

## **13Q2\_Supplemental Answers\_Nevada**

### **Connected Nation**

**Grant Number 32-50-M09056**

**Reporting Period End Date 06-30-13**

### ***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).**

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 178 visits to the interactive map between April 1, 2013, and June 30, 2013.

While no broadband inquiries were received this quarter, consumers may request non-confidential mapping data produced for the State Broadband Initiatives (SBI) grant program; one such data request was received between April 1, 2013, and June 30, 2013.

For this reporting period, 104 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 49 companies (out of a universe of 59 viable providers) totaling 83.05% within the state of Nevada.

Several broadband maps were updated and published on the program website this quarter including:

- Broadband Growth
- Broadband Service Inventory
- Broadband Service Inventory (Advertised Speeds of at Least 3 Mbps Downstream and 768 Kbps Upstream)
- Broadband Service Inventory by Congressional District Density of Households Unserved by a Broadband Provider

New research unveiled during Q2 2013 by Connect Nevada revealed encouraging news for the state's broadband landscape. Access to higher speeds of Internet service is on the rise in both urban and rural areas across Nevada. In fact, 8.1% more households have access to fixed broadband service of 25 megabytes per second (Mbps) download/1.5 Mbps upload (not including mobile wireless or satellite) now than just six months ago. Also, 2.95% more rural Nevada households have access to broadband speeds of 3 Mbps download/768 kilobytes per second (Kbps) upload (including mobile wireless but excluding satellite) than six months ago. This was the seventh comprehensive broadband availability data refresh since the Nevada SBI program commenced in 2009.

#### **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.**

The use of Mobile Pulse as a performance measurement tool for mobile broadband was introduced as a field validation methodology in Q1 2013 and significantly expanded during Q2 2013. Of the 104 total field verifications conducted on all platforms across Nevada, Mobile Pulse represented all 104 of these validations.

The Engineering and Technical Services (ETS) team has formulated a plan to conduct crowd sourcing and field validation testing to ascertain satellite broadband performance under specific conditions. With regard to crowd sourcing, an e-mail has been developed to respond to all broadband inquiries with known satellite connectivity to request they run speed tests on the program website during a specified window of time so we can capture and identify such tests.

Connect Nevada maintains its continued commitment to Community Anchor Institution (CAI) outreach. During Q2 2013, the program championed a Digital Learning campaign to celebrate continued technology training across Nevada. As part of the campaign, outreach continued to libraries and local governments across the state in an effort to gather new data as well as to fill in gaps in data already obtained.

Several program successes were realized this quarter in association with community planning teams. As a result of the program, a new mobile provider/tower was secured for the town of Baker, Nevada (Commnet). Additionally, a partnership was formed with Beehive Communications which will help to increase fixed wireless services in the area. In Storey County, as a result of a meeting held by program staff, a new provider was identified and speeds were upgraded for county facilities at a lower cost.

Program staff facilitated a grant request meeting between White Pine County and Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation to apply for a Community Connect Grant. If awarded, this would allow for the utilization of a new tower that is being located near the center of town and fiber-fed time-division multiplexing (TDM) circuits available from the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation, through its subsidiary, Atomsplash, which will deliver high-speed Internet access with download speeds up to 6 Mbps for every business and residence in the town of Lund.

Esmeralda County School District will realize improved access for the school district through Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation. Facilitated by the program, a Private Data Network will be created which will implement a 10 Mbps virtual local area network (VLAN) for the three K-8 schools (Goldfield, Silver Peak, and Dyer) and replace outdated T1 connections for the schools to allow distance learning and other Internet-based learning.

Program staff facilitated and participated in a meeting which secured free Internet service for the Walker River Paiute Tribe for four years as a result of the Memorandum of Understanding between the tribe and Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation.

#### ***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 4, Quarter 2 per approved project plan:

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

This milestone was met. The program office at the Nevada State Library and Archives in Carson City, Nevada continues to be maintained. The state program manager oversaw meeting deliverables including managing timelines for creation of 14 local technology plans, verifying accuracy of information supplied by the communities, creating agendas and post-meeting follow-up documentation, and gathering additional information for the communities such as demographic data, broadband availability information, etc. Program staff also supported the logistical and administrative needs of the Nevada Broadband Task Force including scheduling presentations, drafting agendas, coordinating locations and IT support, adhering to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, and taking minutes. The Nevada SBI program is a standing agenda item, wherein project status updates were presented at the June 20, 2013, meeting of the Task Force. The program continues to benefit from two Community Tech Team Specialists who plan, coordinate, and host initial and/or follow-up planning meetings in each of the 14 counties. Connect Nevada also supplied and contributed to the bi-annual report that the Task Force submits to the Governor's office. At the direction of the Task Force and as of the end of the quarter, Connect Nevada was planning and facilitating a meeting between all infrastructure grantees to ensure final project collaboration.

**Milestone: Meeting of the Year 4 Quarter 2 Nevada Broadband Task Force complete**

This milestone was met. The Nevada Broadband Task Force met on June 20, 2013. During the meeting, project updates were provided from stakeholders relating to work with FirstNet, the Nevada Hospital Association, Arizona Nevada Tower, One Click Away, Las Vegas Urban League, Nevada Health Information Exchange, and Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. Program representatives also reported on several items including the status of the local/regional planning initiatives and Technology Action Plans, residential survey feedback, and several implementation projects in Douglas County.

Program staff managed and created the agenda for the Task Force meeting in collaboration with the Chair. Sign-in sheets and meeting minutes were 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 program staff and were incorporated in media releases, mapping updates, and future research initiatives.

