NAHMA HUD Update: HUD and Comcast announce Expansion of Internet Essentials for Low-Income Families

Dear NAHMA Member,

HUD and Comcast have announced that residents living in HUD-assisted housing units within Comcast's service areas are eligible to apply for Internet Essentials, a high-speed internet adoption program for low-income families.

According to HUD, one in four American households still cannot access the internet at home, particularly lower-income families with children. In the 2013 American Community Survey, less than 43 percent of individuals without a high school diploma or equivalent lack home internet access.

Since 2011 Internet Essentials has connected more than 600,000 low-income families to the internet at home and has invested more than \$280 million in cash and in-kind support to help fund digital literacy training and education initiatives. Now with the expansion of Internet Essentials, up to 2 million HUD-assisted homes (including Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher, and Multifamily programs) will have access to low-cost internet service.

For more information on the imitative and the top ten states and cities with the largest numbers of HUD-assisted households in Comcast's service area, please <u>click here</u>.

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