CONNECT.DC
Digital Inclusion Initiative • Powered by OCTO

Who We Are

Technology has changed the way we communicate, work, learn, and get our news and information. With access to technology, people can apply for jobs, take an online class, or stay in touch with family and friends. Unfortunately, approximately 150,000 District residents do not have broadband Internet access at home. We know that individuals and families that don't have access to the Internet, can't afford it, don't know how to use it, or don't see why it's important are at a great disadvantage in an increasingly digital age.

Created by the DC Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) in 2010, Connect.DC works to bridge this digital divide by making technology easier to use, more accessible, more affordable, and more relevant to the everyday lives of District residents. Together with our partners, we are working to ensure everyone in DC can take full advantage of everything technology has to offer.

What We Do

We take our role as "connectors" very seriously and work closely with stakeholders to build a more informed, empowered, and inclusive technology community. At Connect.DC, we

- Work with residents and community stakeholders to build a basic foundation in technology through digital literacy training, summits, and workshops;

- Partner with local government agencies and nonprofits to increase the number of public computing locations in the city; provide free computer and Internet access to residents through our Mobile Tech Lab;

- Provide affordable Internet and computer offers to low-income District residents;

- Build relationships with community institutions and stakeholders to create a culture of digital inclusion and excellence; share useful content and create tools for new technology users; collect data on digital inclusion and discuss important technology trends; and

- Use awareness campaigns, social media, and mobile updates to promote the benefits of technology and inform stakeholders about our services.

Our Model

Training
Basic, intermediate, and advanced tech training

Public Technology Access
Access at libraries, recreation centers, other government facilities, and local nonprofits
Mobile Tech Lab

Affordable Internet Service and Computers
Discounted Internet and computer offers for low-income DC residents

Programs, Partners, and Tools
Digital citizenship tech programs
Buy-in from local stakeholders
Useful applications and digital content

Public Awareness
Advertisements on transit, in papers, and through direct mail
Updates through text messages and social media