

In July 2015, the White House, HUD and its nonprofit partners (EveryoneOn and US Ignite) launched ConnectHome.

The goal of the ConnectHome initiative is to provide:

- Free or low cost high-speed Internet access;
- Computing devices (computers, notebooks, or tablets); and
- Digital Literacy training for public housing residents with school age children and for Seniors.

THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Technology has changed the way we live our lives. Yet, many low-income Americans live on the wrong side of the digital divide because they do not have Internet access at home.

The term “digital divide” refers to the gap between those who have easy access to computers and the Internet and those who do not because of various demographic factors.

Currently:

- ✚ Approximately 46% of families living in public housing do not have high-speed Internet at home or rely solely on smartphones
- ✚ Nearly one-in-five teens can't always finish their homework because they don't have reliable access to a computer or internet connection
- ✚ Families are increasingly at risk of becoming isolated from society because they lack access to the Internet and the skills necessary to use it effectively

CONNECTHOME GETS RESULTS

ConnectHome participants identified the following as benefits of the program:

Internet and Technology Access at Home

- ▲ Most ConnectHome households (79%) access the Internet at home every day or a few times a week using a variety of devices

Home Internet Use and Children's Education

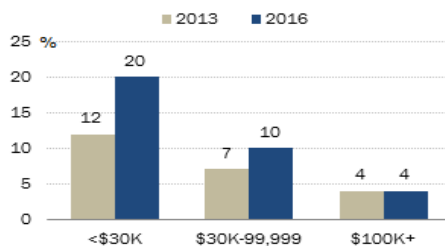
- ▲ 98% of the ConnectHome households that used the Internet for children's education agree or somewhat agree that using the Internet at home helps children do better in school and 95% agreed that it helps adults get more involved in their children's education.

Home Internet Use and Employment

- ▲ Of the households that used the Internet for employment related activities, 92% agree or somewhat agree that home Internet access helped someone in their household find a job faster than they would have without having access to the Internet.

Growing share of low-income Americans are smartphone-only internet users

% of U.S. adults who have a smartphone but no broadband at home, by annual household income



Source: Survey conducted Sept. 29-Nov. 6, 2016. Trend data from previous Pew Research Center surveys.

“...there are over a million classrooms in this country that don't have adequate broadband, a huge number of kids who don't have access to computers, and the reality that 77% of jobs are going to require technology education and background by the year 2020.”

Without a Net: The Digital Divide in America. Rory Kennedy