Annual Report on the Activities of the ConnectME Authority

Report to the Maine State Legislature Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

January 15, 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recognition of the critical importance of technology for education, health and business success in Maine, the Legislature created the ConnectME Authority (Authority) in 2006 to develop and implement its broadband strategy for Maine.[1] In 2007, the Legislature approved the Authority's major substantive rule that defines the state's broadband strategy and implementation process.

The goal of the Authority is to facilitate universal availability of broadband service and to increase the "take rate" or adoption to greater than the national average. Increasing access and take rates is critical to Maine's education and economic prosperity. Nearly five years ago, approximately 86% of the state had access to high-speed Internet service with an adoption rate of approximately 40%. In the six years since the Authority was established, broadband access or availability has risen to over 93% with 75% of Maine households subscribing to some type of broadband service (compared to 72% nationally).[2],[3]

The Authority increased access and take rates through its efforts to identify areas that do not have broadband access, and then selecting projects for broadband expansion; administering the projects; and providing funding, resources and incentives for the projects.

During 2013, the Authority continued to manage four major projects, with total funding of $5 million, from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) State Broadband Initiative (SBI):

- The Broadband Mapping and Inventory project facilitates a more proactive approach to funding infrastructure projects by designating those parts of the state that are unserved.
- The Planning Project provides benchmarking of the uses of broadband, the benefits and the drivers for greater adoption of broadband with a particular focus on the telemedicine industry sector.
- The Broadband Capacity Building Project increases the use of broadband through growth and adoption by businesses, residents and local support organizations.
- The Technical Assistance Project provides Maine citizens across the state assistance and training necessary to promote broadband education through community presentations, workshops and coursework making 21st century skills available to all.

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[1] PL 2005, c. 665, and PL 2008, c. 698.

[2] *Developing Broadband in Maine: Baseline Update 2013*. (January 2014). ConnectME Authority, pg.1-2. Unpublished Report.

[3] *Household Broadband Adoption Climbs to 72.4 Percent*. NTIA, (June 2013). Web. 23 Dec. 2013, Retrieved from http://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2013/household-broadband-adoption-climbs-724-percent.

These projects adhere to the Authority's commitment to avoid duplication and encourage cooperative efforts. The Authority's NTIA funding will expire in December of 2014.

Governor LePage has stated that "Broadband access is vital to doing business in today's world. This new network opens the gate to making Maine more competitive in attracting new businesses, expanding current businesses and creating new jobs."[4] As important, continued work needs to be done to bring all levels of government and agencies together to work collaboratively to get the best results for Maine's future.

United States Senator Angus King, a longtime supporter of increasing broadband access and adoption in Maine, states that "Today, high-speed Internet is the major channel for information and interconnection -- enabling an explosion of economic activity -- just as roads, bridges, canals and electric lines were in the past. But the key is the quality of the connection, and in rural Maine -- and huge areas of the rest of the country -- we're stuck in the rutted roads of Lincoln's day, if not worse. Connection speeds are slow or nonexistent and the inevitable result is economic decline and a loss of people, particularly young people. High-speed Internet is no longer a nice add-on for business; it's a necessity, on a par with electricity and heat." [5]

The Authority continues to support the expansion of broadband into more and more areas of Maine, consistent with the visions of Governor LePage and Senator King. In 2013, the Authority awarded its eighth round of grants from the ConnectME Fund, emphasizing relatively small and more focused proposals, to complement the market activities that expand broadband in the more densely populated areas. The Authority suggested grant limits of $100,000 per project, funding no more than 50% of the total project although many of the recent grants have been above those levels.

The following table summarizes the Authority's grant activities to date:

Grant Round/ Year	# of Grants	Grant Range In Thousands	Total Grants	Total Project Amount In Millions	Household Broadband Availability[6]	Increased Broadband Availability [7]
1/2007	6	$38 - $370	$739 K	$1.53	13,836	2.5%
2/2008	5	$45 - $533	$1.19 MM	$3.89	8,678	1.6%
3/2009	8	$43 - $232	$610 K	$1.23	4,227	.7%
4/ 2010	22	$23 - $114	$788 K	$1.5 1	2,957	.5%

[4] *Maine Businesses Poised for Growth with Expansion of Broadband.* Retrieved from http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=DECD_News&id=442169&v=article-decd

[5] *Maine Voices: Linking rural areas to the Internet offers economic hope*. Retrieved from http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/linking-rural-areas-to-the-internet-offers-economic-hope_2012-06-12.html

[6] Household broadband availability is defined as those houses offered the option of acquiring broadband services from a provider and is also referred to as houses passed.

[7] Based on the 2010 Census for estimates of population and number of households in Maine, obtained from the State Planning Office. Total est. occupied housing units = 562,873, population = 1.328 MM, 2.36 = average household size.

5/2010	12	$7- $191	$1.09 MM	$1.66	1545	.6%
6/2011	23	$5 - $242	$1.55 MM	$2.34	2,296	.4%
7/2012	23	$23 - $284	$2.08 MM	$3.16	2,049	.3%
6/2013	15	$6 - $144	$1.02 MM	$1.69	1,034	.2%
Total	**114**	**$5 - $533**	**$9.04 MM**	**$17.03**	**36,615**	**6.8%**

The grant dollars per household availability is higher for the last four rounds and is expected to continue to rise, because the areas seeking broadband are becoming more difficult to serve and the projects are smaller. A complete list of grants awarded can be found on the Authority's website: http://maine.gov/connectme/grants/awarded-grants.shtml .

To further its missions to achieve ever higher levels of broadband availability and use in 2014, the Authority will:

- Prioritize and implement the Developing Broadband in Maine: Strategic Plan to increase broadband availability and adoption. The plan acknowledges the critical economic and social role broadband plays in Maine;
- Provide staff and support to the Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Working Group established by resolve to identify technical, legal, funding and jurisdictional challenges to the deployment of broadband conduit and develop solutions to achieve and facilitate deployment of broadband infrastructure.[8]
- Administer the Broadband Sustainability Fund that was created to support "last mile" high-speed Internet expansion in unserved areas;
- Continue the NTIA BTOP funded comprehensive Broadband Mapping and Inventory Project which defines served and unserved areas of the state through an online interactive map;
- Manage the NTIA BTOP funded Planning Project to provide updated benchmarking indices that measure uses of broadband, the benefits and drivers for greater adoption and barriers to adoption;
- Direct the NTIA BTOP Broadband Capacity Building Project to increase the use of broadband through growth and adoption by businesses, residents and local support organizations;
- Provide oversight to the NTIA BTOP Technical Assistance project designed to increase digital literacy among Maine's adult learners;
- Continually refine the Authority's goals, minimum performance criteria for broadband service and areas eligible for Authority support, with guidance from the Legislature and the Authority Advisory Council (Council);

[8] RESOLVE Chapter 28, LD 876, 126th Maine State Legislature Resolve, To Establish a Working Group To Study Issues Related to Broadband Infrastructure Deployment. http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?ld=876&PID=1456&snum=126

- Serve as an information conduit for Maine's broadband initiatives at all levels and as a point of contact and broadband resource clearing house for communities, businesses and communications service providers;

- Monitor and assist, the fifteen eighth round grantees to ensure that they have the resources necessary and that they meet grant requirements;

- Seek recommendations from the Council on innovative broadband installation grants, defining unserved/underserved areas and revising grant scoring guidelines; and

- Conduct a ninth grant round in spring 2014.

