

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Performance Progress Report

2. Award Or Grant Number

56-50-M09016

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

06-18-2012

1. Recipient Name

EdLab Group Foundation

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:

Wyoming

3. Street Address

19020 33rd Avenue West, Suite 210,

8. Final Report?

Yes

No

9. Report Frequency

Quarterly

Semi Annual

Annual

Final

5. City, State, Zip Code

Lynwood, WA 98036-4754

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

11-01-2009

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

10-30-2014

7b. Reporting Period End Date:

06-30-2012

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

LinkAMERICA reaches out to all known providers in each collection round to encourage their participation in the program. The following providers have formally declined to participate in the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) program to date. These providers are sent an invitation to participate each data collection round.

** Lariat.net: Telephone/e-mail discussions to encourage participation. Status: Declined.

** Jackson Hole CompuNet: Telephone/e-mail discussions to encourage participation. Status: Declined.

** Wyoming Internet Resources: Telephone/e-mail discussions to encourage participation. Status: Declined.

The following providers have not officially declined to participate, but they have not provided coverage/speed data to date. We submit estimated data on their behalf, when possible, and will continue to reach out to them to encourage participation in future rounds.

** Champion Cable

** James Cable, LLC

** AviCom/KDIS

** Extreme Highspeed

** Microserv Telecomputing

** Sundance Wireless S

** Wyoming Wireless Internet

** Myvocom, Inc.

** Collins Communications

** Star Valley Wireless

** Wamsutter

Additional provider information is listed below.

** AllureTech/CoffeyNet: This provider has engaged with us in previous rounds, but we have not been able to map their submitted data. We are continuing to work with this provider to obtain useful data.

** Cams: This provider is no longer in business.

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

The LinkAMERICA team continues to follow similar procedures across all four LinkAMERICA state projects. We augment provider and Community Anchor Institution (CAI) data, when necessary, with coverage and speed information from third-party sources. In general,

we do not substitute third-party information for provider-supplied information unless we can independently verify that the provider information is incorrect. Discrepancies between provider and third-party data are used to identify areas where additional investigation is required.

If a provider does not supply coverage information or it is not sufficiently detailed to complete the required data fields, we use third-party data and/or infrastructure data and common engineering principles to estimate coverage and speed.

10f. Please describe the verification activities you plan to implement

The processes below have not been implemented to date but are included in our project plan. In section 10h, we have included the verification process currently being implemented.

**** Mobile Wireless Broadband Drive Testing:** Our intent for this process is to test the signal strength and bandwidth/throughput on mobile wireless signals. We will concentrate our efforts in areas where we have determined that coverage data may be suspect and/or where there is a discrepancy between provider-reported coverage/speed and consumer-reported coverage/speed to determine the actual coverage and speed characteristics. We are currently reviewing vendor options for this work.

**** Mobile Wireless Crowd Sourced Testing:** This process will use a proprietary smart phone application provided by an outside vendor to constantly check signal strength and bandwidth/throughput on users' mobile phones. The application will be downloadable by consumers and will run in the background on the consumer's phone. Data collected will be used for validating provider coverage and speed reports. We are currently reviewing vendor options for this work.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities? Yes No

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

**** Third Party Data Comparison:** Provider-submitted data is compared against commercial data sources, such as legal exchange areas, American Roamer data files and Warren Media Prints data files, to identify obvious anomalies or areas for further investigation. This process is followed for new providers or in some instances when changes in coverage are reported by participating providers.

**** Provider Validation:** Check maps and other tools are produced at the beginning of each data collection round based upon prior submissions. LinkAMERICA supplies check maps in GoogleEarth and Portable Document Format (PDF) to participating providers. This allows providers the option to update coverage boundaries directly within the check map file itself. This process gives the providers more options and flexibility for submitting coverage and speed updates.

**** Data Format Verification:** Proprietary and NTIA supplied scripts are run against the final data set prior to submission to ensure the data meets NTIA data-model requirements. This process occurs with each data collection round.

**** Pre-submission Test:** We have integrated the NTIA technology/speed trips that were introduced in round 5 into our test code to check for provider data that falls outside the "normal" range as determined by NTIA. If the data "trips" a warning flag, clarification is requested from the provider.

**** Consumer Feedback/Verification:** The LinkWYOMING interactive map contains a user-feedback mechanism that identifies the precise coordinates of each point of feedback. We use the feedback received from this process to identify and investigate areas where consumer feedback conflicts with provider data.

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

We are currently following a process for verification each data collection round and will enhance and update those processes, as necessary. As stated above, further verification avenues are currently under review.

