

13Q3 Supplemental Answers

Connected Nation, Inc. – Texas

Grant Number 48-50-M09064

Reporting Period End Date 09-30-13

For Q3 2013, Connected Texas' match percentage based on total expenditures was 20.59%. Thus Connected Texas will fall short of the required match percentage by 0.18%. Program staff is working with state personnel in order to identify additional sources of match. It is expected that Connected Texas will meet its required match percentage next quarter.

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)

Connected Texas 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.connectedtx.org/interactive-map>). There were a total of 184 visits to the interactive map between July 1, 2013 and September 30, 2013.

During this quarter, the project received a total of 4 broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that can also be used for verification purposes totaled 3 for this quarter. Users can also request non-confidential mapping data produced for the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) grant program; 3 such data requests were received between July 1, 2013 and September 30, 2013.

For this reporting period, 69 field verification tests were conducted. From program initiation through this reporting period, field validation testing has been completed against 179 companies (out of a universe of 209 viable providers) totaling 85.65% within the state of Texas.

Geographic Information Systems staff created maps to show the status of the active and certified communities with the state with regard to the Connected Community Engagement Program.

Based on the release of information by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) related to the Connect America Fund (CAF), a statewide map was developed to visualize proposed areas for subsidized build-out under CAF Phase I, 2013. This map is available at www.connectednation.org/fcc-maps.

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.

Connected Texas submitted a semi-annual update of the state broadband dataset to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) under the SBI grant program. The

submission included datasets for 91% of the Texas provider community, or 191 of 209 total providers. There were 172 participating providers and 19 additional non-participating providers whose estimated coverage areas were submitted. The 18 providers not represented have refused to participate in the voluntary program or were non-responsive to multiple contact attempts.

Community Anchor Institution (CAI) data collection efforts continued with an education-focused campaign during the month of September. The state of Texas mandated the collection of all K-12 school CAI data beginning in 2014. Connected Texas partnered with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) to prepare outreach to all K-12 schools statewide. TEA and TCEA has drafted a memo and will distribute the program's CAI survey next quarter in anticipation of fulfilling the mandate.

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 next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Broadband Capacity Building Milestones Year 4, Quarter 3 per approved project plan:

Milestone: 2013, Quarter 3 Connected Texas program office administration

This milestone was met. The program office in Austin remains fully staffed and interacting with stakeholders, broadband providers, broadband-related partners, and other representatives throughout the state through periodic status reports, continual direct interactions, addressing requests for information or data, and publicizing broadband-related news and information through a variety of media. Connected Texas is a go-to resource within the state as a primary champion of broadband as it relates to adoption, access, and use.

Milestone: Conduct 2013, Quarter 3, Stakeholder Group meeting

This milestone was met. Stakeholder group meetings occurred throughout the quarter, in group settings and individual meetings with stakeholders from Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Public Utilities Commission, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Education Association, Texas Computer Education Association, Texas Workforce Commission, and Texas Economic Development Council. The program manager set the agenda, met with the stakeholders, and utilized these recurring meetings in order to present state partners with programmatic updates and solicited feedback. More notable updates are communicated publicly via blog posts on the program website, Facebook page, and Twitter account. Stakeholder meetings have allowed staff to continue highlighting program successes with local community engagement, directly contributing to discussions between Connected Texas and the Texas Department of Agriculture about continuing the program with state funding beyond the expiration of the SBI grant.

Q3 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:

No major challenges occurred during the quarter.

Capacity Building Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

Q4 2013_Connected Texas program office administration
Conduct Q4 2013 Stakeholder Group meeting

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

Outreach and awareness staff created and sent three monthly e-Newsletters to subscribers and stakeholders providing updates on the progress to expand broadband access, adoption, and use in Texas .

Connected Texas has partnered with the Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) to be a participant in TEDC's 2013 Annual Conference "2020 Vision." The event is set for October 16-18, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency hotel in San Antonio, Texas. The Annual Conference program includes general sessions, breakout sessions, peer group roundtables, a community economic development awards luncheon, new member orientation, board of directors meeting, exhibitor hall, and networking opportunities. During the conference, program representatives will be discussing the access, adoption, and use of broadband and highlighting the Connected Community Engagement Program in the Lone Star State.

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 next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

Technical Assistance Milestones Year 4, Quarter 3 per approved project plan:

Milestone: Finalize and distribute 2013 business survey research results

This milestone was partially met. Even though the survey research results themselves have been finalized, updates to the program website designed to display the results and graphical information from the survey were not completed before the quarter's end. As a result, the public and media release documents were also not finalized and disseminated. The 2013 business survey results are expected to be released in Q4 2013. The results will be displayed on the program website in both graphical and written form. A media press release, blog posts, and social media announcements will be made at the time of public release.