In addition, Authority staff will:

- Assist Networkmaine (a consortium including the Maine Department of Education, Maine State Library, Office of Information Technology and University of Maine System) with efforts for the Maine School and Library Network to connect every K-12 public school and public library to the internet with high-speed fiber-based access; [9]

- Participate in the State's Health Information Technology (HIT) initiatives to integrate health care through the use of Electronic Health Records (EHR) including the use of broadband to provide high speed exchange of data and medical tests which brings more efficient health care and better health outcomes;

- Provide support toward Maine's participation in the FirstNet federal broadband initiative which will provide emergency responders with the first high-speed, nationwide network dedicated to public safety. [10]; and

- Finalize community forums around the state designed to enlighten citizens and businesses in the focus areas of online learning, accessing government, small business startup, web marketing, and personal/recreational use.

This report summarizes the Authority's activities; describes federal activities and initiatives; and outlines the Authority's ongoing activities.

[9] The Maine School and Library Network (MSLN) began in 1996. MSLN provides internet access to approximately 950 schools and libraries statewide. MSLN is funded from the Federal E-Rate program (approximately 60% of the cost) and the Maine Telecommunications Education Access Fund (MTEAF) (approximately 40% of the cost). Funds are generated through an assessment on interstate phone bills for the Federal E-Rate portion and on intrastate bills for the MTEAF portion (0.6).

[10] http://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/firstnet

INTRODUCTION

The ConnectME Authority 2013 annual report is divided into five sections: I. Background; II. Summary of Authority and Broadband Activities; III. Federal Broadband Activities and Initiatives; IV. Ongoing Authority Activities; and V. Conclusion and Attachments.

I. BACKGROUND

A. The Importance of Broadband

Like electricity in the 20th century and railways in the 19th century, ubiquitous broadband access has become a "must have" for economic growth, global competitiveness, and improved quality of life. In today's increasingly online world, high speed Internet access is a given for many Americans, who rely on broadband for work, obtaining goods and services, play, education, and information.[11]

Broadband serves as a key engine of economic growth and opportunity.

- By leveraging the internet, start-up entrepreneurs can save $16,500 in the first year.[12]
- Consumers with broadband at home can save more than $9,300 a year.[13]
- On average, small businesses that use broadband and have a website earn $675,000 more in annual revenues than small businesses without broadband.[14]

Ninety seven percent of American consumers look online for goods and services. But 59% of Maine businesses don't even have a website. Recommendation number one from the Governor's Broadband Capacity Building Task Force is for the State of Maine to provide a three-year tax credit for all Maine small and medium businesses for internet-related staff training and marketing. The annual sales of Maine's sole proprietorships and small businesses amount to approximately $21.7 billion. If these enterprises achieved the national

[11] *2013 NTIA Broadband Adoption Toolkit*. (April 2013). Retrieved from http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/toolkit_042913.pdf.

[12] *Broadband The Road to Maine's Future.* The Broadband Capacity Building Task Force Report (December 2013). http://maine.gov/connectme/grants/ntia/capacity-building.shtml, pg VI.

[13] *REPORT: Broadband Delivers Over $9,300 in Annual Savings to American Consumer* (Oct. 2013). Retrieved from http://internetinnovation.org/press-room/broadband-news-press-releases/report-broadband-delivers-over-9300-in-annual-savings-to-american-consumers/.

[14] *Small Business Saturday*. Connected Nation (Nov. 2013). Retrieved from http://www.connectednation.org/BlogPost/small-business-saturday.

average in terms of level of web use, the result would be increased annual sales of nearly $50 million per year.[15]

In the near-term, investments in broadband infrastructure will create jobs by supporting the installation and upgrade of fiber-optic networks and other high-tech components. Sustainable broadband adoption efforts will help low-income and other vulnerable populations learn about the benefits of broadband technologies and become proficient in computer-related skills. In the long-term, expanding broadband access and adoption will facilitate small business growth and innovation, enhance health care delivery, promote energy independence, improve public safety, and lay a foundation for long-term economic development in communities throughout the United States.[16]

> "A key element of building the innovation economy of the future - one that supports new and better jobs, and enhances America's global competitiveness - is expanding the availability and adoption of broadband access in America. In the near-term, investments in broadband infrastructure help create jobs and business growth by supporting the installation and upgrade of fiber-optic networks, wireless towers, and other high-tech components."
> Lawrence E. Strickling
> Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
> U.S. Department of Commerce
> *July 2013*

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In Maine, increased broadband use and availability can save money and increase choice by offering:

More Jobs for Maine

- 21% of economic growth in developed economies from 2004 to 2009 is attributed to the internet
- 97% of American consumers look online for purchases
- Start-up businesses can save $16,500 annually by making use of internet-based service
- Companies that make extensive use of broadband internet grow more quickly than companies that don't

Better and More Affordable Health Care

- More individual control of care
- Faster access to experts

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[15] *Broadband The Road to Maine's Future.* ConnectME Authority, (December 2014). Retrieved from http://maine.gov/connectme/grants/ntia/capacity-building.shtml, pg 23.

[16] "Testimony of Assistant Secretary Strickling regarding H.R. 1343, a Bill to Clarify NITA and RUS Authority to Return Reclaimed Stimulus Funds to the U.S. Treasury" (April 2011). Retrieved from http://www.ntia.doc.gov/speechtestimony/2011/testimony-assistant-secretary-strickling-regarding-hr-bill-clarify-ntia-and-rus,.

[17] *NTIA Says Broadband Key to Economic Development.* (2013). Retrieved from https://www.mcnc.org/news/ntia-says-broadband-key-to-economic-development.

