

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Performance Progress Report**

2. Award Or Grant Number

45-50-M09044

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

01-04-2012

1. Recipient Name

Connected Nation, Inc. - SC

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:

South Carolina

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 42101-2137

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

12-20-2009

7a. End Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)

12-19-2014

7b. Reporting Period End Date:

12-31-2011

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

Birch Communications, Inc.: The provider refused to participate during the October 2011 mapping cycle to NTIA. After contact was made on November 3 the provider still refused to participate.

Countrywide Wireless: The provider was non-responsive during the October 2011 mapping cycle to NTIA. Thereafter, multiple contact attempts have been made, and as of December 16 the provider remains 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

Esri is deploying and hosting the BroadbandStat (BBStat) web application. Esri houses the customized BBStat application in their highly available, monitored, and managed environment. The scope of services includes setting up 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.

Response is continued on the Connect South Carolina Q4 2011 Supplemental Answers Document.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities?  Yes  No

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

BroadbandStat is publicly available on the Connect South Carolina website (<http://www.connectsc.org>) and received a total of 686 visits between October 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011.

During this quarter, the Connect South Carolina project received a total of 12 broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that can also be used for verification purposes totaled 2 for this quarter.

Thus far, project staff has conducted multiple tests on the following providers: ACSinc.net; AT&T; Atlantic Broadband; CenturyLink; Charter Communications; Chester Telephone Company (d.b.a. Fairfield Communications); Clearwire Corporation; Electronics Service Company of Hamlet LLC; Family View Cable; Farmers Telephone Cooperative Inc. (d.b.a. FTC Communications); Frontier Communications of the Carolinas; Globalvision; Home Telephone Company Inc.; Main Street Wireless; NTInet Inc.; Palmetto Rural Telephone (d.b.a. Low Country); Pee Dee Net; Pee Dee Online; PRT Communications; Rock Hill Telephone Company (d.b.a. Comporium Communications and PBT Communications); Sandhill Telephone Cooperative; SkyRunner; Southern Coastal Cable; Sprint; Techcore Consultants II (d.b.a. Almega Cable); Time Warner Cable Inc.; T-Mobile; tw telecom; US Cellular; Verizon South Inc.; and Windstream.

To date, field validation testing has been completed against 32 companies (out of a universe of 48 viable providers) totaling 66.67% within the state.

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

Verification activities have been initiated.

### Staffing

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

4.36

Connected Nation has numerous staff working on the Connect South Carolina 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 (SMEs) in their respective areas. The project benefits by leveraging the SMEs' 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

The positions not currently staffed are related to Connect South Carolina's local and regional tech team activities that are only just beginning. The positions are expected to be filled during Q1 and Q2 2012.

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

Connect South Carolina's FTEs reported for the quarter include 1.66 FTEs for temporary, cyclical consultants and a base of 2.70 FTEs that consistently contribute to the project. There are, however, 2 base FTE positions yet to be filled.

This project when fully staffed has a base of 4.70 FTEs.

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Associate Counsel	1	09/14/2009
Business Programmer Analyst	2	04/02/2007
CAI Coordinator	3	12/13/2004
CAI Data Analyst	7	03/24/2009
ETS Analyst	1	11/01/2007
ETS Analyst	20	08/24/2009
ETS Manager	2	07/01/2007
ETS Sr. Analyst	2	02/18/2010
General Counsel	1	01/01/2007
GIS Analyst	1	11/16/2009
GIS Analyst	14	04/01/2010

