



Does your project contain an infrastructure build component?

Yes



OMB Control No. 0660-0047 Expiration Date: 07/31/2025

TRIBAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT				
GENERAL INFORMATION				
GENERAL	Recipient Organization:	Alaska Tribal Spectrum	Award Identification Number:	NT23TBC0290130
	Recipient Street Address:	721 Depot Drive	Report Submission Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	09/27/2024
	City, State, Zip Code:	Anchorage, AK 99501		
	UEI Number:	L2LRDX2VKFB5		
	Period of Performance Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	10/01/2023	Period of Performance End Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	09/30/2024
	Report Period Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	10/01/2023	Report Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	09/30/2024
1	<p>Provide the total number of project locations (Tribal households, businesses, and community anchor institutions) that your organization provided broadband service to using grant funds. (600 words or less)</p> <p>Infrastructure Deployment projects must attach associated shapefiles for the proposed service area. Use & Adoption projects are not required to provide shapefiles, but must complete question 1. Planning projects may enter "N/A".</p> <p>No service has been deployed to date.</p>			
2				
3	<p>List all contractors that received grant funds and briefly explain what the funds were used for. Report this item cumulatively from the start of the award through the end of the annual report period captured in this report. If your project does not include contractors, write "NA". (600 words or less)</p> <p>In the ATS application we named OptimERA as a contractor we hoped we would negotiate a design/build contract for the Alaska Tribal Network using the design concept presented in the application for a Conex enclosure and tower using 2.5 GHz spectrum. The concept is still a sound one and the core design has not changed. However, due to concerns about OptimERA's ability to perform and to scale, a decision was authorized by the board to issue a solicitation for the work. Therefore, ATS created a series of RFPs to solicit capable firms to complete the design/build work. The RFPs for a tower and container enclosure vendor were awarded through a vigorous competition per the ATS procurement policy. The RFPs for a network integration partner, a site installation partner, and a MVNO partner are still in process.</p> <p>ARES Towers won the initial Tower RFP. Falcon Structures won the initial Conex Telecom basic outfitting RFP. Several part and equipment vendors supplied equipment as required by Falcon Structures which ATS paid directly and had the equipment shipped to Texas for integration by Falcon. Next to be awarded via RFP is the integration vendor who will install technical network components in Anchorage and prepare for shipping to the multiple village locations.</p> <p>ATS required assistance from a tech strategy, engineering and software development firm with a deep understanding in the telecom industry to refine the Alaska Tribal Network (ATN) spec and create the RFPs and scoring criteria and assist in contract negotiations for these RFPs. After conducting a search for firms qualified to perform these myriad functions, ATS found Teleworx to be ideal as the only source of expertise that suited their very specific needs. This was due to their extensive experience in third world rural networks, and deep tribal experience and experience in designing and constructing very similar wireless networks. With their deep knowledge of the worldwide telecom ecosystem and vast connections in the industry they have introduced ATS to a large contingent of potential qualified suitors which will result in a more competitive bids and a greatly refined design and delivery capabilities.</p> <p>Also, we have chosen to use a small woman owned business (Tech Hands) in Alaska to perform tasks related to tribal outreach and site data collection.</p>			
4	<p>Describe how the recipient organization expended grant funds. Report this item cumulatively from the start of the award through the end of the annual report period captured in this report. (600 words or less)</p> <p>ATS received the award notification on October 1, 2023. ATS received no funds access until early February 2024. Upon receiving access ATS worked on tasks related to the network design and to procure long lead items like towers and telecom containers as proposed in our application.</p> <p>ATS followed its procurement policy to create and award an RFP for the first few towers as a proof of concept to Falcon Structures. ATS worked with Teleworx to create and manage the RFP process and develop many aspects of the technical design. ATS expended funding to conduct massive outreach to the 59 communities in their award for situational awareness and next steps and to collect specific site information. ATS also worked on the environmental and archeological reviews and with the Army Corps and Alaska Fish and Game for environmental review items.</p>			
5	<p>List all subrecipients that received grant funds and briefly explain what the funds were used for. Report this item cumulatively from the start of the award through the end of the annual report period captured in this report. If your project does not include subrecipients, write "NA". (600 words or less)</p> <p>There are no Subrecipients.</p>			