- Lower insurance costs due to more efficiency

Individualized, Interactive, Affordable Education

- Student access to the best teachers
- Quality diagnostic information available to teachers
- Individualized learning programs

Responsive, Affordable Government

- No waiting in line for licenses and permits
- Interactive feedback to elected officials about current proposals
- Lower cost to taxpayers for back office functions like assessing, billing, etc.
- Reduced paperwork and administrative costs[18]

B. The ConnectME Initiative

As early as 1995, the Maine Legislature recognized the value of broadband when it stated:

> The Legislature further declares and finds that computer-based information services and information networks are important economic and educational resources that should be available to all Maine citizens at affordable rates. It is the policy of the State that affordable access to those information services that require a computer and rely on the use of the telecommunications network should be made available in all communities of the State without regard to geographic location.[19]

In 2006, the Legislature created the ConnectME Authority to develop and carry out its broadband strategy by identifying unserved areas of the state; developing proposals for broadband expansion projects, demonstration projects and other initiatives; administering the process for selecting specific broadband projects; and providing funding, resources and incentives.[20] In 2007, the Legislature also approved the Authority's major substantive rule that defines the state's broadband strategy and describes how that strategy is to be implemented. The Authority consists of a board of five members, an Executive Director, Associate Executive Director, Program Director, and a Council.
Attachment C - Authority and Council members

[18] *Broadband The Road to Maine's Future.* The Broadband Capacity Building Task Force Report (December 2013). http://maine.gov/connectme/grants/ntia/capacity-building.shtml, pg VI.

[19] Title 35-A M.R.S.A. §7101(4). http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/35-a/title35-Asec7101.html

[20] PL 2005, c. 665.

II. SUMMARY OF AUTHORITY AND BROADBAND ACTIVITIES

The ConnectME Authority statute requires the Authority to report on four components: Budget; Investments; Activities; and Market Conditions. This Section covers the first three items. Market Conditions are reported on in Section IV.

A. Budget

The funding mechanism for the Authority is a 0.25% (one quarter of one percent) surcharge on all communications, video and internet service bills for retail in-state service.[21] It is expected to generate between $1.0 million and $1.2 million per year.

The 114 grants awarded from 2007 through 2013, totalling over $9 million. The ConnectME fund balance on November 30, 2013, was $1,788.274. Going forward, from that amount, plus upcoming assessments (approximately $1.1 M/YR), $1.7 million is committed for awarded grants not yet completely funded; matching funds for NTIA grants; and Authority operating expenses. Attachment E reflects the Authority's financial status as of 6/30/2013.

A fund and program begun in 2009 as a result of the Three Ring Binder project continues to generate an increasing level of funding resources for broadband projects in unserved areas. The Broadband Sustainability Fund (BBSF) is funded by the broadband sustainability fee, a three dollar surcharge on the sale or lease of federally supported dark fiber strands in Maine ($3 per strand, per mile, per month). The fee decreases to two dollars after five years and sunsets December 31, 2017. The Three Ring Binder project by the Maine Fiber Company is the only federally supported dark fiber project in Maine. To date, nearly $40,000 has been disbursed and currently the fund balance is approximately $180,000. There is a potential for a much higher balance as the Three Ring Binder project sells more dark fibers over its 1,100 mile system. Incumbent local exchange carriers (ILEC) have the right of first refusal to access the BBSF to fund broadband projects in the ILEC's territory. The ConnectME fund receives 5% of the BBSF for administrative purposes.[22] A recently concluded investigation by the MPUC regarding the BBSF left unanswered a question raised by some parties concerning the authorization to continue to collect the surcharge.

The ConnectME Authority is a component unit of the State of Maine and as such falls under Title 5 Section 1547 requirements to provide audited financial statements to the State of Maine Controller's office. The ConnectME Authority contracted with Macpage LLC of Augusta to perform the required audits for fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 through November 7, 2013 with two optional successive one-year terms, beginning November 8, 2013 and November 8, 2014.

[21] Also included are retail revenues received or collected from mobile communications services (i.e. cellular telephone) that voluntarily agree to be assessed by the Authority.

[22] Title 35-A, §9216: Broadband Sustainability fee http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/35-A/title35-Asec9216.html

Macpage LLC's Financial Report 2013 states that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective position of the government activities and major fund of the ConnectME Authority, as of June 30, 2013, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America.

B. Investments

The ConnectME Fund is administered by an independent fiscal agent who manages the assessment process, invests the unused funds and makes payments as directed by the Authority. The fund administrator operates under contract at the direction of the Executive Director.[23] Interest generated by the fund is added to the fund balance.

C. Grant Activities

Awarding Process and Grants Awarded

The Maine Legislature established the Authority "to stimulate investment in advanced communications technology infrastructure in unserved or underserved areas."[24] The Authority believes that to expand broadband access in the most rural, unserved areas that have little prospect of broadband service from a traditional or existing provider is a high priority. The Authority accomplishes that goal primarily by awarding broadband expansion grants for projects that target unserved areas.

Grant applications are reviewed by three non-industry members of the Council, the Executive Director and the Associate Executive Director. The applications are scored on the four criteria specified in the statute and rule: cost-benefit; community support; project scope; and project value. The public-private partnership concept is considered in the review, yet "getting the most for the money" is also a high priority because of the limited funds available. The Authority developed grant scoring guidelines to assist applicants.
Attachment B – Broadband Grant Scoring Guide

In the eighth round of grant funding the Authority was presented with a total of twenty applications. Fifteen were funded for just over $1 million with a total project value of $1.6 million; this funding is about 63 percent of total project cost. These Authority awards go to eight of Maine's service providers ranging in size from small, one office operations to those with a New England or national based footprint. All the providers have implemented broadband projects through the ConnectME grant process in the past.

[23] The quarterly assessments are paid to an independent fund administrator the month after the end of each quarter. Rolka Loube Saltzer Associates (RLSA) is the fund administrator for the ConnectME Fund as well as the Maine Universal Service Fund and the Maine Telecommunications Education Access Fund.

[24] 35-A, M.R.S.A. §9203(1). See also 9202(2)(C).

Monitoring the Eighth Round Grants

For the eighth grant round, the review team recommended that the Authority fund all applications that scored 50 points or more. Four applications would not then be funded this round because of either high grant to project cost ratio, high grant dollars per household, or a combination of both. The review team felt the need to be more objectively critical of each application due to the amount requested – which was more than the estimated available funds. Authority staff will work with those applicants not funded to improve their scores for the next grant round possibly by increasing the local/provider contribution, increasing the number of households served, or lowering the total project cost. The Authority strongly encourages parties to work together in crafting solutions that would provide the best expansion project while minimizing the impact on existing service providers. The Authority will continue to work with grant recipients to ensure they get the most "bang for the buck" with the limited resources available.

