

## **14Q1\_Supplemental Answers\_Nevada**

**Connected Nation, Inc.**  
**Grant Number 32-50-M09056**  
**Reporting Period End Date 03-31-14**

### **14 a\_Project Attachment\_Data Collection**

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

Engineering and Technical Services (ETS) staff conducted and completed provider outreach in support of the semi-annual data submission. The completed data submission, under the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) program, included datasets for 100% of the Nevada provider community, or 60 total providers. There were 57 participating providers and 3 additional, non-participating providers whose estimated coverage areas have been submitted. Of the 57 participating providers, 26 supplied an update to their network or coverage area(s), while 27 have reported no change. The remaining 4 represent providers who previously supplied data but were non-responsive in the recent update effort; therefore, their previous dataset was put forward as part of the compilation. This submission also includes business/commercial providers; of the 53 residential providers represented in the above section, 26 are providers that do not distinguish between serving primarily residential or primarily non-residential users (end user category 5). In addition to the residential providers reported, 8 business-only providers (end user category 2) are also included in the submission.

Two data requests were received between January 1, 2014 and March 31, 2014 for non-confidential mapping data produced for the SBI grant program.

The interactive mapping web application, called My ConnectView, was maintained again this quarter. The application is housed in a highly available, monitored, and managed environment. My ConnectView is publicly available on the program website ([www.connectnv.org](http://www.connectnv.org)). There were a total of 84 visits to the interactive map between January 1, 2014 and March 31, 2014.

Maps of broadband availability for each State House and State Senate district were completed in January, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff created a custom map of Douglas County broadband speed tests.

For this reporting period, 12 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 52 companies (out of 60 viable providers) totaling 86.67% within the state of Nevada.

In an effort to provide the most accurate validation information available, project to date validation numbers are in the process of being reviewed and recalculated to consider the impact on the total percentage of providers validated when removing companies that have gone out of business and/or have been merged with or acquired by other companies. As this review will continue in Q2, the

validation numbers presented for this quarter are preliminary and conservative reflecting an adjustment to the percentage of providers validated in an effort to account for this variance.

**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.**

Based on information released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on the Rural Broadband Experiments, Connected Nation created maps of the eligible census tracts and assisted states, broadband providers, and other stakeholders with reviewing and understanding the information provided to help with expressions of interest as possible.

Tabular information on Community Anchor Institution (CAI) connectivity was updated using October 2013 datasets in an effort to assist with information being reviewed and prepared by Policy and Research Development staff. Further updates to the program's CAI information include healthcare data received from the Department of Health and Human Services.

**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 1 per approved Project Plan:

**Milestone: State broadband program office administration complete**

This milestone was met. Program staff maintained office space at the Nevada State Library and Archives in Carson City. The program manager oversaw meeting deliverables including managing progress toward implementation of local projects, educating local/state leaders about federal grant initiatives, and participating in and attending various state departmental meetings to assess needs. Program representatives also supported the logistical and administrative needs of the Nevada Broadband Task Force (Task Force) including scheduling presentations, drafting agendas, coordinating locations and IT support for videoconferencing, and adhering to Nevada's Open Meeting Law.

During the quarter, e-newsletters were distributed to stakeholders in an effort to keep them updated on the progress to increase broadband access, adoption, and use across the state. Copies of these e-newsletters can be found within the "13Q1\_Project Attachment\_Question 5\_Nevada" response.

**Milestone: Meeting of the Year 5, Quarter 1 Nevada Broadband Task Force complete**

This milestone was met. The Connect Nevada program is a standing agenda item wherein project status updates were presented at the February 18 and February 26 meetings of the Task Force. Program staff managed and created agendas for the Task Force meetings in collaboration with the Task Force Chair. Sign-in sheets and meeting minutes were collected to ensure proper tracking of in-kind match.

The February 18 meeting of the Task Force included project updates from the State of Nevada Network (SONNet) project, the Nevada Hospital Association, and the Nevada Seismology Lab. Connect Nevada's

update included a wrap up from the 2013 broadband summit, results from the business survey, a presentation on Digital Works, as well as information regarding the FCC Rural Experiments call for letters of interest.