GIS Analyst	42	09/17/2007
GIS Services Manager	1	05/15/2007
Outreach & Awareness Manager	5	03/24/2009
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	3	10/01/2007
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	5	02/02/2009
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	6	01/04/2010
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	14	01/03/2010
Program Director	6	08/04/2008
Project Coordinator	1	08/01/2008
Project Coordinator	4	04/01/2005
Project Management Director	33	12/16/2009
Project Manager	3	09/04/2007
Project Manager	3	01/14/2008
Project Manager	4	01/14/2008
Provider Relations Manager	6	02/17/2005
Research & GIS Analyst	1	05/14/2007
Research Analyst	2	03/22/2010
Research Analyst	2	02/01/2010
Research Analyst	7	06/01/2009
Research Analyst	26	09/19/2011
Research Analyst	82	02/16/2010
Research Analyst	82	02/16/2010
Research Manager	4	05/14/2007
State Services Manager	1	07/01/2007
State Services Specialist	39	02/02/2009

Add Row

Remove Row

**Sub Contracts**

10a. 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
Throughbred Research Group	Research Surveys	Y	Y	02/09/2010	02/08/2012	167,350	0
Contract Labor	Contract Labor	Y	Y	12/20/2009	12/19/2014	175,613	100,233

Add Row

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**Funding**

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,343,547      10q. How much Remains? \$2,636,285  
 10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$404,085      10s. How much Remains? \$626,582

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	\$1,199,434	\$123,752	\$1,323,186	\$340,525	\$49,312	\$389,837
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$257,278	\$32,004	\$289,282	\$74,022	\$11,622	\$85,644
Travel	\$157,557	\$0	\$157,557	\$55,438	\$95	\$55,533
Equipment	\$139,143	\$0	\$139,143	\$71,312	\$0	\$71,312
Materials / Supplies	\$50,350	\$0	\$50,350	\$19,835	\$0	\$19,835
Subcontracts Total	\$891,457	\$106,883	\$998,340	\$359,024	\$100,233	\$459,257
Subcontract #1	\$321,347	\$0	\$321,347	\$167,350	\$0	\$167,350
Subcontract #2	\$506,111	\$106,883	\$612,994	\$175,613	\$100,233	\$275,846
Subcontract #3	\$25,316	\$0	\$25,316	\$7,603	\$0	\$7,603
Subcontract #4	\$38,683	\$0	\$38,683	\$8,458	\$0	\$8,458
Subcontract #5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$54,298	\$685,883	\$740,181	\$16,756	\$190,257	\$207,013
Total Direct Costs	\$2,749,517	\$948,522	\$3,698,039	\$936,912	\$351,519	\$1,288,431
Total Indirect Costs	\$1,230,315	\$82,145	\$1,312,460	\$406,635	\$52,566	\$459,201
Total Costs	\$3,979,832	\$1,030,667	\$5,010,499	\$1,343,547	\$404,085	\$1,747,632
% Of Total	79	21	100	77	23	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:

- BroadbandStat- \$60,000
- Computers & Software- \$13,586
- GIS Software Maintenance- \$5,195
- Spectrum Analyzer- \$4,477
- Speed Test Software- \$2,428
- Google Earth Pro- \$266

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 South Carolina received a Community Anchor Institution (CIA) connectivity information dataset for a variety of institution types including higher education, state and local governments, public safety and more from the South Carolina Budget and Control Board - Department of State Information Technology as part of an in-kind match contribution to Connect South Carolina with its mapping and planning goals - \$107,548

Connect South Carolina received a Community Anchor Institution (CAI) dataset for schools and libraries from the South Carolina Budget and Control Board - Department of State Information Technology as part of an in-kind match contribution to Connect South Carolina with its mapping and planning goals - \$71,232

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

10aa. If yes, please list

During Q4 2011, Connect South Carolina continued gathering data on the location and broadband connectivity of Community Anchor Institutions, in accordance with the data requirements of the SBI Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Technical Appendix. Efforts have been focused on conducting outreach and raising awareness of this important project through a statewide campaign.

Connect South Carolina has formed a strong partnership with the South Carolina Division of State Information Technology (DSIT) to gather connectivity data across all CAI sectors within the state that utilize the services of their state network. During this quarter Connect South Carolina continues to process connectivity data from DSIT submitted across all CAI sectors. Additionally Connect South Carolina presented an update to the South Carolina State Library Director's meeting to raise awareness about the importance of this project and the need for libraries to utilize a high speed connection at their facilities.