The Authority will monitor and assist the 15 eighth round grant awardees to ensure that they have the resources necessary to complete their projects as required by the grant award.[25]

Oversight

Authority staff will continue to work closely with grantees to ensure they have the resources they need to accomplish their project goals as efficiently and effectively as possible. The progress of the projects supported by the Authority is tracked through a monitoring and reporting process. The grant recipients document the expenditure of Authority funds to ensure that the funds are used only for appropriate purposes. Three reporting forms were developed with the assistance of the Council:

- Notice of Commencement – This requires a schedule of project milestones and the expected completion date. Each vendor for the funded project is identified on the form along with appropriate reports and documentation such as invoices and purchase orders.

- Progress Report – This provides a project update to demonstrate to the Authority that the funded project is on track. The Executive Director monitors each project's progress and use of funds.

- Final Completion Report – This is a final report that documents the completion of the project with attached financial spreadsheets and a listing of the communities newly served with broadband service as a result of the project.

Attachment D – Eighth Round ConnectME Grant Awards

[25] Complete list ConnectME Authority Awards.
http://maine.gov/connectme/connectgrants/docs/GrantsAwardedSevenRounds.pdf

Implementing the 2014 Ninth Grant Round

For the ninth grant round, the Authority estimates that $1 million will be available and is again requesting smaller, focused proposals. A suggested grant limit for each project is $100,000, funding no more than 50% of the total project, but these limits will be applied flexibly where warranted for proposals providing exceptional benefits. The Authority looks for creative solutions for expanding affordable broadband service to the unserved areas of Maine, encouraging more targeted solutions, making projects more manageable and easing oversight.

Attachment E - ConnectME Authority Balance Sheet

D. ConnectME Authority Advisory Council

The ConnectME Advisory Council (Council) provides advice and guidance to the Authority on technical, policy, financial and economic issues. The Council also performs limited functions assigned to it by the Authority or as provided by rule adopted by the Authority. The Council members include appointees who have experience with issues concerning advanced communications technology infrastructure, or experience with issues concerning the telecommunications and technology infrastructure implemented by the State's education community, and are industry and government experts in their field that can advise the Authority on the many technical or policy issues it faces. Members are appointed by the Governor, the Authority, or are designated in the Authority's statute.[26]

The Council focuses its efforts on the areas presented in the document Developing Broadband in Maine: Strategic Plan 2012. Six general categories were examined: households; businesses; healthcare industry; education community; government services; and the broadband industry. The Council found that supporting broadband development directly through current targeted efforts in health care, education, and government will yield useful results while driving adoption by households and businesses invigorating the service provider's business model.

III. FEDERAL BROADBAND ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

In 2013, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced new funding for the Connect America Fund (CAF), aimed at the expansion of fixed broadband service in rural America. This marks the second round of Phase 1 funds for CAF; the first round made available $300 million to service providers, of which $115 million was disbursed. The second round will also make available $300 million, and the $185 million remainder from the first round will be added to the total if there is sufficient demand from providers. [27]

[26] 35-A, M.R.S.A. §9206

[27] *New Funding to Connect America Fund for Rural Broadband Expansion*. (May 2013). Retrieved from http://www.naco.org/legislation/WW/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=412.

FairPoint Communications, received $1,034,850 to provide 1,659 homes and businesses in Maine with broadband. The FCC is offering two levels of subsidy: $775 per location in order to bring high speed internet to currently unserved areas and $550 per location to increase broadband speeds to the agency's more robust level of 3 Megabits per second (Mbps) download, and 768 kbps upload.[28]

The FCC Wireline Competition Bureau released a Proposed Rule in mid-December 2013 announcing that version four of the Connect America Cost Model (CAM v4.0) will be available shortly. The Bureau seeks comment on whether the Bureau should adopt this version of CAM and the default inputs for purposes of calculating cost in price cap areas for implementing Connect America Phase II. [29]

The FirstNet State and Local Grant Program (SLIGP) is a $121.5 million formula-based, matching grant program administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA).[30] The program is designed to assist regional, state, local, and tribal government entities as they plan for a nationwide public safety broadband network. Phase 1 of the grant program will support planning, consultation, education and outreach activities, as well as fund efforts to collect data on existing infrastructure and equipment that could be used in Phase 2, the building of a wireless public safety broadband network.

Maine has been awarded $1,045,904 in federal funding and is providing match of $262,244 to implement Phases 1 and 2. The level of effort for Phase 1 and 2 will be determined when more specific information is available from FirstNet in terms of data to be collected and information to be gathered from the first responder community. At the end of Phase 2, Maine, and all other states, will present their specific network needs to FirstNet. The FirstNet plan will then be put out for bid to ascertain the cost of building out the National Public Safety Broadband Network. When the total cost has been determined, FirstNet will present to each state Governor the cost of building out their respective state network. At this point that the Governor will have 90 days to opt-in or opt-out of participation. Although it will be several years until governors have to make the opt-in or opt-out decision, states that decide to build their own network will need to address a number of technical and financial decisions quickly. [31]

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[28] *Using a Map of Communities Receiving Connect America Funds. FCC Uses Rigorous Approach to Targeting Broadband Subsidies.* (Sept. 2013). Retrieved from http://broadbandbreakfast.com/2013/09/using-a-map-of-communities-receiving-connect-america-funds-fcc-uses-rigorous-approach-to-targeting-broadband-subsidies/.

[29] *Availability of Version 4.0 of the Connect America Fund Phase II Cost Model; Adopting Current Default Inputs in Final Version of Model. (Dec. 2013)* Retrieved from https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/12/19/2013-30144/availability-of-version-40-of-the-connect-america-fund-phase-ii-cost-model-adopting-current-default.

[30] State and Local Implementation Grant Program. NTIA Retrieved from http://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/state-and-local-implementation-grant-program

[31] *Preparing for Public Safety Broadband, National Governors Association*. (June 2012). http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/1206PREPAREBROADBANDPAPER.PDF.

IV. ONGOING AUTHORITY ACTIVITIES

The opportunities and responsibilities for the Authority in 2014 include expanded participation in federal and state initiatives, additional grant rounds, mapping served and unserved areas, address file development, building broadband capacity, improving digital literacy through technical assistance, working with local governmental organizations and assisting broadband stakeholders with initiatives that benefit Maine's broadband landscape.

