

Digital Divide/
HUD

HUD's Neighborhood Networks Help Close the Digital Divide

Project Description: HUD's Neighborhood Networks are innovative private/public partnerships establishing computer-based multi-service centers to help people in public and assisted housing learn critical computer skills and prepare for 21st century jobs. Through the more than 500 Neighborhood Networks, residents can enhance their computer literacy, launch new careers, make the transition from welfare to work, have expanded access to needed health services, and participate in inter-generational learning activities.

Commitment: HUD's commitment is to help close the "Digital Divide" with computer training, Internet access, job readiness support, micro-enterprise development, GED certification, health care and social services, adult education classes and youth services. Our mission is to create vibrant communities that foster economic opportunity and encourage life-long learning. Neighborhood Networks are increasing employment opportunities and access to health and wellness, improve kids' educational performance, empower residents, increase participation by business and community partners and decrease dependency on federal funding.

Resources Provided: HUD has sponsored Neighborhood Networks centers in every state – literally in every corner of the nation. We have over 500 centers now and hundreds more in the planning stages. The initiative has broadened dramatically, responding to residents and communities nation-wide. The partners include local businesses, non-profits, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, civic organizations, foundations, hospitals, community clinics, and federal and state government agencies, as well as the residents and property owners of public housing and HUD-assisted and/or -insured housing. HUD has also formed a partnership with NASA, and together we are striving to bring technology and science to public housing's youth. Events encourage children living in public housing communities to pursue math and science careers, and reach for the stars.

Best Practice/Strategy: HUD's Neighborhood Networks initiative has altered the tone of whole communities and helped residents take charge of their lives. The strategy is to have housing officials partner with computer hardware, software, Internet and technical companies to create computer centers in public and assisted housing communities. Residents take classes, work on homework, and learn computer skills. Our most successful centers have mentoring arrangements with partners such as Americorps, local boys and girls clubs, community colleges and universities. For example, Detroit, Michigan's Martin Luther King Neighborhood Networks Computer Center serves a average of 200 sign-in or 500 users a month, thank to a close collaboration with the Detroit Public Schools. The site is now used as a public classroom as well as a community technical center. The center offers job search and resume writing (one-on-one coaching), after school open lab and homework club; basic skills; and introduction to computers every Tuesday afternoon. Over 200 public housing residents have learned how to use a mouse and keyboard.

Point a Kid in the Right Direction: HUD's Neighborhood Networks have pointed thousands of kids in the right direction, steering them toward educational, service and recreational activities in a safe and exciting environment. One success story is the Valley Neighborhood Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Since December 1997, this center has helped transform an isolated 66-unit public housing development into an active community with a variety of services from Head Start for small children to job training for adults. Its primary focus is the Teens Meeting Teens program, where teenagers regularly visit the center to do their homework, meet with tutors from the local community college and participate in recreational and service activities, including community clean-ups and beautification, food distribution and health awareness presentations. The center's Teens Meeting Teens program has a strong anti-tobacco agenda. In June of 1997, Vice President Gore honored a Teens Meeting Teens member, Chris Navu, for his advocacy against teen smoking. Navu was also featured in an HBO special on tobacco awareness for teens. Five years ago, the property had a 73 percent dropout rate from high school. Now, there is a 0 percent dropout rate and 7 residents have gone on to college.

Delivery Sites: HUD has sponsored over 500 Neighborhood Networks community technology centers with hundreds more in the planning stages. For a complete list by state, please visit our website at www.hud.gov.

AGENDA FOR INTER-AGENCY DIGITAL DIVIDE MEETING

March 6, 2000
1:00-2:00pm
Room 231--OEGB

I. OVERVIEW ON THE DIGITAL DIVIDE TRIP TIMELINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

- 5 weeks out

- ① come up w/ agency commitments / deliverables - this Friday deadline
② ~~first to sign on to a call to action~~ ② gopt to sign on to call to action

II. SIGN ON TO THE CALL TO ACTION DOCUMENT

by Friday too. ● - tech companies | who could we ask to do what -
- civ rts orgs
- ed orgs

III. SITES AND EVENT IDEAS

● in the future we want to have a report that has 2 more @ stakeholder discussion for what for one day we can't + write from WH. covered dept + commerce help us?

IV. QUESTIONS

Feb 11 am

FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY



Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to use this technology effectively are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, political and social life. While computer and Internet access has exploded during the Clinton-Gore Administration, America faces a "digital divide" -- a gap between those who have access to Information Age tools and the skills to use them and those who don't.

