

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Performance Progress Report**

2. Award Or Grant Number  
45-50-M09044

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)  
09-13-2010

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

8. Reporting Period End Date:  
(MM/DD/YYYY)  
09-30-2010

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
47	47	49	3	50	50

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

MainStreet Wireless: After numerous unsuccessful attempts to solicit data from the provider between February 1, 2010 and August 5, 2010, a representative of the provider company sent an email on August 11, 2010 stating "not interested in participating."

Knology of South Carolina, Inc.: Provider was not able to participate at the time of the original data collection due to resource constraints. Outreach continues with this provider, however no other responses to outreach have been received since the first refusal.

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 communication 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.

Before December 31, 2010 Connected Nation will target an additional 2 randomly selected companies in order to achieve a total field validation rate equal to or exceeding 40%.

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 and received a total of 905 visits between July 1, 2010 and September 30, 2010.

During this quarter, the Connect South Carolina project has received a total of 12 broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that can also be used for verification purposes totaled 6 for this quarter.

Connected Nation focused on both data acquisition and data validation. In many instances, this required on-site visits with the providers in order to demonstrate and explain data validation techniques. To date, Connected Nation has completed in-the-field validation on 18 companies and/or 38.30% of the broadband provider universe. Fifty-three test points were selected in order to gauge the accuracy of data submitted for fixed and mobile wireless, WiMAX, cable modem, DSL, and FTTx technologies.

Spectrum analysis testing confirmed broadband operations in the 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 2400 MHz, 5700 MHz (and other frequency bands), coordinates for above-ground facilities were confirmed using either a Garmin eTrex Summit GPS unit or Microsoft Street & Trips (GPS enabled), speed tests were conducted using smart phones, WiMAX cards, mobile air cards, and DSL and cable modems (when available). Ongoing field validation activities also included cross-referencing the Federal Communications Commission databases such as the Antenna Structure Registration portal to compare tower registration numbers which may have been submitted, the Universal Licensing System portal to confirm the validity of "licensed" wireless operations, and the Commission Registration System (CORES) to cross-check provider Federal Registration Numbers.

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?

2.98

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

N/A

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

2.98. Please note that we use functional job titles and these titles may be staffed by multiple individuals. Their hire dates vary so for the purposes of uploading a complete report, we have used a hire date of 1/1/2010 to signify various hire dates.

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Associate Counsel	4	01/01/2010
Business Programmer Analyst	1	01/01/2010
CAI Data Analyst	4	01/01/2010
CAI Data Manager	3	01/01/2010
ETS Analyst	27	01/01/2010
ETS Manager	7	01/01/2010
General Counsel	5	01/01/2010
GIS Analyst	26	01/01/2010
GIS Intern	2	01/01/2010
GIS Services Manager	4	01/01/2010
Outreach & Awareness Manager	1	01/01/2010
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	7	01/01/2010
Project Coordinator	3	01/01/2010
Project Management Director	2	01/01/2010
Project Manager	34	01/01/2010
Provider Relations Manager	7	01/01/2010
Provider Relations Specialist	8	01/01/2010
Research & GIS Analyst	3	01/01/2010
Research Analyst	97	01/01/2010
Research Manager	2	01/01/2010
State Services Manager	3	01/01/2010
State Services Specialist	25	01/01/2010
State Services Sr. Specialist	23	01/01/2010

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
----------------------------	------------------	---	---	------------	------------	----------	-----

Add Row

Remove Row

### Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$476,640      10q. How much Remains? \$3,503,192

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$88,358      10s. How much Remains? \$942,309

#### 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	\$101,289	\$22,433	\$123,722
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$257,278	\$32,004	\$289,282	\$26,293	\$6,999	\$33,292
Travel	\$157,557	\$0	\$157,557	\$17,130	\$94	\$17,224
Equipment	\$139,143	\$0	\$139,143	\$65,195	\$0	\$65,195
Materials / Supplies	\$50,350	\$0	\$50,350	\$14,562	\$0	\$14,562
Subcontracts Total	\$891,457	\$106,883	\$998,340	\$133,004	\$26,273	\$159,277
Subcontract #1	\$156,939	\$0	\$156,939	\$44,635	\$0	\$44,635
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	\$54,298	\$685,883	\$740,181	\$2,367	\$5,559	\$7,926
Total Direct Costs	\$2,749,517	\$948,522	\$3,698,039	\$359,840	\$61,358	\$421,198
Total Indirect Costs	\$1,230,315	\$82,145	\$1,312,460	\$362,207	\$66,917	\$429,124
Total Costs	\$3,979,832	\$1,030,667	\$5,010,499	\$476,640	\$88,358	\$564,998
% Of Total	79	21	100	84	16	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
- ESRI ArchInfo/ArcGIS Software
- ESRI Software Maintenance
- Computers
- Ookla Net Metrics Speed Test Software
- Spectrum Analyzer

