

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Performance Progress Report

2. Award Or Grant Number

01-50-M09013

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

04-12-2011

1. Recipient Name

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:

Alabama

3. Street Address

P.O. Box 5690, 401 Adams Avenue,

8. Final Report?

Yes

No

9. Report Frequency

Quarterly

Semi Annual

Annual

Final

5. City, State, Zip Code

Montgomery, AL 36104-5690

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:

03-31-2011

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

Total provider count and the status of each provider was supplied in the datapackage.xls file submitted with the complete Round 3 Alabama dataset on April 1, 2011.

Only two providers in Alabama have declined to participate in the program

****Broadview Network Holdings, Inc.: Declined to Participate** - this provider has declined to participate in the program. We continue to contact them with each new round of data collection, but they have not changed their position.

****Castleberry Communications Inc.: Declined to Participate** - this provider has declined to participate in the program. We continue to contact them with each new round of data collection, but they have not changed their position.

The remaining providers either participated in the Round 3 data collection effort or were non-responsive to our data requests (but did not formally decline to participate).

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

In each data collection round, the LinkAMERICA team verifies and augments provider data with coverage and speed information from third party sources. We do not substitute third party information for provider-supplied information unless we can independently verify that the provider information is incorrect. More often we use discrepancies to identify areas where further investigation is required.

If providers do not submit data, but we are able to verify infrastructure information through other sources, we use common engineering principles to estimate coverage and speed.

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

In each data collection round, the LinkAMERICA team uses consistent data verification procedures. These procedures are common to all four LinkAMERICA states. As previously described, we believe verification can be segmented into four distinct categories/activities:

**** Third Party Data Comparison:** As data arrives from providers we compare submissions against several commercial data sources to identify obviously anomalies or areas for further investigation. An example would be the comparison of an ILECs reported coverage area boundaries with the legal exchange areas shown in the commercial ExchangeInfo data product. Coverage footprints of wireless providers are compared against AmericanRoamer databases - this process occurs with each data collection round

**** Provider Validation:** PDF check maps and other documents are produced at the beginning of each data collection round. These maps and documents are developed from each provider's previous submission and are posted on our secure provider portal for download. We ask providers to verify and/or correct the coverage and speed information shown on the map and to add new coverage information - this process occurs with each data collection round

** Data Format Verification: Proprietary and NTIA-supplied scripts are run against the dataset prior to submission to ensure the data is properly formatted and will be fully received upon submittal - this process occurs with each data collection round

** Consumer Feedback/Verification: The ConnectingALABAMA interactive map contains a user feedback mechanism that identifies the precise coordinates of each point of feedback. As more user feedback arrives, we are able to examine this data to identify and investigate areas where consumer feedback conflicts with provider information - this process occurs with each data collection round

10g. Have you initiated verification activities? Yes No

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

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

In years 3-5 we have budgeted for the following additional verification activities:

** Mobile Wireless Broadband Drive Testing: This process will use a special device from a vendor to test signal strength and bandwidth/throughput on multiple mobile wireless signals at the same time. This technology will be used in areas where there is a large discrepancy between provider-reported coverage/speed and consumer-reported coverage/speed to determine the actual coverage and speed characteristics - commences in early 2012.

** Mobile Wireless Crowd Sourced Testing: This process will use a proprietary smart phone app, provided by a vendor, to constantly check signal strength and bandwidth/throughput on the user's mobile phone. The application will be available on multiple phone platforms and will be downloadable by consumers in each LinkAMERICA state. It runs in the background on the consumer's phone and does not impact phone performance. Data is sent from the vendor to LinkAMERICA for use in validating provider coverage and speed reports - commences in early 2012.

Staffing

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

In Q1 2011 SBDD funding resulted in 2.51 FTEs at the Prime Recipient level and 1.02 total FTEs at the Subrecipient level - for a total of 3.53 FTEs.

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?

we anticipate staffing to equal 4.02 upon completion of the project.

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
CEO-Supervisor Role	1	11/01/2009
Project Director	7	11/01/2009

Project Manager	18	11/01/2009
GIS Director	37	11/01/2009
Internal System Support/Architecture	11	11/01/2009
Provider Relations Manager	28	11/01/2009
Regional Coordinator #1	84	08/30/2010
Regional Coordinator #2	84	09/07/2010
Regional Coordinator #3	83	09/07/2010

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 and Planning Services	N	Y	11/01/2009	10/31/2011	1,499,424	475,028
TBD	This contractor will serve to develop measurement and evaluation for planning. Additionally, data collection vendor is also included.	N	N	10/03/2011	09/30/2014	1,760,324	347,302

Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$998,686 10q. How much Remains? \$3,875,456
 10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$489,440 10s. How much Remains? \$730,043

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	\$903,096	\$228,405	\$1,131,501	\$53,070	\$0	\$53,070
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$434,254	\$85,318	\$519,572	\$30,055	\$0	\$30,055
Travel	\$88,715	\$0	\$88,715	\$3,288	\$0	\$3,288
Equipment	\$64,700	\$0	\$64,700	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$19,044	\$0	\$19,044	\$5,460	\$0	\$5,460
Subcontracts Total	\$3,259,748	\$822,330	\$4,082,078	\$875,729	\$489,440	\$1,365,169
Subcontract #1	\$1,499,424	\$475,028	\$1,999,424	\$875,729	\$489,440	\$1,365,169
Subcontract #2	\$1,760,324	\$347,302	\$2,107,626	\$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	\$548,450	\$548,450	\$841	\$0	\$841
Total Direct Costs	\$4,769,557	\$1,684,503	\$6,454,060	\$968,443	\$489,440	\$1,457,883

