Neighborhood Networks

The Neighborhood Networks Initiative

In 1995, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) had a vision: to create an initiative that promotes self-sufficiency and delivers computer access to low- and moderate-income residents living in privately owned HUD-insured and -assisted multifamily housing.

What is Neighborhood Networks?

Neighborhood Networks is a community-based initiative that encourages the development of multiservice community learning centers that provide residents with access to technology.
More than 1,400 Neighborhood Networks centers!

Why Neighborhood Networks?

- The Department of Labor (DOL) projects that some of the fastest-growing jobs during the years 2009-2014 will require some degree of computer literacy.

- Americans earning less than $30,000 a year are online less than Americans with higher annual incomes.

- Low-income youth are less likely to use computers at home than their peers.

- Youth who regularly attend high-quality afterschool programs have better grades in school; more academic opportunities; better peer relations, and lower incidences of drug use, violence, and pregnancy.

Who’s involved in Neighborhood Networks?

- HUD and Neighborhood Networks staff.
- Centers serving families, seniors, or the disabled.
- Diverse property management companies and owners.
- Local partners.
Offering a return on investment

- The Neighborhood Networks Initiative makes properties more competitive, which can attract new residents, lower vacancy rates, and stabilize tenancy.
- The Initiative helps to decrease security and upkeep costs by giving residents a greater sense of pride and a greater stake in the overall well being of the community.

Rewards to residents

- Adults have access to job-training classes, education, and support services.
- Children and youth have access to afterschool activities and mentoring programs.
- Seniors can become familiar with computers and have access to healthcare and other social service programs.

Creating a community resource

- Community residents have access to resources, programs, and other services.
- Local businesses, corporations, and other organizations are provided with greater access to targeted populations.
- The Initiative improves the economic health and vitality of the community.
Minimum requirements

- Located on or near a HUD multifamily property.
- Provides services to residents of a HUD multifamily property.
- Has one computer with Internet connectivity that is accessible to all residents.
- Has a HUD-approved business plan using the Strategic Tracking and Reporting Tool (START).

10 steps to a successful center

- Step One: Articulate goals.
- Step Two: Involve residents.
- Step Three: Establish resident advisory panels.
- Step Four: Identify challenges and develop solutions.
- Step Five: Plan ahead.

10 steps to a successful center (cont’d.)

- Step Six: Develop tools to measure progress.
- Step Seven: Secure funding.
- Step Eight: Build partnerships.
- Step Nine: Hire the right staff.
- Step Ten: Operate as a business.
Center sustainability

Funding opportunities

- HUD support:
  - Residual receipts.
  - Owner equity.
  - Reserve for replacement.
  - Rent adjustment.
  - Excess income.
- Private and corporate contributions.
- Fundraising events.
- In-kind contributions.

Developing a funding strategy:
Who’s giving?

Total Giving 2006: $295.02 billion

- Individuals $229.89 billion
- Corporations $19.72 billion
- Government $22.04 billion
- Foundations $36.50 billion

Sustainability resources

- Remote assistance via toll-free information line: (888) 312-2743.
- Weekly funding opportunities.
- Neighborhood Networks consortia.

Regional consortia

- Alabama Neighborhood Networks Consortium (Alabama)
- California Neighborhood Networks Consortium, Inc. (Southern California)
- Digital Promise, Inc. (Pacific Northwest)
- Hawaii Neighborhood Networks Consortium (Hawaii)
- Houston Neighborhood Networks Consortium, Inc. (Southeast Texas)
- Indiana Neighborhood Network Consortium, Inc. (Indianapolis metro area)
- Louisiana Neighborhood Networks Consortium, Inc. (LaNNC) (Louisiana)
- Mid-Atlantic Digital Alliance (MADA) (Maryland, Washington, DC and Virginia)
- Midwest Neighborhood Networks Consortium (MNMC) (Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota)
- Neighborhood Networks New York Consortium, Inc. (NNNYC) (New York City and suburbs)
- Neighborhood Networks Technology Access Consortium, Inc. (NNTAC) (Washington metro area)
- New Jersey NetWorks (New Jersey)
- Philadelphia Neighborhood Networks Consortium, Inc. (PNNC) (Philadelphia, Delaware, and Southern New Jersey)
- South Carolina Advancing Community Technology, Inc. (SC ACT) (South Carolina)
- Texas Community Technology Consortium, Inc. (TCTC) (Northern Texas)
Sustainability resources

- Onsite and remote technical assistance.
- Neighborhood Networks publications.
- Neighborhood Networks Web site.
- Monthly conference calls.

Sustainability resources

- Strategic Tracking and Reporting Tool (START).
- One-stop-shop Web page.
- Interactive virtual learning courses (IVLCs).

Sustainability resources

- Neighborhood Networks Week.
- National Training Conference.
- Regional Technical Assistance Workshops (RTAWs).
START business plan overview

START business plan: A roadmap for success

Why START is important:
- Strategic Tracking and Reporting Tool (START) guides centers in the development of infrastructure, program planning and development, and budget planning.

START business plan: A roadmap for success

Why START is important:
- Beginning the START process.
- Budgeting and fundraising.
- Planning center operations.
- Organization and management.
- Program planning.
- Marketing and outreach.
START business plan: A roadmap for success

Why START is important (cont’d)

- START helps center stakeholders with tracking and updating:
  - Progress toward goals, activities, and outcomes.
  - Funding and budgeting information.
  - Partnership information.
  - Changes in center staffing and staff responsibilities.
  - Changes in demographics and center usage.

Other benefits of START:

- Helps property owners and managers track their return on investment.
- Easy access to information.
- Helps HUD Neighborhood Networks Coordinators conduct their tasks.
- Helps center staff to work smart.

Questions?

- Call 888-312-2743 for Technical Assistance
- Visit the Neighborhood Networks Web site:
  www.neighborhoodnetworks.org
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Delivering Technology Access to America’s Communities
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Foundation Center 2008. Source: Giving USA 2007, Giving USA Foundation, Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University
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