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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

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Joint HUD & Private Sector Activities Will Advance President's Plan to Bridge Digital Divide

On April 17, 2000, HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo unveiled computer education and training initiatives designed to create jobs and economic development for people and places left behind during our record economic expansion. The initiatives are part of President Clinton's plan to bridge the digital divide that separates the poor from the more affluent in access to technology and the Internet.

Secretary Cuomo joined President Clinton and other federal officials on visits to East Palo Alto, CA and Shiprock, NM - part of the Navajo Nation - to shine the spotlight on the need to provide computers and the skills to use them to low-income people and communities. The visits were the third in a series that President Clinton is leading as part of his New Markets Initiative to promote public and private investment in underserved communities.

The new HUD-private sector initiatives will:

- ? Create 500 new HUD Neighborhood Network computer learning centers in housing that receives HUD funding, to help children do better in school and to help adults get jobs. This will be accomplished through partnerships with PowerUP and Andersen Consulting.
- ? Create 10 Cisco Networking Academies that teach people in low-income communities advanced computer skills - including how to design, build and maintain computer networks - to enable graduates to get well-paid jobs. Cisco systems and Communities in Schools will work together with HUD to create these academies.
- ? Help Indian tribes plan technology-related economic development. Andersen Consulting will provide expert assistance in these efforts.

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