The February 26 meeting of the Task Force focused on educating stakeholders and providers on the FCC Rural Experiments project, as well as gathering information from respondents to coordinate statewide efforts toward completing applications for response to the request for expressions of interest from the FCC.

**Capacity Building Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q2 2014)**

- State broadband program office administration complete
- Meeting of the Year 5 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 participated in various state meetings to inform, educate, and solicit information for improvement of broadband initiatives across the state. This included 1:1 planning integration meetings for the Department of Education, participation in the Governor's Telemedicine Working Group, participation in FirstNet meetings, Basemap planning meetings, and a City of Reno planning meeting looking for improvement to high-tech infrastructure.

**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 1 per approved Project Plan:**

**Milestone: 2013 residential survey research results released publicly**

This milestone was met. Updates to the program website were developed and release documents prepared in an effort to publicly announce the 2013 residential survey's initial results. Research staff finalized the analysis of the survey, incorporating feedback from state stakeholders and the peer reviewer, and created a spreadsheet and two-page report detailing the results and key findings. Results of the survey were presented to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and state stakeholders in addition to being announced publicly.

**Milestone: Initiate peer review of 2014 business survey**

This milestone was not met. The 2014 business survey was initiated in Q1. Survey data collection must be completed before a review of the methodology can be carried out. The survey script and methodology documents were submitted for peer review. Once the data collection process is complete, research staff will provide the initial results to the peer reviewer. Peer review of the 2014 business survey is expected to be completed in Q2 2014.

**Milestone: Initiate 2014 business survey research**

This milestone was met. In Q1 2014, the 2014 business technology assessment was initiated. This survey seeks to contact 600 business establishments across the state. Business establishments contacted for this survey will be defined as a single physical location at which the business is conducted or services or industrial operations are performed. Sample quotas are established by company size (5 brackets) and industry sector (8 sectors). The 2011 United States Census Bureau's County Business Pattern report was used to determine the survey's sample quotas. Program staff created a spreadsheet that includes quotas by business sizes and sectors from the latest census information for weighting purpose, finalized the survey script incorporating feedback from state stakeholders, and provided this survey instrument to the data collection contractor.

**Milestone: Initiate planning activities for the community broadband summit 4**

This milestone was met. Best practices and suggestions were garnered regarding the Nevada Broadband Summit at a Task Force meeting on February 18, 2014. After input from stakeholders and the chair of the Task Force, the Summit 4 will focus on completion of the project in the form of a master plan. The Summit will be workshop-based with fewer invitees and a more focused approach toward identifying and capturing statewide departmental broadband needs for inclusion in the plan. This will also solicit stakeholder input and buy-in for continuation of project elements.

**Outstanding (not met or partially met) Technical Assistance Milestones from previous quarters:****Year 4, Quarter 4 Outstanding Milestone: Analyze 2013 residential survey research results**

This milestone was met. Initial results of the residential survey were generated in Q1 2014. Results consisted of computer ownership, home broadband adoption, and mobile Internet usage among demographic groups of age, race/ethnicity, geography of residence, and annual household income. Research staff conducted the initial analysis and finalized these results incorporating recommendations from state stakeholders and the peer reviewer, then created a spreadsheet and two-page report that included some key findings for distribution. A copy of this document has been included in the "14Q1\_Project Attachment\_Question 5\_Nevada" response.

**Year 4, Quarter 4 Outstanding Milestone: Finalize and distribute 2013 statewide residential survey search results**

This milestone was met. Updates to the program website were developed and release documents prepared in an effort to publicly announce the 2013 residential survey's initial results. Staff distributed initial results to NTIA and state stakeholders prior to the public release. The final results were presented in a spreadsheet and two-page report as well as a live widget on the program website [http://www.connectnv.org/sites/default/files/connected-nation/Nevada/files/nv\\_2013\\_residential\\_survey.pdf](http://www.connectnv.org/sites/default/files/connected-nation/Nevada/files/nv_2013_residential_survey.pdf).