Input was garnered from the Task Force and implemented relating to the third Nevada broadband summit, themed "Learning in the Digital Space," to be held on November 18, 2013, at the University of Nevada, Reno. The purpose of the summit is to demonstrate the successful implementation of technology in the classroom (K-12 and higher education) and the impact of broadband in the educational space. The summit will provide a medium for development of stakeholder relationships and is slated to make permanent and positive strides towards enlisting educational stakeholders in both the efforts of Connect Nevada and the investment of long-term technology initiatives. Staff reported on the progress of initiating and planning efforts including selection of the location, date, and theme. Feedback regarding panelists and presenters was solicited as well as selection of awardees for the Nevada Broadband Hero Awards.

Broadband Capacity planned major activities for the next quarter:

State broadband program office administration complete  
Meeting of the Year 4 Quarter 3 Nevada Broadband Task Force complete

#### ***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 4, Quarter 2 per approved project plan:

**Milestone: Finalize planning activities for the community broadband summit 3**

This milestone was partially met. The summit was originally targeted to take place in Q3 2013, but it has been scheduled to be held in Q4 2013 at the recommendation of the Task Force. Thus, planning activities were realigned to be finalized in Q4. Input was garnered from the Task Force periodically throughout the quarter and during the June 20, 2013 Task Force meeting relating to the third Nevada broadband summit to be held on November 18, 2013, at the University of Nevada, Reno. During the Task Force meeting, Connect Nevada reported on the progress of initiating and planning efforts including selection of the location, date, and theme. Feedback regarding panelists and presenters was solicited as well as selection of awardees for the Nevada Broadband Hero Awards. The project team finalized the initial framework of the agenda, heightened sponsorship outreach, and continued work on finalizing goals and objectives of the summit. Planning will progress toward execution during Q3 2013 wherein keynote speakers will be secured, an attendee list will be formulated, save-the-date notifications will be distributed, and RSVP tracking will begin as responses are received.

**Milestone: Develop 2013 residential survey script**

This milestone was met. In Q2 2013, program staff discussed options for the 2013 residential survey at the Nevada Broadband Task Force meeting and provided opportunities for input on the survey. The survey instrument for the 2013 residential survey was being developed at the end of the quarter. The 2013 residential survey is scheduled to be in the field in Q3 2013.

Technical Assistance planned major activities for the next quarter:

Initiate peer review of 2013 residential survey  
Initiate 2013 residential survey research

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

In Q2 2013, Connect Nevada researched digital learning as part of Digital Learning month. Key findings included:

- Two out of five (40%) or approximately 710,000 Nevadans with Internet access go online to take classes or conduct research for schoolwork.
- Nearly one-half (46%) of Hispanic Internet users in Nevada go online to conduct digital learning, higher than the state average.

- The self-reported median annual household income of e-Learners in the state of Nevada is \$62,800.
- Approximately 17% (34,000) of elderly non-adopters (age 55 or older) in Nevada do not subscribe to home broadband service due to a lack of digital literacy.
- Six out of ten (60%) Nevadans with children say their children use home Internet service for their schoolwork.

#### ***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 the next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.**

Planning Team milestones for Year 4, Quarter 2 per approved project plan:

##### **Milestone: Facilitate Year 4 Quarter 2 local broadband planning team activities**

This milestone was met. As of the end of Q2 2013, champions have been identified in 14 counties and community kick-off meetings have been coordinated in an effort to initiate the planning process in all 14 counties. Community Tech Team Specialists supported the training and planning activities for the community planning teams and supported the implementation of projects to address challenges and opportunities. The consultants managed the logistics of planning team meetings which included scheduling, creating agendas, recording minutes, following up on action items, and recording attendance adding any new contacts to the contact database. The state program manager met weekly with the consultants to ensure local community issues were addressed at the state level and were incorporated into media announcements, stakeholder engagement, and future research initiatives.

The project team supported local planning teams as they implemented train-the-trainer activities and provided assistance in utilizing the Connected community web portal available via the program web page. They also contributed to the development of local training curriculum and tools via suggestions for enhancements to the Connected community web portal as recommended by community members or identified through their personal use.

As a result of the planning efforts and as of the end of the quarter, one (1) technology assessment had been initiated by the local technology planning team, nine (9) assessments were in process, and four (4) plans were finalized, each of which was tailored specifically for the communities' unique challenges and opportunities.

The White Pine County Technology Action Plan was released on June 25, 2013, and additional meetings in Douglas County, Nevada's first certified Connected community, were conducted to begin implementation of their Technology Action Plan. The Douglas County team formed a sub-group in Genoa, Nevada, to create a mesh network for public use in Genoa during peak tourism events like the Candy Dance and the Genoa Cowboy Festival. The team also planned for a new public safety tower and increased mobile access through Verizon. In addition to supporting the efforts in Genoa, the team has also planned for digital training for small businesses and the creation of economic development maps

for recruitment purposes (including broadband overlays, local planning initiatives for inclusion of broadband, and a speed test contest for gathering additional data).

Planning Teams planned major activities for the next quarter:

Facilitate Year 4 Quarter 3 local broadband planning team activities

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

Program staff worked with various communities through its planning teams to facilitate additional access to broadband through local providers. Communities impacted are Baker, Lund, Esmeralda County, Storey County, and the Walker River Paiute Tribe. Details regarding each community's improvements are included in the answers to question 4 of the data collection project attachment.