

FACT SHEET

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ♦ Office of Multifamily Housing Programs

Delivering Technology Access to America's Communities

Benefits of Starting and Working With A Neighborhood Networks Center

Neighborhood Networks centers give adults, children, youth, senior citizens, and people with disabilities access to technology and other services. Residents, property owners and managers, partners, and the general community all share in the rewards of opening and assisting Neighborhood Networks centers.

Who Benefits From Neighborhood Networks Centers, and How?

Residents

Residents gain access to onsite services and programs that foster self-sufficiency. With higher incomes, residents can move into market-rate housing, releasing their affordable units for others with greater need. By participating in center programs:

- ♦ Adults receive job training, education, and supportive services.
- ♦ Children and youth have safe afterschool havens that promote learning, acquisition of skills, and healthy recreational choices.
- ♦ Senior citizens gain access to health programs and services, computer training, and more social activities, which help them remain productive and vital and contribute to their quality of life and independence.
- ♦ Residents with disabilities can access programs and services that enable them to remain healthy and increase activity and social participation.

Property Owners and Managers

Property owners benefit from the return on investment that having a Neighborhood Networks center on their property can provide.

Many property owners and managers nationwide report that Neighborhood Networks centers give them an edge in marketing their properties. Housing owners and managers also find that Neighborhood Networks centers help decrease vacancy rates, thus stabilizing the community, reducing vandalism, and improving residents' community spirit.

How Do Centers and Their Partners Benefit?

Here are some benefits that both centers and their partners derive from Neighborhood Networks initiatives:

- ♦ A social service agency provides support services at a Neighborhood Networks center and reaches a new group of constituents.
- ♦ An employer works with a center to develop and offer a job-training program and gains access to a newly trained workforce.
- ♦ Area colleges and community colleges provide student interns to teach at an after-school program, giving both the interns and children a great learning opportunity.
- ♦ Hospitals and community health clinics develop programs and services to help Neighborhood Networks centers address residents' health concerns.



Neighborhood Networks
Information Center

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About Neighborhood Networks

Neighborhood Networks' mission is to improve computer access, advance literacy, and create employment opportunities for residents of HUD insured and assisted housing.

Neighborhood Networks encourages resident involvement in the planning and development of self-sustaining centers.

Residents gain access to onsite programs and services that provide job skills, education, and supportive services that foster healthier, more self-sufficient families.

More than 1,200 Neighborhood Networks centers are located at HUD Multifamily Housing properties throughout all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Partners

Community partners, including businesses, local clinics and hospitals, colleges, nonprofit organizations, and social service providers are making a strategic investment. By collaborating with Neighborhood Networks on a local and/or national level, partners can:

- ◆ Gain greater access to targeted populations.
- ◆ Improve the economic health of communities.
- ◆ Meet their philanthropic commitments.
- ◆ Train a potential labor force in skills that meet the current and future needs of area employers.
- ◆ Open new markets.

Communities

Neighborhood Networks centers enhance the quality of life for individuals and the entire community in numerous ways:

- ◆ Many centers allow residents of surrounding communities to use their facilities, giving them access to programs and services for adults, children, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities.

- ◆ Centers can decrease incidents of vandalism by promoting community ownership and access to employment and opportunity. This reduces operating costs, resulting in savings for both property owners and HUD. Safer environments benefit the entire community.
- ◆ Local employers benefit by having a recruitment source for trained and motivated workers.
- ◆ Community partners, such as local health-care facilities, colleges, nonprofit organizations, and social service providers gain greater access to their target populations. This enables them to better fulfill their missions.

For more information, contact:

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