Staffing

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

An analysis of actual hours worked in Q2-2012 shows that the project resulted in 0.93 FTE jobs created/retained at the Subrecipient level for this quarter. An additional 0.69 FTEs were created/retained at the Prime Recipient level for a grand total of 1.62 FTEs Subrecipient hours fluctuate depending on data collection cycles; hours are higher during a collection round and when preparing data for the biannual submission to NTIA. We also we recently launched Capacity Building efforts and are working with new partners and vendors, leading to higher FTEs than previously reported.

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 project is currently fully staffed.

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

When fully staffed, we expect to create or retain between 1.5 and 1.75 FTEs. This figure is greater than previously reported, as we recently launched Capacity Building efforts and are working with new partners and vendors.

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Sub Recipient CEO - Supervisory Role	1	11/01/2009
Sub Recipient Project Director	4	11/01/2009
Sub Recipient Project Manager	21	09/05/2011
Sub Recipient GIS Director	1	11/01/2009
Sub Recipient Internal System Support/Architecture	1	11/01/2009
Sub Recipient Provider Relations Manager	16	11/01/2009
Prime Recipient Executive Director	9	11/01/2009
Prime Recipient Operations Manager	28	11/01/2009
Prime Recipient Contracts Coordinator	3	11/01/2009
Prime Recipient Project Manager	29	11/01/2009
Consulting	49	07/01/2011

Add Row

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Sub Contracts

10o. 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
CostQuest Associates Inc./LinkAMERICA Alliance	Project Management/GIS Programming & Planning Services	N	Y	11/01/2009	10/31/2014	2,687,341	501,241
Troy Babbitt, Contractor	Statewide Broadband Coordinator	Y	Y	02/13/2012	04/22/2012	347,699	69,540
University of Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC)	Monitoring and Evaluation of Capacity Building Efforts	Y	Y	05/02/2012	10/31/2014	152,992	56,623
Wyoming Business Council	Capacity Building Partner	N	Y	04/09/2012	10/31/2014	157,072	84,541
VISIONTECH360	Capacity Building	N	Y	11/01/2011	10/31/2014	188,743	15,099
Fedarra	Federal Reporting	N	N	04/01/2011	10/31/2014	7,578	0

Add Row

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Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,823,362 10q. How much Remains? \$2,330,471

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$462,232 10s. How much Remains? \$576,232

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	\$346,895	\$200,474	\$547,369	\$89,227	\$169	\$89,396
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$86,724	\$7,682	\$94,406	\$17,796	\$36	\$17,832
Travel	\$17,920	\$0	\$17,920	\$6,494	\$1,060	\$7,554

Mapping Budget Element	Federal Funds Granted	Proposed In-Kind	Total Budget	Federal Funds Expended	Matching Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$4,968	\$0	\$4,968	\$239	\$244	\$483
Subcontracts Total	\$3,541,425	\$727,044	\$4,268,469	\$1,645,156	\$434,741	\$2,079,897
Subcontract #1	\$2,687,341	\$501,241	\$3,188,582	\$1,585,365	\$433,581	\$2,018,946
Subcontract #2	\$347,699	\$69,540	\$417,239	\$15,690	\$0	\$15,690
Subcontract #3	\$152,992	\$56,623	\$209,615	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #4	\$157,072	\$84,541	\$241,613	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$196,321	\$15,099	\$211,420	\$44,101	\$1,160	\$45,261
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$30,081	\$9,611	\$39,692	\$34,748	\$0	\$34,748
Total Direct Costs	\$4,028,013	\$944,811	\$4,972,824	\$1,793,660	\$436,250	\$2,229,910
Total Indirect Costs	\$125,820	\$93,653	\$219,473	\$29,702	\$25,982	\$55,684
Total Costs	\$4,153,833	\$1,038,464	\$5,192,297	\$1,823,362	\$462,232	\$2,285,594
% Of Total	80	20	100	80	20	100

Hardware / Software

10u. Has the project team purchased the software / hardware described in the application? Yes No

10v. If yes, please list

No hardware or software was purchased for the program in Q2-2012. Previous purchases are documented below:

- Laptop computer and software for Subrecipient Project Manager (Wyoming-allocated portion): \$352.78
- Laptop computer and software for Subrecipient Vendor Relations Manager (Wyoming-allocated portion): \$339.48
- Dell Precision T5500 Workstation w/ArclInfo C (Wyoming-allocated portion): \$3,458.59*

* The ArclInfo software was a necessary purchase to enable CostQuest to run the validation script on provider data that NTIA & the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) require for the SBI program. Purchasing the hardware/software bundle was the most cost effective way to acquire the needed software. Without the hardware, the cost for the software alone would have been \$1,000 higher. This expense was allocated evenly to each of the four LinkAMERICA states.