A. Coordinate Broadband Initiatives

Looking at the mid and long term, perhaps the most important role for the Authority will be to continue to serve as a conduit and resource for Maine's broadband initiatives at all levels and across state agencies. The Executive Director participates and contributes to efforts which identify and coordinate solutions to regulatory, policy and structural challenges to expanding the availability of advanced communications infrastructure in Maine.

The Authority participates in the Networkmaine Coordinating Council, a newly established unit within the University of Maine System created by the restructuring of its communications and network services group. It was created in 2009 to provide the public entities served with greater involvement in shaping the future of Maine's research and education network and the Maine School and Library Network (MSLN).

B. Broadband Mapping and Inventory Project

The Authority is required to collect, aggregate, coordinate and disseminate information and data concerning communications services and advance communications technology infrastructure in the state.[32] For many years, the FCC has provided broadband reports that allow a reasonable comparison picture across the states. However, the FCC reports tend to seriously overstate the availability of broadband services in each state, because if one broadband subscriber is located in a particular zip code, the FCC considers the entire zip code to have broadband. This overstatement is particularly significant in a rural state such as Maine.

In 2009, the Authority began a comprehensive mapping and inventory project to obtain more granular, Maine-specific information regarding broadband availability. The Authority mapping effort seeks to determine with a high degree of where broadband is available and, more importantly, where it is not. In 2010, the Authority was awarded approximately $1.3 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities grant from NTIA as part of its BTOP program funded under the Recovery Act. The grant funds facilitate a much more detailed and complete analysis of broadband than would have been possible with only the Authority's modest resources. We are working with the Office of Information Technology, Maine Office of GIS and the James W. Sewall Company to conduct a mapping project that will use a combination of provider and public data to refine our understanding of unserved areas of Maine.

[32] 35-A, M.R.S.A. §9204(3)(A). http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/35-a/title35-Asec9204.html

As part of the mapping award, the Authority was also granted funding to implement address file development. A two-stage process will combine existing E-911, Authority and Department of Transportation centerline files, and then use dynamic segmentation to generate an address file for the majority of communities and a traditional assignment approach for the few communities that did participate in the previous address normalization process.

In collaboration with industry service providers, state and federal agencies and local communities, the Authority developed a searchable geographic map.[33] The map indicates where broadband service is available from one or more technology platforms: fixed wire, fixed or point-to-point wireless and mobile or satellite wireless systems. The end product enables community leaders, consumers and businesses to access information on service options and potential service providers for their locations of interest. The Authority has leveraged the same geographic data to also implement an online static map gallery which offers high density PDF layered broadband maps that are created to address specific needs.[34] All states received mapping and inventory Recovery Act funding to create online geographic maps. Data from each state is sent to the NTIA for populating a nationwide broadband map.[35]

C. Broadband Planning Project

The Authority is managing a statewide comprehensive planning project that was funded through a $440,000 BTOP grant. Contractor James W. Sewall Company is teaming with Packard Judd Kaye Strategic Marketing Group, broadband expert Jeff Letourneau, Executive Director of Networkmaine, and Todd Gabe, Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Maine, to form the Sewall planning team.

A major concern of the Authority beyond the simple availability of broadband service is the low take-rate or adoption and subscribership to available broadband services. Factors contributing to a lower than average adoption rate include socio-economic (low income consumers cannot afford the computer or the cost of subscribing to broadband service); educational (consumers are not aware of the services available online); and perceptual (consumers do not see value in being online). Increasing the adoption rate for broadband services changes the economic "tipping point" for investment by service providers, leading to more rapid and comprehensive deployment.

This project provides benchmarking of uses of broadband, the benefits, the drivers for greater adoption of broadband and the barriers to adoption focused on household and on business establishments in Maine. One area of emphasis will be the telemedicine industry sector.

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[33] Maine Broadband Availability Map: http://www.maine.gov/connectme/broadbandmapping/index1.htm.

[34] Maine Broadband Static Map Gallery: http://www.maine.gov/connectme/broadbandmapping/staticgallery.htm.

[35] National Broadband Map: http://broadbandmap.gov/.

In early 2014 the Developing Broadband in Maine: Baseline Update 2013 Vol. 1 was released.[36] This report updates the findings of the ConnectME Authority's Broadband Needs Assessment (2011), a comprehensive analysis of broadband availability and use in Maine and of the barriers to broadband adoption throughout the state.[37] It summarizes the results of new surveys of Maine broadband providers and consumers and compares these results with the 2011 findings, identifying areas of recent broadband growth. This information will be used to strengthen and enhance the Authority's strategies for increasing broadband awareness and uptake as outlined in the Authority's Broadband Strategic Plan (2012)[38], and to provide an updated baseline against which such implemented strategies can be evaluated

D. Broadband Capacity Building Project

Additional opportunities were funded by the NTIA through the original State Broadband Initiative (SBI) BTOP program. The Authority carefully examined the opportunities available and submitted applications in two categories: broadband capacity building and technical assistance. The Authority has been awarded a total of $4.98 million over five years under the SBI grant. The Authority administers the Broadband Capacity Building Project as well as the Technical Assistance Project.

The Broadband Capacity Building Task Force was formed in 2011 to create a strategy and recommendations for increased utilization, integration, and growth of high-speed broadband in Maine. To this end, and in a recently published report, the Task Force developed eight specific recommendations covering the sectors of economic development, education, health care, and state and local government. [39]

The Broadband Capacity Building Project will advance Maine's efforts to develop systematic and consistent approach to planning regional and statewide asset-based community and economic development strategies. The Project will, among other things, help to stimulate the health of business in Maine and the Maine economy through:

- supporting broadband growth and adoption in the private sector, from which skilled workers and entrepreneurs who can live anywhere but want to live in Maine because of its distinctive quality of place can ; and
- increasing the quality and efficiency of health care service delivery.

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[36] *Developing Broadband in Maine: Baseline Update 2013*. (January 2014). ConnectME Authority, pg.1-2. Unpublished Report.

[37] *Developing Broadband in Maine: Needs Assessment, v. 1-2* prepared by James W. Sewall Company for the ConnectME Authority. (June 2011). Retrieved from http://www.maine.gov/connectme/arragrants/needsassessment.shtml

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[38] *Developing Broadband in Maine: Strategic Plan,* prepared by James W. Sewall Company for the ConnectME Authority. (April 2012). Retrieved from http://www.maine.gov/connectme/grants/ntia/docs/ConnectMEStrategicPlanFinalDraft.pdf.

[39] *Broadband The Road to Maine's Future.* (Dec. 2013). Retrieved from http://maine.gov/connectme/grants/ntia/capacity-building.shtml.

