

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE BROADBAND ADOPTION

General Information

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration	2. Award Identification Number 50-43-B10511	3. DUNS Number 137761792
4. Recipient Organization Vermont Council on Rural Development 43 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602		
5. Current Reporting Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY) 12-31-2013	6. Is this the last Annual Report of the Award Period? <p style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	
7. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.		
7a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Certifying Official Paul Costello Executive Director	7c. Telephone (area code, number and extension) 802-223-5763	
	7d. Email Address pcostello@vtrural.org	
7b. Signature of Certifying Official Submitted Electronically	7e. Date Report Submitted (MM/DD/YYYY): 05-24-2013	

PROJECT INDICATORS																																																
<p>1. Does your Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA) project foster a particular broadband technology or technologies? If so, please describe this technology (or technologies) (600 words or less). Not applicable</p>																																																
<p>2a. Please list all of the broadband equipment and/or supplies you have purchased during the most recent calendar year using BTOP grant funds or other (matching) funds, including any customer premises equipment or end-user devices. If additional space is needed, please attach a list of equipment and/or supplies. Please also describe how the equipment and supplies have been deployed (100 words or less).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Manufacturer</th> <th>Item</th> <th>Unit Cost per Item</th> <th>Number of Units</th> <th>Narrative description of how the equipment and supplies were deployed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>na</td> <td>na</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>na</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Totals</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> Add Equipment Remove Equipment </div>					Manufacturer	Item	Unit Cost per Item	Number of Units	Narrative description of how the equipment and supplies were deployed	na	na	0	0	na	Totals		0	0																														
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<p>2b. To the extent you distribute equipment/supplies to beneficiaries of your project, please describe the equipment/supplies you distribute, the quantities distributed, and the specific populations to whom the equipment/supplies are distributed (600 words or less). Recipients of supplies in e-Vermont fall into the following categories: libraries, schools participating in Digital Wish, community groups expanding public Internet access (public access computers, routers at public buildings), and occasional supplies for particular community projects, such as scanners for digitizing municipal and historic records. In 2013, Bridgewater and Sunderland received computers for special projects and for expanding public Internet access.</p>																																																
<p>3. For SBA access and training provided with BTOP grant funds, please provide the information below. Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions, figures should be reported <u>cumulatively</u> from award inception to the end of the most recent calendar year. For each type of training (other than open access), please count only the participants who <u>completed</u> the course.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Types of Access or Training</th> <th>Number of People Targeted</th> <th>Number of People Participating</th> <th>Total Training Hours Offered</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Open Lab Access</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Multimedia</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Office Skills</td> <td>675</td> <td>698</td> <td>1,950</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ESL</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GED</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>College Preparatory Training</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Basic Internet and Computer Use</td> <td>750</td> <td>1,003</td> <td>1,983</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Certified Training Programs</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (please specify): School Trainings</td> <td>1,465</td> <td>1,465</td> <td>32,816</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>2,890</td> <td>3,166</td> <td>36,749</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Types of Access or Training	Number of People Targeted	Number of People Participating	Total Training Hours Offered	Open Lab Access	0	0	0	Multimedia	0	0	0	Office Skills	675	698	1,950	ESL	0	0	0	GED	0	0	0	College Preparatory Training	0	0	0	Basic Internet and Computer Use	750	1,003	1,983	Certified Training Programs	0	0	0	Other (please specify): School Trainings	1,465	1,465	32,816	Total	2,890	3,166	36,749
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<p>4. Please describe key economic and social successes of your project during the past year, and why you believe the project is successful thus far (600 words or less). e-Vermont concluded its program in 2012 with the exception of the Vermont Small Business Development Center who continued to advise small businesses and ran 1 workshop in the 1st quarter of 2013. Our program delivered direct benefits to communities throughout the state and built from those individual successes to improve broadband adoption statewide and offer models for rural areas beyond Vermont. Our website, www.e4vt.org, offers toolkits of best practices learned during e-Vermont, including how to create public Internet access, teach basic Internet skills, start using online tools for business, integrate technology into the classroom, encourage civic engagement, begin community-wide online conversations, design beginner-friendly websites, and build digital archives of local history.</p>																																																
<p>5. Please estimate the level of broadband adoption in the community(ies) and/or area(s) your project serves, explain your methodology for estimating the level of broadband adoption, and explain changes in the broadband adoption level, if any, since the project began.</p>																																																

<p>5a. Adoption Level (%):</p>	<p>Narrative description of level, methodology, and change from the level at project inception (600 words or less).</p>
<p>42</p>	<p>Although e-Vermont, the Department of Public Service and the Internet service providers reached agreement on providing aggregate subscription information for towns on a quarterly basis, we were only able to establish this agreement for 4 quarters per town. In 2011, average take rates across all e-Vermont towns rose from 35.8% to 42.4%. We expect this trend continued in 2012 and 2013 but we've exceeded the 4 quarters and were not successful in negotiating for additional updates to the information from private sector service providers.</p>
<p>6. Please describe the two most common barriers to broadband adoption that you have experienced this year in connection with your project. What steps did you take to address them (600 words or less)?</p> <p>No barriers to report in 2013 since e-Vermont was 98% complete at the end of 2012.</p>	
<p>7. To the extent that you have made any subcontracts or sub grants, please provide the number of subcontracts or sub grants that have been made to socially and economically disadvantaged small business (SDB) concerns as defined by section 8(a) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 647, as modified by NTIA's adoption of an alternative small business size standard for use in BTOP. Please also provide the names of these SDB entities. (150 words or less)</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	
<p>8. Please describe any best practices / lessons learned that can be shared with other similar BTOP projects (900 words or less).</p> <p>e-Vermont has created online toolkits at www.e4vt.org to share best practices and lessons learned. Topics covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Conversations: A guide for non-profit organizations and community leaders who want to identify local goals that can be served by online tools. • Public Internet Access: Detailed instructions for setting up public Internet access points, including hotspots, Wi-Fi zones, library access, mobile computer labs and community learning space at public school buildings. • Basics for Beginners: A collection of recommended tutorial sites and videos. • Teaching Internet Basics: An innovative program, iConnect, teaches anyone how to effectively walk beginners through basic Internet tasks and get them started on the path to learning more. The manuals and instructor guides available online allow any organization to implement this training. This Teaching toolkit also includes lessons learned from the Internet Interns program which places college students at public libraries to provide computer assistance. • Website Design: A list of design principles that go beyond basic usability to create a website that Internet beginners can easily navigate. Of particular importance to organizations shifting essential functions to an all-online platform, such as payroll, employee accounts management, healthcare management or benefits applications. • Business Tools: An introduction for small business owners on how to connect basic business goals with appropriate online tools. • Education: For educators and community members interested in how technology can be used in the elementary school classroom. • Municipal Websites: For town officials, this toolkit outlines guidelines for municipal website design. • Digital History: Instructions for local historical societies and other groups with a collection of historic materials they would like to put into a digital archive. <p>The www.e4vt.org website also shares stories from e-Vermont communities, a library of webcasts on basic Internet skills, progress reports, the e-Vermont final report, and a report from the conference on Vermont's Digital Future held in May 2012.</p>	