America has an important choice to make. We can allow unequal access to deepen divisions along the lines of race, income, education level, and geography, or we can use technology to help make the American dream a reality for more citizens. The Clinton-Gore Administration is committed to doing its part to ensure that all Americans benefit from opportunities created by information technology. But the government can not and should not do this alone. We need to build partnerships and develop a comprehensive approach to bringing digital opportunity to all Americans.

That is why we are asking you to build on actions you are already taking by agreeing to:

- Support the President's National Challenge to bridge the digital divide by agreeing to devote time and energy toward bringing digital opportunity to more Americans.
- Make new and innovative commitments to schools, families and local communities.
- Participate in the President's New Markets trip during the week of April 9th
- Support legislative initiatives designed to bridge the Digital Divide.

Your willingness to participate in these efforts will go a long way toward meeting two urgent and critical goals: to bring digital opportunity to every child in every school and to under-served families and communities.

GOAL ONE: 21ST CENTURY LEARNING TOOLS FOR EVERY CHILD IN EVERY SCHOOL

For children to succeed, they need to master basic skills at an early age. A critical element of this is the need for information and technological literacy. To help achieve these aims, we must focus on a comprehensive approach to integrating technology into teaching and learning while recognizing that -- as powerful as computers are -- they are no substitute for an inspiring teacher or a loving parent. Together, we must:

1. Connect every classroom and school to the Internet
2. Ensure that students have computer access, ideally at a ratio of 1 computer for every 4-5 students
3. Ensure that teachers are technologically literate and can integrate technology into the curriculum
4. Make available high quality educational software and resources

GOAL TWO: DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

To ensure that no family or community is left behind, we must:

1. Set the long-term goal of making access to the Internet in the home universal
2. Bring technology to every community -- urban and rural -- through Community Technology Centers and high-speed networks
3. Give adults and young adults the skills they need to use information technology and compete for jobs in the IT sector
4. Motivate and inspire more people to appreciate the value of "getting connected"

ELEMENTS OF A NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

We can only reach our goals by developing strong partnerships between government, industry, and the rich mosaic of America's civil society -- educators, labor unions, librarians, civil rights leaders, faith-based organizations, foundations, and volunteers, and community-based organizations. We must also recognize that while competition, market forces, technological progress and new business models will help expand access by lowering the price of Internet access, computers, and "information appliances," access to technology is only one piece of the puzzle.

That is why we are urging that we agree to take a comprehensive approach: addressing not only Internet access and hardware, but the creation of quality content and applications, effective training, the development of information literacy, and intensive support and guidance from teachers and mentors. We must also make a special effort to find ways to motivate and inspire those who are not connected to see the value of participating in the Information Revolution.

By pledging to take on specific challenges in the overall effort -- beginning with some of the items outlined below -- you can make a tremendous difference in the lives of millions of American children and families.* We also encourage other ideas and commitments to help bring digital opportunity to all Americans in a sustained and thorough way.

GOAL 1: 21ST CENTURY LEARNING TOOLS FOR EVERY CHILD IN EVERY SCHOOL

Taking Action to Meet All Aspects of the Goal

- Make every school a model school by providing a comprehensive approach to education technology.
 - ✓ Examples of partnerships that have taken this comprehensive approach include PowerUP (with support from AOL, Case Foundation, Gateway, HP, Sun, and Americorps), the Joint Venture Silicon Valley "21st Century Education Initiative," and the "NextDay" project of NetDay.
- Match the Administration's Investment in the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund.
 - ✓ The Administration is proposing an increase from \$425 million to \$450 million to help states and local communities meet all four components of the goal.
- Work with local parents' groups to develop and complete school-wide surveys to determine which of the goal's four components are being met.
- Offer experts from universities and corporations to work full or part-time in schools -- devoting their knowledge and energy to helping schools achieve all four parts of the goal.

Connecting Every Classroom and Library to the Internet

- Continue support for the E-rate

* : Examples are for illustrative purposes only -- there are many other companies and non-profits that are working to bridge the digital divide.

- ✓ E-Rate has provided \$3.65 billion in support Internet connections in schools and libraries over the last two years -- with the deepest discounts to the poorest schools that need it most.
- Continue volunteer efforts such as NetDay, TechCorps, and the “High Speed Education Connection” of the cable TV industry.

Providing Schools with the Computers they Require

- Donate computers to schools and libraries to bring greater access to technology to children and families
- ✓ The Administration is extending and expanding an enhanced tax deduction to allow companies to deduct more than the cost of their donation.

