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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Community Planning and Development

Andrew Cuomo, Secretary

Cardell Cooper, Assistant Secretary

EZ/EC News Flash

Flash Fax #38

April 26, 2000

Closing the Digital Divide: HUD and NASA Joint Event

TO: ALL HUD AFFILIATED COMPUTER LABS

SUBJECT: UPCOMING SPACE SHUTTLE MISSION

PURPOSE: In an effort to help close the digital divide and encourage low-income and minority youth in the math/sciences - - HUD is seeking questions for the crew of NASA's Space Shuttle Atlantis from youth in HUD affiliated computer labs. A handful of these questions will be answered live during the flight.

Weather permitting, the Space Shuttle Atlantis is scheduled to be launched from the Kennedy Space Center at approximately 4:15 P.M. EDT April 24. It will then take two days for Atlantis to catch-up to the International Space Station (ISS), and it will spend six days docked to the ISS, four of which will be spent refurbishing and replacing components to two modules of the ISS. Two of the astronauts will take a space walk during Atlantis' planned 10-day flight.

NASA has presented us with an almost unheard of opportunity—the chance to communicate directly with the shuttle crew during its mission. NASA has allotted six minutes to us for this very purpose.

Send your questions **by Friday April 28th** to CBNews@Hud.gov We will have a short window to ask these questions so please understand that only a few will be answered during the mission. We will try to see if NASA Mission Control Specialists can answer many of the questions that were not answered by the crew during the mission. Updated information on this event will appear next week on www.neighborhoodnetworks.org - - including links to NASA's Space Shuttle and Space Station web sites. You may wish to incorporate these sites into your upcoming lessons.

For additional information, call Jeff Aron at 202-708-2740 x4825 or e-mail at jeffrey_m._aron@hud.gov