



ConnectHome Nation Frequently Asked Questions

What is ConnectHome? What is the difference with ConnectHome Nation?

ConnectHome is a pilot program that was launched by the White House and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 2015. ConnectHome works with 28 pilot communities across the nation to narrow the digital divide for K-12 families living in public housing.

ConnectHome Nation builds upon the success of the ConnectHome pilot by expanding to reach new communities with digital inclusion best practices and resources provided by our numerous stakeholders to help their residents get connected. Under the leadership of national nonprofit EveryoneOn, ConnectHome Nation aims to reach 100 new communities by 2020 with a potential impact of connecting 350,000 residents.

Who are the stakeholders (nonprofits, internet service providers, others) involved in ConnectHome Nation?

The list of stakeholders participating in ConnectHome Nation is as follows:

- ABC Mouse by Age of Learning
- American Library Association
- AT&T
- Best Buy
- Boys and Girls Clubs of America
- CollegeBoard
- Comcast
- Common Sense Media
- Cox Communications
- KANO, Inc.
- GitHub
- Google Fiber
- National Housing Conference
- T-mobile

How many communities can join? What happens if my community is not selected?

ConnectHome Nation has a goal of reaching 100 communities by 2020. Beginning in 2017, interested communities will be admitted in cohorts of 30, 35, and 35 in 2017, 2018, and 2019 respectively.

ConnectHome Nation is built on the concept of open source learning. Even if a community is not chosen to participate in ConnectHome Nation, we are committed to sharing the best practices we learn along the way by publishing the ConnectHome playbook, case studies, and relevant resources on the new ConnectHome Nation website (connecthomenation.org) for any and all to come and learn about how to start a digital inclusion campaign in their community.

Following this model many of our stakeholders have opened eligibility for their offers to all HUD-assisted residents meaning any public housing authority (PHA) or housing developer in the United States would be able to take advantage of them. These resources will be noted on our website with detailed instruction for how to get started.

How will communities apply for ConnectHome Nation?

The online platform and application for ConnectHome Nation and will go live on July 17, 2017 (second anniversary of the launch of ConnectHome) and close on July 30, 2017. On July 17, 2017, interested communities will be able to visit connecthomenation.org to apply. Interested communities who wish to be notified when the application is live can request to do so by emailing connecthomenation@everyoneon.org.

What is required of communities to join?

Communities that apply and are admitted will be committing to the following:

1. Assigning dedicated staff from the housing provider to serve as ConnectHome Nation lead
2. Joint letter of participation from the housing provider and the city
3. Working towards yearly internet adoption, device, and training goals
4. Quarterly internal progress reports
5. Annual public progress updates
6. Regional/National summit attendance
7. Semi-annual success stories

What do communities that enroll receive?

1. Access to stakeholder commitments;
2. Continued assistance with stakeholder negotiation by EveryoneOn as communities seek to add new stakeholders to the initiative;
3. Monthly webinars with EveryoneOn for help with local efforts and best practices;
4. Access to a mentorship community to help guide progress; and,
5. Access to the Digital ConnectHome Nation Platform, which will include resources and collateral created for ConnectHome Nation and would serve as a space for communities to connect, ask questions, and collect data.

What will happen with the original ConnectHome pilot communities?

The 28 communities that participated in the pilot program with HUD will have the opportunity to enroll in ConnectHome Nation at the end of their commitment to HUD's demonstration pilot as a participant or mentor community.

What is a mentor community?

New communities would be given access to a mentorship network that consists of communities that have been in the program for at least one year and commit to serving as a resource. These mentors will be chosen based on their willingness to serve, coupled with their status as a high performing ConnectHome community.

For more information, contact us connecthomenation@everyoneon.org.

Is there funding attached to acceptance into ConnectHome?

While the team at ConnectHome Nation will be working to raise philanthropic resources, there is no guaranteed or designated funding for ConnectHome Nation communities. However, this need not stop communities from proceeding with the work of closing the digital divide in their HUD-assisted housing population. Multiple ConnectHome pilot communities have made great gains in connecting their residents without additional outside resources.

Is ConnectHome Nation open to residents in all types of HUD-assisted housing (public housing, multifamily, Section 8)?

Yes, any resident in any type of HUD-assisted housing is eligible to be served by the stakeholder commitments that are part of ConnectHome Nation. In the first phase of ConnectHome Nation, any communities that wish to serve multi-family and Section 8 housing residents are welcome to do so. They would just need to indicate such on their application and their means for accomplishing that goal. Please note that at this time ConnectHome Nation is not accepting providers with Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units, we will review program requirement each year and update accordingly.

For any additional questions, contact us connecthomenation@everyoneon.org.

Can a state apply to ConnectHome Nation as a whole?

Yes, any state that is looking to join ConnectHome Nation may apply. The requirements on reporting would remain the same for the applicant points of contact, which must include a representative from the governor's office and the state housing director (or equivalent position where applicable).

Can Privately owned/multi-family housing developers apply to ConnectHome Nation?

Yes, privately owned/multi-family housing developers are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Can Privately owned/multi-family housing developers apply to ConnectHome Nation if they operate in multiple geographies?

Yes, privately owned/multi-family housing developers that operate in multiple geographies are eligible and encouraged to apply, however they must meet the requirements for each geography and include all information in the original application submission to be considered.

Will ConnectHome Nation accept multiple applications from one city/geography (PHA + Multi-family + second multi-family)?

ConnectHome Nation will only accept one application per geography, however, if groups want to form a coalition to work together and apply as one, this is permissible.