E. Technical Assistance Project

The second opportunity that was funded with additional BTOP Recovery Act grant monies was the Technical Assistance Project. In fulfilling the requirements of the NTIA Technical Assistance grant, the Authority and Maine Department of Education Office of Adult Education and Family Literacy are collaborating on two multi-year projects for Maine citizens.

The first project is to provide Maine citizens information on the importance of broadband internet access for education, enrichment, economic and community development, health and access to governmental services. Seventy adult education programs across the state are providing informational presentations on the impact of broadband connectivity at meetings of civic and social organizations, school boards and other public forums. The brief presentations are designed to encourage audience members to think about how expanding high-speed networks can enhance personal and business communications. Using resources developed by the Authority, the adult education programs also provide the information in academic classes and personal enrichment courses. Fifty community broadband technical assistance presentations have already reached 1124 people.

The second project is the expansion of a highly successful professional development program for adult educators statewide known as MARTI, the Maine Adult Regional Technology Initiative. This initiative combines the support of professional learning communities with extensive learning opportunities for adult educators comprised of regional meetings and one-on-one classroom visits by the skilled trainer/mentors along with two extended courses. The blended course work, live presentations and online training, focus on strategies for integrating technology in teaching and learning universal design for learning emphasizing differentiated instruction. Key project goals are to train 250 teachers and reach thousands of citizens over the life of the project. As the project enters its second year 76 teachers and 30 adult education directors have enrolled in courses. Thirty three people have already earned a MARTI certificate indicating they have completed the 70 hour professional development program.

F. Access to Facilities and Rights of Way

An ongoing challenge for broadband service providers, especially fixed-wireless providers, is obtaining access to existing towers, bridges, high points, roadways for conduit and public buildings for the location of equipment. The issue of access to existing utility poles and the cost and time for make-ready work is a major challenge for independent wired broadband service providers, both for last-mile and middle-mile facilities. These two issues cause unnecessary delay and higher cost for the expansion of infrastructure to serve the most unserved areas of the state.

The ConnectME Authority researched and published the Highway Broadband Utilization Study to begin the discussion in Maine on maximizing broadband development throughout Maine using the state's major road corridors. [40]

[40] *Highway Broadband Utilization Study Dig-Once White Paper. (March 2013). Retrieved from* http://maine.gov/connectme/digonce/docs/Highway%20Broadband%20Utilization%20Study.pdf

The report contains four primary components:

1. Overview of broadband infrastructure currently deployed in highway easements in the Northeast U.S.

2. Overview of federal and state regulations dictating the fair market value of using the public right-of-way along Maine's highways for broadband infrastructure development.

3. Recommendation on how to most efficiently leverage a Dig Once policy to deploy broadband infrastructure in Maine's highway easements with collocated power facilities.

4. Capital estimate for constructing broadband infrastructure in Maine's highway easements.

The report contains the following key findings:

1. To meet federal regulations defining the fair market value of using Maine's highways for broadband development, state officials should utilize a model that accurately reflects local market demand, which could potentially include in-kind contributions or revenue sharing.

2. In light of a potential Dig Once policy being implemented for the proposed highway energy corridor, it is critical that highway stakeholders collaborate early in the planning process to include sufficient communications infrastructure than can support future expansion in use.

3. Numerous transportation agencies in other U.S. states possess a wealth of experience deploying and operating communications infrastructure in highway easements, and provide a valuable source of information for Maine officials.

LD 876, a "Resolve, To Establish a Working Group To Study Issues Relating to Broadband Infrastructure Deployment' assigned the ConnectME Authority to convene a working group to identify technical, legal, funding and jurisdictional challenges to the deployment of broadband conduit for fiber-optic communications and to develop solutions necessary to achieve and facilitate the deployment of broadband infrastructure. The information in the study is being used as reference material by the working group to develop policies focused on increasing coordination between government agencies, including, but not limited to, state and municipal entities, and utility companies to decrease the frequency of highway and local road excavation while expanding broadband capacity in the State. By February 1, 2014, the authority shall submit a written report of the findings of the working group under this resolve and any recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology and the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.[41]

The Authority collaborates with the Maine Office of the State Coordinator for Health Information Technology (HIT) in the state's HIT initiatives. A healthy citizenry and workforce are central to Maine's quality of place. High speed internet availability allows instantaneous, interactive contact between health professionals and patients, permitting remote monitoring, efficient chronic disease management and more effective responses to emergencies. High speed Internet can help senior citizens and people with disabilities live independently, improve their quality of life and reduce costs of care. High speed internet is also a means for transferring patient health information among providers, diagnosticians, patients, and health care facilities.

Since the inception of the MaineCare Services Office of the State Coordinator (OSC) for Health Information Technology (HIT) in October 2011, the state of Maine has disbursed more than $84 million dollars to healthcare professionals and facilities. The OSC HIT program has two components; one to encourage adoption, implementation, or upgrade (AIU) of an electronic health record (EHR) program, and a second for acknowledgement of meaningful use of an established EHR system.

For the period of October 2011 through December 26, 2013, payments under the AIU portion of the program were:

- $44.38M to 2,096 MaineCare professionals
- $18.69M to 36 hospitals

For the period of October 2011 through December 26, 2013, payments under the meaningful use portion of the program were:

- $6.56M to 771 MaineCare professionals
- $14.94M to 31 hospitals

Along with disbursing grant funds to encourage professionals and hospitals, the OSC HIT program is working with the ConnectME Authority to ensure efficient and cost-effective technology and the bandwidth to carry critical medical information and data to and from the rural health care community. To this end, a survey of professionals and hospitals to determine adequacy of existing infrastructure to support an EHR program has been conducted. Survey results are being used to identify and target areas where broadband availability is inadequate to support EHR and other telehealth/telemedicine programs. As those deficient areas are identified, the Authority continues to work with providers to create capacity in order to maximize the opportunity for provider/facility participation.

In 2012, the State of Maine Office of the State Coordinator for HIT was one of only three states to be recognized for efforts to expand the effective use of EHR systems, health information exchange, and other technology tools to improve patient care and health

[41] LD 876 "Resolve, To Establish a Working Group To Study Issues Relating to Broadband Infrastructure Deployment" http://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280047423.

outcomes in Maine. Through 2013, Maine continued to lead the nation and was the first state in the nation to have all hospitals participating in the HIT program. The Authority appreciates the opportunity to assist the citizens, businesses, and government of the state of Maine through this important initiative.