Milestone: Initiate 2013 residential survey research

This milestone was met. The 2013 residential survey began in Q3 2013. The survey is designed to assess technology adoption of households in Texas. It is expected that this survey will be completed in the field and initial results provided to the state partner by the end of Q4 2013. The survey will be trended with previous residential surveys in 2010, 2011, and 2012 to measure the change in technology adoption and usage by race/ethnicity, income, age, and geography.

Milestone: Peer Review of the 2013 residential survey

This milestone was not met. The program has been unable to obtain a commitment from a suitable peer reviewer for the process. Once a mutual commitment has been obtained and the survey data collection has been completed, the peer review process will commence. It is anticipated that this milestone will be completed in Q4 2013.

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

Year 4, Quarter 1 Outstanding Milestone: Peer Review of the 2013 business survey

This milestone was met. Dr. Mingjie Sun of Iowa State University served as the program's peer reviewer for the 2013 business survey. Dr. Sun reviewed the survey results, methodology, and survey script in Q3 2013. Overall, Dr. Sun agreed with the survey instrument used and the initial results of the survey.

Year 4, Quarter 2 Outstanding Milestone: Analyze 2013 business survey research results

This milestone was met. The analysis of the 2013 business survey data was completed during Q3 2013. A report outlining the initial results was completed for internal review. The formats of the final results were discussed and preparations were made for the finalization and distribution of the survey results.

Year 4, Quarter 2 Outstanding Milestone: Finalize 2013 residential survey script

This milestone was met. The 2013 residential survey script was written and finalized during Q3 2013. The residential survey also began in Q3 2013 and is currently underway. The survey is designed to assess technology adoption of households in Texas. It is expected that this survey will be completed in the field and initial results provided to the state partner by the end of Q4 2013. The survey will be trended with previous residential surveys in 2010, 2011, and 2012 to measure the change in technology adoption and usage by race/ethnicity, income, age, and geography.

Q3 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:

No major challenges occurred during the quarter.

Technical Assistance Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

Analyze 2013 residential survey research results

Finalize 2014 business survey script

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 Teams Milestones Year 4, Quarter 3 per approved project plan:

Milestone: Conduct Year 4, Quarter 3 planning team meetings

This milestone was met. Program staff conducted 5 community planning meetings across Texas to advance broadband adoption, access, and use on a local level. These meetings discussed the Connected Community Engagement Program and broadband resources in the communities, conducted local

broadband planning, and gathered information to assemble a Technology Action Plan. Currently, there are 20 communities involved in some stage of the local/regional planning team process.

During the quarter, Bosque County, Bastrop County, Mitchell County, and Wharton County, Texas, through the Connected Community Engagement Program, completed Technology Action Plans with specific recommendations designed to make way for greater technology use and brighter economic futures in each community. Public announcements of these plans were posted on the program website, Facebook page, Twitter account, and disseminated via press releases. A total of 10 Texas communities now have completed Technology Action Plans through the community engagement program. Program staff will continue to work with these community officials in an effort to assist in implementing some of the recommendations that were made in the report.

Milestone: Facilitate the 2013 Annual Statewide Strategic Broadband Planning Meeting

This milestone was met ahead of schedule in Q2 2013. As reported within the Q2 2013 Performance Progress Report, Connected Texas conducted a Statewide Strategic Broadband Planning Meeting in partnership with the University of Texas at Austin and the Texas Connects Coalition, a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Public Computer Center (PCC) awardee. The planning meeting titled "Digital Inclusion in Texas Conference and Colloquium" was held at The University of Texas at Austin, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, on April 26-27, 2013 and brought together some of the nation's top scholars, policymakers, and state stakeholders to discuss ways to make Internet technology available to everyone. During Q3 2013, a video of the entire conference was posted online and is available to watch through the Connected Texas website.

Q3 2013 Challenges and Mitigation:

No major challenges occurred during the quarter.

Planning Teams Planned Major Activities for Next Quarter:

Conduct Year 4, Quarter 4 planning team meetings

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

Program staff worked with the leadership of the Jubilee Park & Community Center, a high profile disadvantaged community in urban Dallas, Texas. The program continues to provide support of the group's mission of community renewal and enrichment by providing information on broadband topics and facilitating the exchange of information with broadband and technology providers to ensure residents have access to high-speed Internet. The once depressed and crime-ridden inner city neighborhood began a turnaround in 1997. What started with two Habitat for Humanity homes and some neighborhood cleanup projects grew into an entire movement backed by local leaders and a nonprofit organization which has garnered national attention.

Via the local broadband planning process, local volunteers in Texas have identified the following assets and programs:

Public computer centers: 46

Public computers: 457

Digital literacy programs: 21

Digital literacy program graduates: 2,997
Broadband awareness programs: 41
Broadband programs focused on vulnerable populations: 57
Economic development applications of broadband: 79
Educational applications of broadband: 94
Government applications of broadband: 72
Healthcare applications of broadband: 53