

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Performance Progress Report

2. Award Or Grant Number

02-50-M09071

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

01-12-2011

1. Recipient Name

Connected Nation, Inc.- Alaska

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:

Alaska

3. Street Address

1020 College Street,

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)

06-01-2010

7a.

End Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)

05-31-2015

7b.

Reporting Period End Date:

12-31-2010

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

N/A

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

We have not collected any data through extraction programs.

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

ESRI is deploying and hosting Connected Nation's BroadbandStat (BBStat) web application. ESRI will house 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.

Connected Nation also collects consumer feedback in the form of broadband inquiries. 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 SBDD 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.

Connected Nation has suspended in-field validation due to extreme weather conditions and anticipates re-engaging in such activities at the beginning of Q2, 2011.

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 Alaska website and received a total of 286 visits between October 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010.

During this quarter, the Connect Alaska project has received a total of five (5) broadband inquiries. Additional information received

through e-mail from consumers that can also be used for verification purposes totaled two (2) for this quarter. Connected Nation has completed 101 on-site validation tests and has verified all, or parts of, the data for 12 companies. This testing schedule has ensured that 57.14% of the broadband provider universe has received some form of field testing and data verification technique. Field tests have been completed in Anchorage, Girdwood, Wasilla, Juneau, Fairbanks, Auk Harbor, Douglas, Mendenhall, Homer, Ketchikan and other remote areas of the state. During Q4 of 2011, extensive mobile and WiMAX testing occurred in Fairbanks along with DSL and FTTx tests conducted in Ketchikan.

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

N/A

Staffing

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

2.66

Connected Nation has numerous staff working on this 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 in their respective areas and by leveraging their expertise the project benefits by their 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 the new broadband capacity, technical assistance, and application development activities that are only just beginning and as such have no impact on the project's time line. The positions are expected to be filled during the first and second quarters of 2011.

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

4.66

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Associate Counsel	3	09/14/2009
Business Programmer Analyst	2	04/02/2007
CAI Data Analyst	9	03/24/2009
CAI Data Manager	2	08/09/2010
CAI Coordinator	1	12/13/2004
ETS Analyst	4	11/01/2007
ETS Analyst	5	07/13/2009
ETS Analyst	12	08/24/2009
ETS Analyst	16	02/08/2010
ETS Manager	7	07/01/2007
ETS Sr. Analyst	18	02/18/2010
General Counsel	4	01/01/2007
GIS Analyst	11	10/19/2009

GIS Services Manager	4	05/15/2007
Outreach & Awareness Manager	10	03/24/2009
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	1	10/01/2007
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	1	01/03/2010
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	4	01/04/2010
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	5	02/02/2009
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	5	01/04/2010
Project Coordinator	2	04/01/2005
Project Management Director	1	12/20/2004
Project Manager	1	12/16/2009
Project Manager	2	08/20/2007
Project Manager	7	01/14/2008
Project Manager	30	03/16/2010
Provider Relations Manager	7	02/17/2005
Provider Relations Specialist	3	11/03/2009
Research & GIS Analyst	3	05/14/2007
Research Analyst	3	06/01/2009
Research Analyst	23	02/01/2010
Research Manager	6	05/14/2007
State Services Manager	21	07/01/2007
State Services Specialist	32	12/01/2009
Research Analyst	1	03/22/2010

Add Row

Remove Row

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
Throughbred Research Group	Research Surveys	Y	Y	02/09/2010	02/08/2012	87,350	0

State of Alaska	Planning Activities and Application Development Activities	N	N	06/01/2010	05/31/2015	1,000,000	125,000
Contract Labor	Contract Labor	N	Y	06/01/2010	05/31/2015	266,416	194,791
ESRI	Hosting	N	Y	02/03/2010	02/02/2012	38,683	0

Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$715,083 10q. How much Remains? \$5,663,115

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$143,358 10s. How much Remains? \$1,454,924

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	\$1,661,362	\$113,635	\$1,774,997	\$165,134	\$25,686	\$190,820
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$356,364	\$24,513	\$380,877	\$33,775	\$11,196	\$44,971
Travel	\$436,598	\$0	\$436,598	\$51,738	\$0	\$51,738
Equipment	\$132,432	\$0	\$132,432	\$62,786	\$0	\$62,786
Materials / Supplies	\$47,610	\$0	\$47,610	\$17,742	\$0	\$17,742
Subcontracts Total	\$1,802,334	\$319,791	\$2,122,125	\$155,348	\$58,265	\$213,613
Subcontract #1	\$476,827	\$0	\$476,827	\$43,675	\$0	\$43,675
Subcontract #2	\$1,000,000	\$125,000	\$1,125,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #3	\$266,416	\$194,791	\$461,207	\$98,214	\$58,265	\$156,479
Subcontract #4	\$20,408	\$0	\$20,408	\$7,621	\$0	\$7,621
Subcontract #5	\$38,683	\$0	\$38,683	\$5,838	\$0	\$5,838
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$201,988	\$1,110,343	\$1,312,331	\$3,454	\$6,472	\$9,926
Total Direct Costs	\$4,638,688	\$1,568,282	\$6,206,970	\$489,977	\$101,619	\$591,596
Total Indirect Costs	\$1,739,510	\$30,000	\$1,769,510	\$225,106	\$41,739	\$266,845
Total Costs	\$6,378,198	\$1,598,282	\$7,976,480	\$715,083	\$143,358	\$858,441
% Of Total	80	20	100	83	17	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-\$63,636
- GIS Software Maintenance-\$1,840
- Computers-\$4,365
- Speed Test Software-\$2,686