10w. Please note any software / hardware that has yet to be purchased and explain why it has not been purchased

We anticipate the need to purchase hardware and software for the Drive Test validation effort. Estimated cost per test unit: \$2,475 (based on following estimated fees):

Smartphone: \$300

License fee: \$1,095

Carrier plan: \$1,080 (based on \$89.99/month for 1 year)

We are estimating a need for 4 units, one for each major mobile wireless carrier in the state, for a total cost of \$9,900. This work is planned for Q3-2012.

10x. Has the project team purchased or used any data sets? Yes No

10y. If yes, please list

**American Roamer: Market area boundary and speed data on mobile cellular providers was purchased in Q1-2012 for \$625.

**Media Prints: Cable franchise boundary database was purchased in Year 2. We have placed an order for 2012 and expect delivery in Q3-2012 (estimated at \$500).

**ExchangeInfo: Legal exchange area boundary database for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers was purchased in Year 2.

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

10aa. If yes, please list

**Provider and CAI data collected in round 5 was processed and submitted to NTIA on schedule for the April 1, 2012, submission date.

**The state interactive map was updated with round 5 data.

**Two Cost Models were developed for Wyoming (wireline and wireless). These forward-looking economic cost models developed by

CostQuest use a code base and modeling platform that develops the estimated costs of deploying and maintaining broadband services in currently unserved areas across the state. These tools will provide vital information to policymakers, providers and other stakeholders as they consider expansion of broadband to high-cost areas. Training on use of these tools is being scheduled with the state and other stakeholders.

**A provider survey was developed and sent to all Internet Service Providers (ISP) in the state to collect information regarding time investment in the program to date, and to allow an opportunity for input on the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) program and development efforts currently underway or under consideration in the state.

10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing. We continue to encounter difficulty in reconciling reported provider speeds for some providers with the NTIA speed range parameters.

**In round 5, providers whose reported data fell outside of the speed norms identified by NTIA were contacted for clarification of their submission. In most instances, we found that providers were using enhanced technologies to achieve the speed reported. We anticipate that this problem will persist in subsequent rounds, and we will continue to request clarification from providers, when appropriate. We will document our findings in the methodology document we submit to NTIA each round.

**Collecting accurate subscription-level connectivity data for CAIs continues to be a challenging and time-consuming endeavor. This is especially true for the Public Safety category. In addition to reaching out to the individual institutions, we are aggressively seeking contacts within the state and related industry groups in an attempt to locate appropriate data sets that contain the information that the SBI program calls for.

10cc. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project. We look forward to continued refinement of the messaging regarding evaluation of submitted data against 3rd party data sets. We understand and appreciate the need to develop a process that can be used across states to determine the effectiveness of the SBI effort, however, we are concerned that the complexity of the information being evaluated often makes the validation results difficult to interpret and can lead to misinterpretation by stakeholders.

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.

The following are the key Planning activities/objectives described in the original project plan for Q2-2012:

1. Final Broadband Utilization Blueprint for each state that will make clear the direction and actions the state and other organizations need to take in order to increase access to, and use of, broadband across each state.

Status: Complete

Notes

- A draft of the LinkWYOMING Broadband Framework has been completed and was presented to and approved pending edits by the LinkWYOMING Advisory Committee on June 18, 2012.

2. Final delivery of all research and facilitation products specified by project objectives described in the SBI grant applications or as modified in consultation with CostQuest Associates and the state clients.

Status: Complete

Notes

- All research and facilitation products have been completed and are supported by a series of tutorial videos and user manual.
- We are working with the LinkWYOMING Enterprise Broadband Coordinator to determine who will assume responsibility for the products. While all are finalized, some field training will be needed regarding their use.

Please see the submitted attachment for information regarding activities and accomplishments on capacity building and technical assistance efforts.

11b. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing. A minor challenge was encountered with Q1-2012 Milestone 2 (Refine joint partner capacity building work plan) and Q2-2012 Milestone 1 (Develop and Deploy Initial Monitoring and Evaluation Data Collection Tools) as defined in our supplemental project plan. Due to a more lengthy procurement process than was anticipated, the University of Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center (our Monitoring and Evaluation [M&E] partner and a key element in the development of our capacity building work plan) joined the project team during Q1-2012 rather than late Q4-2011. Work began immediately, but deliverables originally planned for completion in Q1-2012 were delayed into the following quarter(s). Any changes in the project plan as a result will be submitted in a proposed project plan revision in Q3- or Q4-2012.

11c. Does the Project Team anticipate any changes to the project plan for Broadband Planning? Yes No

developed in Q2-2012 for quick and ready access to information. Those wishing to learn more about these dimensions can visit the LinkWYOMING website at www.linkwyoming.org.

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

Karen Peterson

CEO/Executive Director

12c. Telephone
(area code, number, and extension)

425-977-4750

12d. Email Address

kpeterson@psctl.org

12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official

Submitted Electronically

12e. Date Report Submitted
(Month, Day, Year)

08-29-2012