Mapping Budget Element	Federal Funds Granted	Proposed In-Kind	Total Budget	Federal Funds Expended	Matching Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended
Total Indirect Costs	\$104,585	\$10,008	\$114,593	\$30,242	\$0	\$30,242
Total Costs	\$4,874,142	\$1,219,483	\$6,568,653	\$998,685	\$489,440	\$1,488,125
% Of Total	80	20	0	20	40	0

Hardware / Software

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

10v. If yes, please list

Laptop computer and software for Sub Recipient Project Manager (AL allocated portion): \$352.78
 Laptop computer and software for Sub Recipient Vendor Relations Manager (AL Allocated portion): \$339.48
 2 Desktop PCs: \$2464
 1 Presentation Projector: \$374.00
 1 Uninterrupted Power Supply: \$121.00
 1 Printer: \$375.10
 10w. Please note any software / hardware that has yet to be purchased and explain why it has not been purchased

All software/hardware listed in the budget for Years 1-2 has been purchased. Software and Hardware for transition of the interactive maps to state hosting, in the amount of \$44,700 will be purchased in 2012. This purchase will include a Database Server, Web/GIS Server, and external storage device, and the necessary MS SQL Server and ESRI software licenses.

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

10y. If yes, please list

American Roamer: Wireless coverage information - \$5147
 Media Prints: Cable system information - \$500
 ExchangeInfo: ILEC exchange area boundaries - \$3805

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

10aa. If yes, please list

N/A

10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing
 No significant obstacles or challenges were experienced with consumer or providers in Q1 2011. Once again, participation by providers was relatively high (68%) in Alabama as we completed the third round of data collection. Preparing data for final submission to NTIA was more challenging this quarter than in past quarters due to the relatively late delivery of the data submission scripts. We understand the constantly changing nature of the program but would appreciate a solidification of any data model and script changes at least 30 days in advance of the submittal deadline.

10cc. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project
 The release of the National Broadband Map created an increase in the number of questions/complaints from Alabama consumers and providers. Most were concerned with usability issues (currently being addressed by NTIA) or failed to fully understand how census blocks and street segments are used to report and display data. We encourage an expanded use of narrative, pop-up notes, FAQs and other means to explain how the map was developed and the limitations in census-block based data. In particular, we believe there should be more messaging to explain that the map should not be used to determine coverage at the household/address level. More general tips on how to use various features on the map would also be helpful.

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

**Complete interviews with key statewide stakeholders to determine initial state and region-specific broadband expansion/adoption goals - Due 3/31/2010 - Status: completed
 **Publish interview results through a series of interactive video segments to educate public and promote planning project goals - Due 9/30/2010 - Status: completed
 **Hire Statewide Coordinator and four Regional Coordinators to coordinate assembly of regional planning teams. Due 9/30/10 - Status: completed
 **Open office at Alabama State University and hire interns to assist with CAI and community development efforts. Due 9/30/10 -

Status: completed

**Form 12 Regional Action Teams to formulate regional plans for broadband expansion and adoption. Due 12/31/10 - Status: completed (all 12 teams in place and first meetings held by this date)

**Publish DRAFT regional investment plans. Due 6/30/10 - Status: underway

**Publish FINAL regional investment plans. Due 9/30/10 - Status: pending

**Develop up to five prototype engagement and outreach modules for implementation of regional plans in Years 3-5. Due 10/31/10 - Status: pending

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

No significant obstacles or challenges were experienced with consumer or providers in Q1 2011.

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

N/A

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?

Refine Regional Broadband Investment Priority M&E and Training Needs for all 12 regions

Finalize Joint Partner Work Plan--Organize and implement joint 2 day scoping workshop engaging key partners including VisionTech 360/LinkAMERICA personnel, ADECA state broadband director and staff positions, and selected university partner

Create and test initial M&E data collection tools
Design initial broadband capacity building training content and delivery plan
Implement capacity building training in support of M&E field data collection, utilization of results and other issues
Conduct State Broadband Summit
Design, test, and Apply social and economic impact model to conduct preliminary assessment for additional broadband investment cases
Launch delivery of year 4 capacity training programs
Prepare and launch additional targeted capacity building training as needed
Profile measures of progress for selected broadband investment activities including inputs, activities, processes implemented, outputs, outcomes, and impacts

Identify key technical leaders within Alabama, but from outside of state government, who can inform broadband policy on a state and federal level
Have an established group of technical leaders in Alabama that is informed to the point of being on the leading edge of the latest broadband technologies and broadband policy change
Inform the technical leaders of the results of the Alabama Statewide Cost Model
Inform technical leaders in Alabama on how to contribute to and inform policies and applications that bring funding for broadband to areas and sectors within the state that most need assistance
Completion of the development of a database/list of technical leaders across the state
Inform the group of technical leaders in Alabama on the latest broadband technologies and broadband policy change
Inform the group of technical leaders in Alabama on the latest developments with Universal Service Funding and the CAF
For more details please refer to the Q1 Supplemental

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Jessica Dent

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

12d. Email Address

jessica.dent@adeca.alabama.gov

12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official

Submitted Electronically

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

07-12-2011