

Bridging the Digital Divide in Affordable Housing Communities

Rapid growth of technology and internet devices has improved the lives of many, even in low-earning households. Yet, half of households earning below \$30,000 annually do not have home broadband services or a traditional computer, according to a Pew Research study. With already unbalanced scales, the lag in access and understanding of technology exacerbates problems of poverty even further.

Committed to promoting digital inclusion and literacy, Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) was one of 30 HUD-assisted housing communities selected to join the ConnectHome Nation program, seeking to bring low-cost, high-speed internet access to affordable housing residents across the country. The ConnectHome Nation program is administered through a partnership between the federal agency, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and EveryoneOn, a national nonprofit organization working to eliminate the digital divide through partnerships with the technology industry, content creators, libraries and other organizations to deliver free and affordable technology and training to all Americans. The City of Greensboro has also partnered with GHA to provide support.

As part of this expansion, the communities will have access to agencies and businesses that are working to advance digital access and seek to bring these resources to Greensboro. Additionally, GHA will have the opportunity to take advantage of web-based trainings for help with accelerating local efforts through this new network of resources. They will also have a mentorship community to guide progress.

“We are excited to partner with ConnectHome Nation and the City of Greensboro to help our residents become more digitally engaged. It is my hope that this program will facilitate access to information and lead to more opportunities for success,” said Tina Akers-Brown, CEO of Greensboro Housing Authority.

ConnectHome Nation plans to continue moving forward and has made it their goal to expand to 100 communities and connect 350,000 people living in HUD-assisted housing by 2020.