Training Teachers to Use Technology Effectively in the Classroom

- Develop partnerships to provide technology training to all new and existing teachers.
- ✓ The Administration has set a goal of training all new teachers to use technology, and has proposed \$150 million to help meet this goal, which companies can support by partnering with schools of education.
- ✓ The CEO Forum has developed a detailed set of goals for how schools of education and states can work to ensure that all teachers are prepared to teach using technology.
- ✓ Several companies (e.g. Intel, Microsoft, AT&T) are also devoting significant resources to training existing teachers with summer academies, and follow-up support during the course of the school year.

Providing Compelling Content

- Create a Digital Library for Education to help students and teachers find quality content on the Internet.
- ✓ The Administration is proposing \$41 million for an initiative to expand access to high-quality Internet-based educational resources, and to make it easier for parents, teachers and students to find compelling content by grade level and subject area.
- ✓ Several companies (e.g. Ameritech, MCI WorldCom) have partnered with government agencies to offer intensive training to teachers so they can develop content, and have provided grants to institutions to digitize special collections (such as the Library of Congress “American Memory” project).

Motivating Young People to Learn and Use Technology to its Fullest Potential.

- Motivate and train youth for careers in information technology
- ✓ Companies such as Cisco, 3Com and Novell have launched programs which help prepare students for high-paying jobs in the IT sector.
- Develop Public Service Announcements with celebrities

- ✓ Sports and entertainment stars can agree to do PSAs showing them using the computers and explaining why they are excited about the Internet, and why mastering these new tools is so important.
- ✓ Develop Public Service Announcements with celebrities to motivate young people and adults to use computers and explore the Internet -- including a "no fear, no shame" campaign for those adults who may be reluctant to admit that they don't know how to use technology.
- ✓ This kind of campaign would also be important for adults -- many of whom might be afraid to admit that they don't know how to use technology.

GOAL 2: DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Expanding Home Access

- Provide computers and Internet services to your employees and their families.
- ✓ Leading U.S. companies such as Ford and Delta have determined that providing their employees with computers and Internet access at reduced rates is critical to upgrading the skills of their employees.
- ✓ The Administration has proposed \$50 million for a pilot project to expand home access for low-income families. Companies can support local projects through free or discounted hardware, software, Internet access and training. Pilots are being supported by Computers For Youth, Microsoft, Bell Atlantic, IBM, and "Clickstart."

Creating more Community Technology Centers

- Donate all aspects of technology to help provide national coverage through Community Technology Centers (CTCs). CTCs provide children and adults a place to go where technology and assistance is available to them—including everything from conducting job searches to finding child care to providing children with structured after-school programs.
- ✓ The Administration is proposing to expand its investment in CTCs from \$32.5 million to \$100 million—to create up to 1,000 new centers.
- ✓ By extending and expanding an enhanced tax deduction, the Administration encourages companies to donate equipment, software, Internet access, support and instructors to expand the number of CTCs.

Providing Greater Training to Allow all Individuals to Fully Participate in the Digital Economy

- Offer training and internships to prepare more minorities and low-income workers for IT sector jobs
- ✓ Information Technology Association of America is leading efforts to expand the number of minority internships in IT companies. Other companies and non-profits are getting positive results by providing IT training to people who are unemployed, on welfare, or holding minimum-wage jobs.

- ✓ One California-based non-profit (OpNet) has been able to help people who were unemployed or making an average of \$6 per hour compete successfully for jobs paying up to \$45,000 year. Another consortium of Northern California companies has launched a project called "Welfare-to-Web" to provide the training people need to make the transition from welfare to high-tech jobs.
- **Provide Basic Technology Training to Workers**
 - ✓ Companies can take advantage of the President's tax credit and provide their employees with basic computer training, workplace literacy or other basic education.
- Increase access to "information literacy" skills
 - ✓ According to the American Library Association, an information literate person is "able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use it effectively." Companies can donate the computers and Internet access that librarians need to provide people with these skills.

Providing Content and Applications that will Help Empower Low-Income Communities

- Develop content to help families access quality information and resources to meet their everyday needs
 - ✓ Examples might include compelling courseware for adult literacy, adult basic education, English as a Second Language, or the skills needed to start a "micro-enterprise."
 - ✓ Companies, state and local government agencies and non-profits can also collaborate to develop "portals" that would provide one-stop access to content particularly relevant to the needs of low-income families — such as child care, transportation, employment opportunities, and social services.
 - ✓ The Administration is proposing to triple its investment in the Technology Opportunities Program (to \$45 million), which has supported many innovative applications of information technology.

