband-related, train-the-trainer activities simultaneously delivering broadband strategic planning as well as information related to regional economic planning. These initiatives also inform and help develop the Connect Nevada project. For

example, the Nevada SBI project has now implemented a simple action planning strategy that mirrors the work of the Stronger Economies Together project. This synergy is also reflected in research with the incorporation of specific industries related to economic planning data. This effort continues to cross-collaborate with case studies, best practices, engagement with providers, and the development of statewide agencies relationships.

The two community tech team specialists continue to support the training and planning activities for the community planning teams and support the implementation of projects to address challenges and opportunities. The specialists manage the logistics of these quarterly meetings which includes scheduling, creating agendas, and following up with wrap-up reports. The state program manager and the community tech team specialists meet weekly to ensure local community issues are addressed at the state level and are incorporated into media announcements, stakeholder engagement and future research initiatives.

Planning Teams planned major activities for the next quarter:

- Facilitate Year 4, Quarter 2 local broadband planning team activities