	Describe any challenges your organization experienced while conducting your TBCP project during the past annual report period. Explain how you addressed those challenges. (600 words or less)		
6	<p>ATS received the award notification on October 1, 2023. ATS received no funds access until early February 2024. ATS has an award that covers 59 locations, all of which have unique design and local characteristics that need to be addressed. These communities are all rural with no interconnecting road systems. The only way in is by boat or plane and weather is a major factor causing delays. There is no stable internet or phone service and even when there is, during times of subsistence May to October most everyone is at fish or hunting camps. This makes consistent communication difficult, causing delays in collecting vital information. As such, ATS expends a tremendous amount of time in outreach efforts. This is a major barrier we face.</p> <p>Since communications are challenging, we have stepped up our efforts to communicate on a frequent basis using emails, Facebook, and targeted calling campaigns and plan for individual site visits. We also plan to see our members at annual meeting events i.e BIA and AFN to give them accurate information.</p> <p>ATS is working on NEPA requirements needed to receive expected CATEX but with so many locations, it is a challenging time consuming process. Good progress has been made with several agencies.</p> <p>Also, the building season is limited in Alaska from May to Oct being the available barge season to transport our equipment or construct facilities. Transportation of equipment is a major challenge in Alaska.</p>		
7	<p>Describe how your organization met and maintained broadband requirements, as outlined in the NOFO purpose areas below. (600 words or less)</p> <p>Infrastructure Deployment: Broadband infrastructure deployment, including (but not limited to) support for the establishment of carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations.</p> <p>Use and Adoption: Projects that promote the adoption and use of broadband services, including: affordable broadband programs, such as providing free or reduced-cost broadband service and preventing disconnection of existing broadband service; distance learning; telehealth; digital inclusion efforts; and broadband adoption activities.</p> <p>Planning: Proposals to conduct planning, engineering, feasibility, or sustainability studies as part of the necessary steps to develop a technological solution for broadband deployment.</p> <p>We are not yet at the actual deployment stage and this is not a fiber project. We will maintain broadband infrastructure deployment work requirements per the NOFO.</p>		
8	<p>Describe all project achievements during the reporting period. (600 words or less)</p> <p>ATS followed its procurement policy to create and award an RFP for the first few towers and proof of concept towers to ARES. ATS also followed its procurement policy to create and award an RFP for the first few telecommunication enclosures and a proof of concept to Falcon Structures. ATS worked with Teleworx to create and manage the RFP process and develop many aspects of the technical design. ATS expended funding to conduct massive outreach to the 59 communities in their award for situational awareness and next steps and to collect specific site information. ATS also worked on the environmental and archeological reviews and with the Army Corps and Alaska Fish and Game for environmental review items.</p> <p>ATS has come a long way since funded in Feb to find competent firms that responded to our RFPs to create the basic elements of our network design. We plan to finish a lab installation over the winter in Anchorage and prepare and integrate system packages suitable for shipping to many locations starting in May of 2025. We have created an integration RFP scope and design for the network and identified key components which will be awarded soon. We have collected a wealth of individual village location information with kickoff meetings with many of our tribes and will continue to do so over the winter.</p>		
9	<p>INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT PROJECTS: Using the Excel spreadsheet template titled "TBCP Reports Addendum A", please provide an updated count of Households within each of the eligible tribal block groups along with their Location ID that you connected to your network. The locations should match and conform to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, which is a unique identifier for the geographic coordinates, and where available, the address(es) associated with each location.</p>		
10	<p>INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT PROJECTS: Using the Excel spreadsheet template titled "TBCP Reports Addendum B", please provide an updated count of Tribal Businesses within each of the eligible tribal block groups along with their Location ID that you connected to your network. The locations should match and conform to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, which is a unique identifier for the geographic coordinates, and where available, the address(es) associated with each location.</p>		
11	<p>INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT PROJECTS: Using the Excel spreadsheet template titled "TBCP Reports Addendum C", please provide an updated count of Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) within each of the eligible tribal block groups along with their Location ID that you connected to your network. The locations should match and conform to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, which is a unique identifier for the geographic coordinates, and where available, the address(es) associated with each location.</p>		
CERTIFICATION	I certify to the best of knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.		
	Typed or printed name and title of Authorized Certifying Official:		Telephone (area code, number and extension):
	Jim Berlin		907-206-7766
	Signature of Certifying Official:		Email Address:
	/s/ Jim Berlin		Date:
			9/27/2024