Bringing Advanced Technology to Isolated Rural Communities and to Indian Country

- Ensure that Native Americans participate in the New Economy. The Native American community can benefit from training for IT jobs, access to broadband networks that can help bring technology-related employment, e-commerce solutions for Native American small businesses, and the use of technology to preserve and share Native American culture.
 - ✓ The Administration proposes \$10 million for grants to tribal colleges for networking and access; course development; student assistance; and capacity building.
- Develop innovative business models and new technologies to deploy advanced services to rural America.
 - ✓ The Administration has proposed several hundred million in loan guarantees to accelerate the deployment of broadband wireline and wireless networks to rural America.
 - ✓ Companies are developing broadband technologies that can be cost-effectively deployed.
 - ✓ Companies are exploring ways to bring fiber optic networks to rural states if users can pool their purchasing power.

Ensuring that Information Technologies and the Internet are Accessible to People with Disabilities

- Make the Web and information technology accessible for people with disabilities.
 - ✓ The Administration and Internet companies are co-funding the “Web Accessibility Initiative” through the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). Internet and e-commerce companies can move to adopt Web accessibility standards being developed by the W3C for Web content, browsers and authoring tools.
 - ✓ Many telecommunications companies are working to enhance the accessibility of their products to meet the requirements of Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
 - ✓ The Administration is proposing increased funding to improve the state-of-the-art of assistive technology, and to make it more affordable for people with disabilities.

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- Offer experts from universities and corporations to work full or part-time in schools -- devoting their knowledge and energy to helping schools achieve all four parts of the goal.
- Match the Administration's \$450 million investment in the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund -- to help bring comprehensive technology solutions to states and local communities.

Connecting Every Classroom and Library to the Internet

- Continue support for the E-rate to bring Internet connections to our schools and libraries -- with the deepest discounts going to our neediest schools.
- Continue volunteer efforts such as NetDay and TechCorps.

Providing Schools with the Computers they Require

- Donate computers to schools and libraries to bring greater technology access to children and families.

Training Teachers to Use Technology Effectively in the Classroom

- Develop partnerships to help provide technology training to all new and existing teachers.

Providing Compelling Content

- Create a Digital Library for Education to help students and teachers find quality Internet content.

GOAL 2: DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Expanding Home Access

- Build on the momentum created by a number of employers by providing computers and Internet services at reduced rates to employees and their families.

Creating more Community Technology Centers

- Donate all aspects of technology to help expand the number of Community Technology Centers (CTCs) -- to make computers, Internet access and locally assistance available to children and adults.

Providing Greater Training to Allow all Individuals to Fully Participate in the Digital Economy

- Provide training and internships to prepare minorities and low-income workers for IT sector jobs.
- Provide basic technology training to employees to expand computer expertise and workplace literacy.
- Donate computers and Internet access to libraries to help more Americans develop "information literacy" skills -- so that they can more effectively locate, evaluate, and use the information they need.

Motivating People to Learn and Use Technology to its Fullest Potential

- Develop Public Service Announcements with celebrities to motivate young people and adults to use computers and explore the Internet -- including a "no fear, no shame" campaign for those adults who may be reluctant to admit that they don't know how to use technology.

Creating and Providing Content and Applications that will Help Empower Low-Income Communities

- Develop content to help families access quality information and resources to meet their everyday needs -- including child care, transportation, employment opportunities, and social services.

Bringing Advanced Technology to Isolated Rural Communities and to Indian Country

- Provide Native Americans with training for IT jobs, access to broadband networks, e-commerce solutions for small businesses, and the use of technology to preserve Native American culture.
- Develop innovative business models and broadband technologies to deploy advanced services to rural America.

Ensuring that Information Technologies and the Internet are Accessible to People with Disabilities

- Adopt accessibility standards and enhance the accessibility of products to bring the Web and information technology to people with disabilities.

HJD

- Neighborhood network: 20g to 1000 crs.
we have 00 + 01 \$

Commerce

many efforts MT, NV, AZ

TDP grants

USDA

- 12 phone lines to over 1000 (N. Amer.)
- 4H helped water user get
- Reforming telecomm. reg - reform reg to promote competition

SBA

- active virtual classroom - partners w/ companies
SISCO is doing course on e-commerce
we make it available on-line + send them around to our business 2 hrs
- government supplier / microent.

DOT

Why on earth are we on transportation careers

DoE

- bill crit against conf. will hold in NY
- Nat Conf on ed tech
- sec. 8 - coming do f com million conf
- Partnership for environment in ed