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, ESRI ArchInfo/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

N/A

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

10aa. If yes, please list

- \*Maintained budget/finance cost model for Connect South Carolina.
- \*Revised the project work plan and Work Breakdown Structure.
- \*Maintained and managed the project work plan and Work Breakdown Structure.
- \*Maintained the Connect South Carolina website to explain the program and gather information from the consumer community also added beta language requested by NTIA.
- \*Continued to process speed tests from the Connect South Carolina speed test portal.
- \*Continued to receive and process the Connect South Carolina website broadband inquiries.
- \*Maintained the communications strategy plan.
- \*Conducted periodic Connect South Carolina project team meetings.
- \*Produced monthly status reports, data collection activity log, and website statistics and distributed to the Connect South Carolina project team.
- \*Compiled and refined broadband provider list.
- \*Maintained and updated the broadband data collection activity log.
- \*Distributed NDAs to Provider Community.
- \*Securely stored executed NDAs.
- \*Conducted webinars with provider community.
- \*Conducted demonstrations of the BroadbandStat product.
- \*Monitored and continued updating the South Carolina BroadbandStat instance with the most accurate mapping data.
- \*Requested updated broadband coverage coordinate data sets from provider community.
- \*Distributed and received broadband coverage coordinate data sets from provider community.
- \*Compiled and submitted the first semi-annual mapping data refresh on September 27, 2010, as required by grant (October 2010). South Carolina had 47 viable providers identified with 38 complete datasets received (80.6%). Of the 9 remaining providers, 2 refused to participate or did not respond to inquiries and 7 were in some state of data submission.
- \*On September 27, 2010, Connect South Carolina was awarded funding by the NTIA under the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program to extend broadband data collection activities for an additional three years.

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

Some providers continue to be hesitant to participate. Connect South Carolina will continue to work closely with the provider community to encourage participation and field questions or concerns.

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

On September 27, 2010 Connect South Carolina received notice of a grant award extending SBDD mapping and planning activities an additional three years. The project plan is being revised to include these new activities. Details of the new plan will be reported in the fourth quarter.

## 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 South Carolina (SC), Connected Nation (CN) is working with subcontractors to collect and analyze demand-side data through statistical telephone surveys. The surveys collect data on broadband and computer use and barriers to use among residents by demographic and businesses by size and industry sector. CN provided an initial overview of the residential survey results to the state in Q2, 2010, with a more comprehensive report scheduled to be released Q4, 2010. In addition, CN designed the 2010 SC business survey, which was conducted by Thoroughbred Research in Q2-Q3, 2010. Analysis of this data commenced in Q3, 2010, with results to be released in Q4, 2010. Updates to the residential and business surveys are scheduled to occur in Q1, 2011 and Q3, 2011, respectively.

This data was analyzed along with supply-side broadband data gathered through the SC SBDD mapping grant. The primary tool for this ongoing analysis is BroadbandStat, an interactive, web-based GIS application that offers location-based consumer feedback on the accuracy of the map, as well as an interactive tool for data analysis, planning, and decision-making.

Connect South Carolina, in coordination with the state of South Carolina, will complete an initial planning report for the state during Q4, 2010. This report will serve as a preliminary assessment of broadband infrastructure and adoption in South Carolina. The purpose of its development and release is to provide a detailed review of the current state of broadband in South Carolina and spark discussion across multiple broadband stakeholders in the state on key policy and strategies to expand and enhance broadband services. The report will be formally presented and released publicly within the state during Q1, 2011. It will also be available for public review and comment on the Connect South Carolina website.

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 working closely with the state of South Carolina to ensure that our work exceeds expectations. During Q3, 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

On September 27, 2010 Connect South Carolina received notice of a grant award extending SBDD mapping and planning activities an additional three years. The project plan is being revised to include these new activities. Details of the new plan will be reported in the fourth quarter.

## 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

Planning Budget Element	Federal Funds Granted	Proposed In-Kind	Total Budget	Federal Funds Expended	Matching Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended
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 South Carolina's recommendations to ensure that our work, as well as the work of our subcontractors, exceeds expectations. During Q3, 2010, there were no significant obstacles during the planning process.

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)

10-26-2010

Performance Progress Report  
OMB Approval Number: 0660-0034  
Expiration Date: 08/31/2010