We continue to utilize our online survey and raise awareness of the importance of CAI broadband connectivity. Connect South Carolina has an ongoing mission to educate CAI throughout the state on the importance of participating in the project.

Response is continued on the Connect South Carolina Q4 2011 Supplemental Answers Document.

10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing

No challenges or obstacles to report.

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

A variety of Connect South Carolina broadband maps were updated to reflect the October 2011 mapping data update and used to further identify unserved and underserved areas and to expand service to unserved households. <http://www.connectsc.org/mapping>

Connect South Carolina staff presented at the South Carolina Telecommunications Association fall conference in Columbia where attendees were able to share ideas and insights about telecommunications technologies with peers. Connect South Carolina representatives were in attendance in order to underscore the importance of provider participation in the broadband mapping program. <http://www.connectsc.org/blog/post/scta-conference-provides-opportunity-explore-usf-reform-and-its-impact-south-carolina>

## 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

Technical Assistance Milestone(s) Year 2 Quarter 4 per approved Project

Analyze 2011 statewide business survey research results - This goal was met. On behalf of the state of South Carolina, Connected Nation (CN) conducted the 2011 Business Technology Assessment telephone survey. In Q4 2011 CN surveyed 808 businesses and released a report to state stakeholders outlining the initial results of this survey.

Finalize and distribute 2011 non-adopter oversample survey results - This goal was met. On behalf of the state of South Carolina, CN publicly released results from the 2011 residential survey research and non-adopter oversample surveys, presenting those results to state stakeholders and making the data available to the public in the form of an interactive web tool.

Finalize and distribute 2011 statewide residential survey research results - This goal was met. On behalf of the state of South Carolina, CN publicly released results from the 2011 residential survey research and non-adopter oversample surveys, presenting those results to state stakeholders and making the data available to the public in the form of an interactive web tool (<http://www.connectsc.org/survey-results/residential>).

Develop research plan for years 3 through 5 - This goal was partially met. Throughout this quarter, conversations were held between CN staff and state stakeholders regarding the methodology and results of the surveys, with stakeholder input being continually incorporated into research plans for years 3-5. The research plans for years 3-5 are expected to be finalized in Q1 2012.

Peer review of 2011 survey research completed – This goal will be completed in Q1 2012. Connected Nation was not able to finalize the peer review process before the end of Q4 2011. At this time, CN is conducting an ongoing search to identify an appropriate partner for the peer review process.

Response is continued on the Connect South Carolina Q4 2011 Supplemental Answers Document.



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

Nothing further to report.

11l. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project  
Technical Assistance

Connect South Carolina released the 2011 Residential Broadband Adoption Survey. This research found approximately 43% of South Carolina residents are not subscribing to broadband at home. Most notably, the majority of low-income, rural, senior, disabled adult, Hispanic, and African-American households are without broadband at home, leaving them facing an uphill battle in keeping up with essential online resources, job and educational opportunities, and social services.

<http://www.connectsc.org/recent-news/connect-south-carolina-releases-2011-residential-broadband-adoption-survey-results>

Connect South Carolina has used data from the Business Technology Survey to develop web, blog, and social media content that illustrates how 27% of South Carolina businesses do not use broadband. This percentage would mean that approximately 29,000 South Carolina business establishments do not use broadband or benefit from the opportunities it offers.

<http://www.connectsc.org/blog/post/27-south-carolina-businesses-do-not-use-broadband>

Connect South Carolina staff presented at the South Carolina Telecommunications Association fall conference in Columbia where attendees were informed that the FCC now places more weight on Community Anchor Institution support as criteria for USF funding. Connect South Carolina's community engagement process will make it easier for USF recipients to meet these requirements.

<http://www.connectsc.org/blog/post/scta-conference-provides-opportunity-explore-usf-reform-and-its-impact-south-carolina>

Response is continued on the Connect South Carolina Q4 2011 Supplemental Answers Document

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)

01-30-2012