V. CONCLUSION

The short history of the Authority has shown that supporting small public-private initiatives and partnerships to expand broadband has been and will continue to be the best strategy. Much has been accomplished in the past six years to better position Maine as a state that embraces what technology can offer. The last six years has also shown that the desire and need for broadband is continually increasing. From the household to the network backbone circling the globe, increase broadband capacity and speed is growing at unforeseen speed. Preparing Maine infrastructure, businesses, educational facilities, public service entities, and citizens for utilizing broadband is a continual focus of the Authority and policy makers alike.

Maine is on its way to realize its universal broadband availability goals. The Authority commits to working with all levels of government and public and private stakeholders to bring broadband advantages to fruition in Maine.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Glossary
Attachment B – Broadband Grant Scoring Guide
Attachment C – ConnectME Authority and Advisory Council Members
Attachment D – ConnectME Seventh Round Grant Awards
Attachment E –ConnectME Balance Sheet

Attachment A – Glossary

Broadband, an elastic term describing high-bandwidth, two-way, always-on data connections. The wider the pipe, the more data can be moved at the same time and hence the higher the effective speed. The FCC has seven broadband tiers with "basic broadband tier 1" referring to services equal to or greater than 768 kbps but less than 1.5 Mbps in the faster direction. A typical home user broadband connection today usually is 512 kbps upstream and 2-7 Mbps downstream. In a few years, those numbers are likely to be significantly higher. The term "broadband" is often used as shorthand for "high-speed Internet access."

BTOP – Broadband Technology Opportunity Program

business user, a user in a business setting constituting a broad "middle class" in terms of bandwidth, reliability, and security needs. See also *home user, enterprise user.*

cable internet, or cable modem service, a means of delivering broadband via coaxial cables, almost always simultaneously with cable television service and VoIP telephone service.

Central Office (CO), a switching station maintained by an ILEC where DSLAMs are generally deployed and from which the maximum range of DSL service (reckoned in "circuit feet," distances over twisted-pair copper lines, not "as the crow flies") can be determined.

CLEC, Competitive Local Exchange Carrier.

DS3, a fiber-based digital signal carrier with a rate of 44.736 Mbps.

DSL, digital subscriber line. There are many subtypes of DSL (xDSL, ADSL2, SDSL, etc.) of varying speed, range and technical characteristics.

dark fiber, the optical fiber infrastructure (cabling and repeaters) that is currently in place but is not being used. Optical fiber conveys information in the form of light pulses so the "dark" means no light pulses are being sent.

DSLAM, digital subscriber access multiplexer.

enterprise user, the most demanding, industrial strength broadband consumer that usually represents large, technology-intensive organizations.

fixed wireless, a non-mobile method of delivering broadband service to homes and businesses using line of sight radios.

FTTH/FTTP, fiber to the premises, home, et al. a method of connectivity using fiber optic cabling direct to the end user.

home user, the class of broadband consumer with the least demanding broadband needs but which also faces total unavailability of service in many areas.

ILEC, Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier.

ISP, internet service provider.

last mile, a term for connection to the end user, also known as the "local loop" for telecommunications services that makes the final connection to the premises.

middle mile, also known as backhaul, connects the last mile internet service provider with an Internet backbone service provider.

municipal network, a broadband network owned and operated by a city or town, often by lease arrangement with an ILEC/CLEC.

Narrowband, low-speed data connections (such as dialup Internet access, a typical maximum of 56kbps and is generally even lower in real-world applications).

NTIA – National Telecommunications Information Administration

PON (passive optical networking), a family of networking standards using a point-to-multi-point architecture for delivering last-mile connectivity without any active (i.e., powered) components in the distribution network. PON may provide hope for a last-mile solution because it involves fewer upgrades to the current infrastructure than competing technologies.

Remote Terminal, a remote switching station, or "sub-station" maintained by an ILEC where DSLAMs are generally deployed and from which the maximum range of DSL service (reckoned in "circuit feet," distances over twisted-pair copper lines, not "as the crow flies") can be determined.

SBI – State Broadband Initiative

symmetrical/asymmetrical, describes whether a data connection operates at the same speed or bandwidth when traveling upstream as it does when traveling downstream. A symmetrical connection is the same speed up or down; an asymmetrical connection is usually much slower on the upload than on the download.

T-1, trunk level digital carrier, originally provided over copper facilities, with a signaling speed of 1.544 Mbps.

take rate or penetration rate or adoption rate, a measure of the ratio of potential subscribers to whom service is available to those who actually sign up for that service.

triple play, the application of broadband that delivers voice, data, and video service over the same transport pipe.

VoIP, voice over internet protocol. Voice "telephone" service provided over a data connection such as DSL or cable internet service.

WiFi (wireless fidelity), a form of wireless networking in the IEEE 802.11x family of standards that is generally used for connectivity of wireless large-area networks (WLANs) inside buildings and small outdoor areas, but which has shown remarkable usefulness as a way of providing high-speed Internet over wider distances via towers, high-gain antennae and mesh-network technologies that significant exceeds what WiFi was originally intended to do.

WISP, wireless internet service provider.

Attachment B – Broadband Grant Scoring Guide

Revised October 29, 2013

The grant application evaluation process will allow the ConnectME Authority to evaluate all applications submitted during a particular application period set by the Authority. The scoring of applications is based on a 100-point scale. A project with a total score of less than 50 points may not be funded. Applications will be judged using the following four scoring categories, as described in the Authority rule:

Cost-Benefit. This category is worth **35** points.

The cost-benefit scoring is based on relevant factors, **including, but not limited to, the amount of funding requested from the Authority per customer eligible to be served by the project, with lower funding per customer receiving a higher cost-benefit score.** Applicants should demonstrate financial viability by providing pro-forma financial statements and detailed business plans.

Grant dollars requested/customer eligible to be served	Points
Less than or equal to $500	25
$501-$1,000	20
$1,001-$1,500	15
$1,501-$2,000	10
$2,000-$2,500	5
Greater than $2,500	0

A maximum of ten additional points will be added to the C-B score for any application requesting a 50% or less grant for the proposed project. A sliding scale will be used for those grant applications above 50% (≤ 50% = 10pts; 51% - 60% = 5pts; >60% = 0 pts.)

Community Support. This category is worth **20** points.

The community support score is based on relevant factors, including, but not limited to, evidence of community support for the project and the percentage of the geographic area to be covered by the proposal that will be served by the proposed project. Strong consideration (and higher point value as shown in the table below) will be given to those applications that include petitions or listings of a significant number of the available households and businesses expressing a strong desire to subscribe to broadband service provided from the proposed project.

Support as a percent of homes/businesses passed by project	Points
100%	20

50% - 99%	15
25% - 49%	10
<25%	5

Project Scope. This category is worth **30** points.

