



PUBLIC HOUSING MANAGEMENT E-NEWSLETTER

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HUD Helps Bridge the Digital Divide with Connect2Compete

On February 14th, Secretary Shaun Donovan joined Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski and several other luminaries to announce HUD's involvement in Connect2Compete (C2C), a public-private partnership to help low-income families bridge the digital divide. In his remarks Secretary Donovan told the gathered audience about the possibilities the program offers.

"Neighborhood Networks Centers have helped residents do everything from find jobs, succeed in school or just become more comfortable with searching the web. This new partnership with C2C will allow families to accomplish these tasks from the comfort of their homes like many of us."

As a part of this initiative, C2C partner Best Buy will be offering computer training by members of their Geek Squad at public housing agencies in 12 cities across the country. Initially, trainings will be held at sites in Chicago, Detroit, Miami, FL, Philadelphia, PA, St. Paul, MN, and Washington, DC. Best Buy will add 6 more sites to the program by summer 2013.

The announcement took place at the District of Columbia Housing Authority's Southwest Family Enhancement Center, in a computer lab for public housing residents. Before the event, local members of the best Buy Geek Squad gave a brief training for local public housing residents which included an introduction to web search and navigating job websites. Also, Beverly Barlow, a public housing resident who earned her Microsoft Specialist Certification through the center spoke about the positive impact learning these technical skills had on her life.

In addition to the digital literacy program, Connect2Compte will be offering families in public housing several ways to obtain Internet access. Families with children who qualify for the National School Lunch Program will have the opportunity to purchase discounted broadband Internet for \$9.95/month as well as discounted laptops for under \$200 with pre-installed Microsoft software. To learn more about the program visit: www.connect2compete.org.

Editorial: Why HUD is Focusing on Dads with the Father's Day Initiative

By Ron Ashford

Once again, HUD is asking Public Housing Authorities and residents across the country to have Father's Day events the week of June 10-15th. Last year 304 PHAs held events – events that ranged from all day celebrations to simple luncheons; from recognition ceremonies to health and job fairs.

Why Father's Day? Why "celebrate" fathers when everyone knows that it's the mothers who are responsible for raising families, especially in public housing where 75% of families are led by single women?

We know that in most instances Dads are not well connected to their kids. We know also that children that grow up in families with absent dads do not do as well. Here are some statistics:

- 42% of children in female householder families live in poverty
- Children of in father-absent homes are twice as likely to drop out of school
- Children from father-absent homes are at least 2 times more likely to become involved in the criminal justice system

So, clearly having fathers involved in their children's lives matters.

Our hope is that Father's Day can be the kick-off that will lead to a greater involvement of fathers with their kids. Wouldn't it be great to have fathers attend their children's Parents Night at schools? How about simply walking with their children on Halloween? Or volunteering with them on National Day of Service?

We're asking PHAs to plan events that will help not only the dads, but the children and the family.

Want to get involved? Start with a visit to the Father's Day Webpage, hud.gov/fathersday2013.

Have questions? Email the Father's Day Team at PIH_Fathers_Day_2013@HUD.gov.

FAQs for Notice 2013-3 Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Programs – Temporary Compliance Assistance

Earlier this year, HUD published Notice 2013-3, which provides temporary administrative relief to

PHAs. Based on feedback from the Notice, HUD released FAQs which can be found at:
<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=PIH2013-3faqs.pdf>

PIH Notices

[PIH 2013-07 \(HA\)](#) **Agreements with Responsible Entities and Timing for Environmental Reviews**-This guidance provides public housing agencies (PHAs) and PIH field offices with information on environmental reviews to emphasize the need for positive working relationships and timely, thorough reviews.

[PIH 2013-06 \(HA\)](#) **Radon Information for PIH Programs** - The purpose of this Notice is to provide information to PHAs on the dangers of radon.

[PIH 2013-04 \(HA\)](#) **Guidance on Verification of Excluded Income** - This notice provides clarification and guidance on the verification requirements of income excluded from the determination of annual income in accordance with 24 CFR 5.609(c).

[PIH 2013-03 \(HA\)](#) **Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Programs – Temporary Compliance Assistance**-This Notice establishes temporary guidelines for public housing agencies (PHAs) in fulfilling certain Public Housing (PH) and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program requirements during this period of decreased resources available to PHAs. These guidelines are intended to facilitate the ability of PHAs to continue, without interruption and with minimal burden, the delivery of rental assistance to eligible families in their communities. The temporary provisions established by this Notice will be available to PHAs until March 31, 2014.

HUD's PIH Notices can be viewed online [here](#)

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