



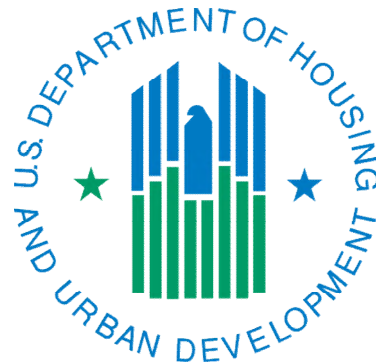
Use of Public Housing Funds to Support Internet Connectivity for Residents

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Why Internet Connectivity?

- During COVID-19 it became a critical component for daily life – education, employment, health and inter-personal connection.
- Only 56% of adults earning less than \$30,000 per year have access to broadband internet at home, versus 94% for upper-income families
- Only 18% of low-income adults have a device that can access the internet.
- Many PHA have partnered with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and participate in HUD's ConnectHomeUSA and Neighborhood Networks Programs. But not all of them.....



Connectivity as a Capital Fund Management Improvement

- Limited to 10% of your Capital Fund
- Can be related to upgrading or improving operation or management of the PHA's public housing properties or correcting documented management deficiencies

How Capital Funds can support Connectivity:



**Building updates to support broadband internet
and wi-fi**



Purchase and install equipment



**Facilitate programs to improve the
empowerment/economic self-sufficiency of public
housing residents, tenant accommodations and
training to operate internet equipment**

How Capital Funds Can Support Connectivity/ Eligible Activities :

Capital Funds
Neighborhood Network Computer Centers or Shared/Common Spaces
Establishment and initial operation of a Neighborhood Network computer center or shared/common computer center to include purchase of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computers and computer equipment• Equipment upgrades• Space renovations• Computer internet connection and utilities• Digital literacy training costs and related training• Insurance
Resident Council Funds
Can be used for the same internet connectivity expenses as referenced under the Capital Fund.

How Capital Funds Can Support Connectivity/ Eligible Activities:

Capital Funds

Individual Units

- Installation of, or upgrades to broadband infrastructure and hardware equipment such as modems, switches or Wi-Fi extenders
- Equipment that would allow for the establishment of Wi-Fi (or mesh) networks/or upgrades to such equipment
- Wiring of individual units
- Installation of special directional antennae to extend wireless internet connectivity from PHA management offices to PHA properties, to enable households to make use of the office wireless signal for free connectivity
- Installation of satellite/cellular receivers to connect properties to wireless broadband
- Routers, hotspots* and modems for individual units (but not internet service)

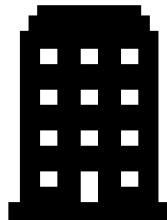
Connectivity Activities that are Ineligible Under Capital Fund – BUT Eligible Under the Operating Fund:

- On-going costs of operating computer centers in public housing, such as on-going internet fees, equipment. Staff salaries, ongoing operation of computer literacy programs for residents, routine network maintenance.
- On-going costs for individual unit connectivity, such as on-going internet services, maintenance of equipment, staff expenses, maintenance of routers, hotspots, modems, etc.

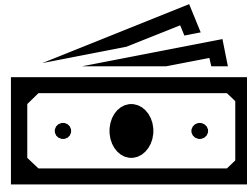


Capital Funds for Operating Fund Activities

- The statute and regulations allow PHAs to use a percentage of annual CFP grants for activities that are eligible under the Operating Fund (BLI 1406 Activities)
- Limited to 20% for most PHAs
- Must be in your 5-Year Action Plan
- Small non-troubled PHAs may go up to 100% with Field Office approval but doing so means those funds are no longer available for capital improvements.



Vs.





Thank You