**Year 4, Quarter 4 Outstanding Milestone: Peer review of 2013 residential survey research completed**

This milestone was met. Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University conducted a peer review of the 2013 residential survey in Q1 2014. In Dr. Sun's peer review she found that the survey instrument used adequately achieved the survey goals of measuring technology adoption. Dr. Sun noted the survey's low response rate as a potential cause for concern and suggested increasing the response rate in future surveys by offering incentives to participate in the survey or use a mixed method of phone, mail, and/or Internet versions of the survey. However, Dr. Sun considered the survey results valid based on the survey's margin of error of  $\pm 3.37\%$  at a 95% level of confidence.

**Year 4, Quarter 4 Outstanding Milestone: Develop 2014 business survey script**

This milestone was met. The survey script for the 2014 business survey was developed in Q1 2014. The Nevada Broadband Task Force was included in the development of the script and their feedback was included in the development of the survey.

**Year 4, Quarter 3 Outstanding Milestone: Initiate peer review of 2013 residential survey**

This milestone was met. The 2013 residential survey peer review was initiated in Q1 2014. Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University conducted the survey peer review. Materials provided to Dr. Sun for evaluation included the survey script, survey methodology, and initial results of the survey. Dr. Sun was able to verify the survey results and commented on the scientific soundness of the methodology used in the design of the survey questions as they were found to represent research interest and real issues in Nevada in terms of technology adoption and use.

**Technical Assistance Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q2 2014)**

- Develop 2014 residential survey script
- Finalize and distribute 2014 business survey research results
- Analyze 2014 business survey research results
- Peer review of 2014 business survey research completed
- Finalize planning activities for the community broadband summit 4

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

Based on research conducted as a part of the 2013 Residential Technology Assessment, 81% of households in the state subscribe to home broadband service, up from 78% in 2010. Mobile broadband usage has also grown in the state. More than three out of five Nevada adults (62%) use mobile broadband service, up from 39% in 2010. Statewide, more than 188,000 households still do not subscribe to home broadband service. For many of these households, the main barrier to home broadband adoption is the belief that broadband is not relevant or beneficial to them. More than 87,000 school-age children in Nevada still do not have broadband access at home. More than 557,000 working-age adults in Nevada would need assistance with tasks that are often required by employers, such as creating a spreadsheet, going online from a mobile device, using a word processor, or sending an e-mail. More than seven out of ten non-adopters in the state (71%) say that it would be easier for them to shop, seek out healthcare information, or interact with government offices if they had Internet access at home. For convenience this report has been included within the “14Q1\_Project Attachment\_Question 5\_Nevada” response.

**14 b\_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 next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.****Planning milestones for Year 5, Quarter 1 per approved Project Plan:**

**Milestone: Assist in development and implementation of local technology growth strategies**

This milestone was met. At the end of Q1 2014, project teams continued transitioning from the planning to the implementation phase. There were, however, four additional team meetings as well as several one-on-one meetings with local and state officials to support those efforts.

Program representatives met with the technology team leader of Humboldt County to discuss conducting a speed test contest in the community in an effort to enable verifying the data supplied by providers. The contest, if executed would increase the speed dataset, which could be overlaid on provider speed information for verification and to inform future ETS validation efforts.

Connect Nevada facilitated and contributed to a plan intending to create a mesh network for public use in Genoa during peak tourism events like the Candy Dance and the Genoa Cowboy Festival. A meeting was held during this quarter to discuss potential funding opportunities, including creating a Request for Proposal (RFP) and secured funding from the Douglas County Redevelopment Agency.

*Planning Planned Major Activities Next Quarter (Q2 2014)*

- Assist in development and implementation of local technology growth strategies

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

Staff is looking forward to deepening relationships formed in communities across the state during Year 5 Q2. At the end of Q1, the project team has engaged 14 counties, three of which have received the distinction of a certified Connected community, and a total of 149 planning team members.

The multi-sector technology planning teams participating in the Connected community engagement program have identified the following technology assets within their own communities:

Public computer centers: 77  
Digital literacy programs: 57  
Digital literacy graduates: 2,942  
Broadband awareness programs: 56  
Broadband programs focused on vulnerable populations: 48  
Economic Development applications: 95  
Educational applications: 107  
Government applications: 75  
Health Care applications: 94