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 BroadbandStat maintenance, ArchInfo/Arc GIS 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

N/A

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

10aa. If yes, please list

- * Maintained and updated the budget/finance cost model for Connect Alaska
- * Revised the project schedule and work breakdown structure (WBS) with the revised SBDD timeline
- * Continued planning discussions on awarded grant from the NTIA State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program
- * Continued to process speed tests and broadband inquiries from the Connect Alaska website
- * Updated the project outreach and awareness strategy
- * Produced and distributed weekly status reports, data collection activity log, and website statistics to the Connect Alaska project team
- * Continued to identify and collect data from Community Anchor Institutions within the state of Alaska
- * Surveyed Alaska native communities for broadband availability information
- * Continued to solicit broadband coverage datasets from the provider community
- * Conducted field validation tests of broadband provider data in and around several Alaskan communities
- * Updated the Alaska broadband coverage maps and the Alaska BroadbandStat interactive map application
- * Created and posted Alaska broadband speed maps to the Connect Alaska website
- * Participated in the Alaska Federation of Natives Conference to promote the importance of the Connect Alaska project
- * Participated in discussions at the University of Alaska-Anchorage with awardees of other broadband projects in Alaska to promote collaboration within the group
- * Conducted demonstrations of the Alaska BroadbandStat application
- * Created an Alaskan residential broadband survey assessment report
- * Completed the analysis of the Alaska business broadband survey results and created an Alaskan business broadband assessment report
- * Submitted quarterly project reports and mapping data updates to the NTIA
- * In response to the additional State Broadband Data & Development funding extending the grant through December 2014, project plan alterations and expansion commenced.

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

Time continues to be of essence. We continue to assign resources to the extent practical in order to meet the predetermined deadline.

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

The matching funds documented are currently at 17% of the total funds expended. The State of Alaska is working with several state agencies to facilitate the transfer of a number of in-kind GIS-related datasets that will be used to enhance the state's interactive broadband map. The transfer of these datasets was contemplated in the state's original SBDD grant application as a significant source of in-kind match dollars. We anticipate the dataset transfer to occur in the first quarter of 2011 resulting in a significant increase in the match percentage on this project.

On September 27, Connect Alaska received notice of a grant award extending SBDD mapping and planning activities for an additional three years. The project plan has been revised to include these new activities and will be formally submitted to NTIA by the scheduled deadline.

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

On behalf of the state of Alaska, Connected Nation (CN) is working with its subcontractors to analyze demand-side data collected through statistical telephone surveys of 817 businesses statewide. Quotas were set by industry size and sector to ensure a representative sample of businesses was surveyed, and the results were weighted by industry size and sector to correct for minor variances. Analysis of these business survey results began in Q3 2010. Initial data analysis was completed in Q4 2010, with more in-depth survey results scheduled to be provided to the state in Q1 2011. CN designed these surveys to measure technology adoption, barriers to adoption, and awareness of available broadband service among Alaska businesses, and those results were compared to statewide figures provided by participating Internet service providers.

11b. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing

Connected Nation has been relying heavily on Alaska's recommendations to ensure that our work, as well as the work of our subcontractors, exceeds expectations. During Q4, 2010, there were no significant obstacles during the planning process.

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

11d. If yes, please describe these anticipated changes. Please note that NTIA will need to approve changes to the Project Plan before they can be implemented

Upon approval of the project plan and budget, Connected Nation plans to alter the methodology of the residential survey update that was scheduled for Q1 2011 and is now funded by the SBDD Technical Assistance grant for Alaska. This updated and improved methodology will provide a greater level of analysis regarding barriers to technology adoption among different socioeconomic and demographic groups. In particular, this revised methodology will oversample non-adopters in Alaska in a way similar to that conducted by the FCC as part of the National Broadband Planning effort. This approach will help create a demographic and socioeconomic profile of the population of non-adopters in Alaska. This information can then be applied at the local level of detail by area planning teams in Alaska, who will be in a better position to develop local adoption initiatives that will target the barriers that are unique to that area.

On September 27, 2010 Connect Alaska received notice of a grant award extending SBDD mapping and planning activities an additional three years. The project plan is currently under development and being revised to include these new activities. The updated plan will be submitted by February 2011 following the guidelines outlined in the extension granted to all awardees.

Funding

11e. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$0 11f. How much Remains? \$0

11g. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$0 11h. How much Remains? \$0

11i. Planning Worksheet

Personal Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontracts Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #4	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Direct Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
% Of Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Additional Planning Information

11j. Are there any additional project milestones or information that has not been included?

None at this time.

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

Connected Nation has been relying heavily on Alaska's recommendations to ensure that our work, as well as the work of our subcontractors, exceeds expectations.

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

All planning costs have been combined with the mapping costs and reported in the mapping section above.

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)

02-21-2011