

ConnectHome Nashville – Local Projects Plan – Overview

A collaboration between the Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County, Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA) of Nashville, in partnership with The White House and Department of Housing & Urban Development

ConnectHome Nashville will bring together local stakeholders to leverage existing digital resources and identify new resources for Public Housing residents living in Nashville-Davidson County. ConnectHome will emphasize four primary aspects of digital inclusion – access to low cost broadband internet service, access to low cost devices, initial and ongoing training, and ongoing technical support – with the eventual goal of broadening inclusion efforts from MDHA’s Public Housing properties to all HUD subsidized housing in Nashville-Davidson County.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development’s ConnectHome program has successfully established a national forum for discussion and sharing of best practices in digital inclusion, bringing together national partners to assist in areas of connectivity, devices, training, and ongoing support. While there were substantive digital inclusion efforts already in place in many local communities including Nashville, the support of HUD and the ConnectHome national partners has accelerated the momentum around this issue, and has created the framework by which public housing authorities and cities can partner to make a significant impact in the lives of families across the country.

ConnectHome Nashville’s digital inclusion strategy emphasizes the following long term priorities:

- **Sustainability** – The program must have a sustainable structure, both administratively and financially, that will ensure ConnectHome service to MDHA residents for years to come
- **Scalability** – Thousands of non-Public Housing families across Nashville-Davidson County lack the advantages of internet access at home, and while initial program goals focus on MDHA’s ConnectHome Public Housing properties, a longer term program goal is to expand the program to reach all families living in subsidized housing in Nashville-Davidson County
- **Adaptability** – Technology is constantly changing and improving, and the design and structure of ConnectHome Nashville has to be nimble enough to change and improve with it
- **Replicability** – Digital Inclusion is a relatively new area of philanthropy, and similar to any burgeoning enterprise, ConnectHome must continue to refine best practices that can be replicated to assist in future digital inclusion efforts in other communities
- **Efficiency** – Resource constraints are abundant, and ConnectHome Nashville’s program design must seek to achieve maximum impact with minimum resources... we must do more with less

ConnectHome Nashville is using these priorities as a framework to create a digital inclusion program that serves MDHA residents with all the benefits of internet connectivity, but for a much lower cost. If ConnectHome and similar initiatives are successful in measuring local outcomes, perhaps one day we will be able to analyze the benefits of broadband connectivity relative to its impact on transportation, health, employment, public safety, and education outcomes, extrapolating the individual and societal economic costs benefits of digital inclusion work from a robust body of research to show the economic importance of the work we are doing. For the time being, we will continue to measure outcomes in the

best way possible in order to tell the local story of how ConnectHome impacts the lives of individuals and families across Nashville-Davidson County.