The project scope score is based on relevant factors prioritized below:

1. The **standard or basic package advertised "speed"** or bandwidth of the broadband service to be provided by the proposed project. For example: a speed greater than 25 Mbps (FCC Tier 6) will be scored highest; and projects will receive more points for service that provides up and down speeds in the higher FCC Broadband Tiers.[42]

Broadband Speed or Bandwidth by FCC Tier	Points
Tier 6 or better (greater than 25 Mbps)	20
Tier 5 (10.1 to 25 Mbps)	15
Tier 3 to Tier 4 (3.1 to 10 Mbps)	10
Tier 2 (1.5 to 3 Mbps)	5
Less than Tier 2 (less than 1.5 Mbps)	0

2. The **number of potential customers** to be served or households passed by the project. For example; a project that proposes to provide broadband service to 300 households will receive more points than a project that will provide service to 50 households.

   Point values for the number of potential customers to be served by the project: 100 or more = 10 points; and less than 100 as a percentage of 10 points (e.g. 87 = 9 points, 46 = 5 points, 12 = 1 point, etc.).

3. The grant applicant's financial commitment to the project (cash, in-kind, donations, etc).

Project Value. This category is worth **15** points.

The project value score is based on relevant factors, including, but not limited to, the estimated retail price per customer to receive service from the proposed project and any

[42] Basic Broadband Tier 1, 768 kbps to 1.5 Mbps; Broadband Tier 2, 1.5 Mbps to 3 Mbps; Broadband Tier 3, 3 Mbps to 6 Mbps; Broadband Tier 4, 6 Mbps to 10 Mbps; Broadband Tier 5, 10 Mbps to 25 Mbps; Broadband Tier 6, 25 Mbps to 100 Mbps; Broadband Tier, 7 Greater than 100 Mbps. As defined by the Authority, May 12, 2011.

other details of the project that may benefit customers in the area proposed to be served by the proposed project. For example; more points will be awarded for a higher number of businesses and/or health care facilities in the project area that do not have access to broadband service; and lower scores for relatively higher retail prices; and higher or lower scores depending on other factors such as the type of construction required. Applicants should use this category to introduce elements of their project which may be significant and not incorporated in one of the other three categories.

Note: Legislative changes to the ConnectME Authority statute (to 35-A M.R.S.A. §9204) [43] state that, "(I)n awarding grants, the authority shall give priority to those proposals that, relative to other proposals, extend access to broadband service to a higher percentage of an unserved area within a municipality or other appropriate geographic area."

[43] See Public Law, Chapter 63, (LD 850, HP 0585), 124th Maine State Legislature, "An Act To Ensure Local Broadband Coverage."

Attachment C - ConnectME Authority and Advisory Council Members

Authority Members:

1. Jean Wilson, Chair, Senior Vice President of Information Services at LL Bean
2. Greg McNeal, Chief Technology Officer for Maine State Government
3. Ralph Johnson, Chief Information Officer, Franklin Community Health Network
4. Dick Thompson, Chief Information Officer for University of Maine System
5. Thomas L. Welch, Chairman, Maine Public Utilities Commission

Advisory Council:

1. Fletcher Kittredge, GWI, Chair
2. Ben Sanborn, Telecommunications Association of Maine
3. Paul Schonewolf, Time Warner Cable, Area Vice Pres. of Operations
4. Linda Lord, Maine State Librarian
5. Jeff Mao, Dept. of Education
6. Joshua Broder, President, Tilson Technology Management
7. Jeff Letourneau, Exec. Director, Network Maine (UMS)
8. Rob Kelley, MTI Technology Board
9. John Burns, Small Enterprise Growth Fund
10. Wayne Jortner, Office of the Public Advocate
11. Bruce Ballantyne, FairPoint Vice President of Operations

Attachment D - ConnectME Eighth Round Grant Awards

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	**ConnectME Authority: Eighth Grant Round Awards**								
2	6/12/2013								
3									
4	**Applicant or Eligible Provider**	**Community Partner or Eligible Provider**	**Community(s) Served**	**Potential Households**	**Project**	**Grant**	**Percent Grant**	**Grant$/Hshld**	**Notes**
5	Axiom Technologies		Cathance Lake, Cooper area	80	$181,555	$89,635	49%	$1,120	TVWS
6	Axiom Technologies		Grand Falls Flowage, Baileyville	80	$167,841	$79,921	48%	$999	
7	Axiom Technologies		Marshfield Rd, Guard Point, Harrington	100	$231,055	$144,295	62%	$1,443	TVWS
8	Axiom Technologies		Mason Bay Rd, Jonesport	100	$209,585	$124,265	59%	$1,243	TVWS
9	North Country Broadband		Willimantic	220	$218,000	$109,000	50%	$495	
10	Pioneer Broadband		Caribou	66	$32,472	$20,472	63%	$310	
11	Pioneer Broadband		Houlton	50	$21,854	$12,854	59%	$257	
12	Pioneer Broadband		Oxbow	60	$85,913	$75,413	88%	$1,257	
13	Pioneer Broadband		Town of Masardis	48	$74,251	$65,751	89%	$1,370	
14	Pioneer Broadband		Town of Westfield	31	$85,926	$72,426	84%	$2,336	FTTH
15	Premium Choice Broadband		Sunshine (Deer Isle)	54	$52,000	$26,000	50%	$481	
16	Town of Blue Hill	Time Warner Cable	Town of Blue Hill	101	$225,952	$124,952	55%	$1,237	
17	Town of Chelsea	Time Warner Cable	Town of Chelsea	8	$12,152	$6,152	51%	$769	
18	Town of Mapleton	Time Warner Cable	Town of Mapleton	13	$18,186	$8,436	46%	$649	
19	Town of Whitefield	Time Warner Cable	Town of Whitefield	23	$76,136	$58,886	77%	$2,560	
20									
21	Totals			1,034	1,692,878	1,018,458	60%	$985	

7/3/2013 GrantsAwarded8thRound.xlsx

Attachment E – ConnectME Balance Sheet

ConnectME Authority

Balance Sheet – Government Fund

June 30, 2013

	Special Revenue Fund
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 2,448,544
Accounts receivable	333,396
Due from other governments	119,858
Other receivable	21
Total Assets	$ 2,901,819
LIABITLITIES AND FUND BALANCE	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	$ 173,350
Accrued Liabilities	5,355
Due to other governments	68,573
Deferred Revenue	126,771
Total Liabilities	374049
Fund Balance	
Reserved for:	
Advanced communications technology Infrastructure	2,527,770
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	$ 2,901,819