Our mission is to improve lives by providing innovative solutions that expand the access, adoption, and use of broadband (high-speed internet) to all people. We believe that everyone belongs in a Connected Nation.

WHO WE ARE

Connected Nation is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that develops and implements strategies to close digital equity gaps and improve digital skills in communities across the US.

WHAT WE DO

We assess and plan for the expansion of broadband access, adoption, and use in partnership with public-private community teams created in rural and urban settings. We partner with local communities, service providers, foundations, and state and federal policymakers on initiatives and projects that impact the 18 million Americans who still lack broadband access and many more who struggle with barriers to using technology such as cost and skills.

Our work includes improved broadband data collection and mapping to more effectively steer infrastructure investments, promoting and supporting projects that seek digital equity, conducting technology assessments in schools, developing technology action plans for communities to help them attain digital equity, and implementing digital literacy training and job placement programs.

WHO LACKS BROADBAND ACCESS?

18.3 million Americans

45% of low-income families

17.4% of rural residents

16.9 million school-aged children

WHY BROADBAND ACCESS MATTERS

Not having broadband (high-speed internet) access means losing out on educational opportunities, health care resources, job training and employment options, and a myriad of goods and services that can improve a person’s or family’s quality of life.

WHAT CAN’T THOSE PEOPLE DO?

Apply for jobs and telework, participate in distance learning, access online healthcare resources, reach customers for the businesses, renew a driver’s license, buy cheaper goods, monitor crop prices and weather, connect with long-lost friends, and access the resources needed during times of crisis—such as the coronavirus pandemic.
OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS | 350+ communities engaged as of July 2020

Our Connected Community Engagement Program provides a way for local elected officials and leaders from education, healthcare, business, and community organizations to develop and implement a Technology Action Plan for their communities. Learn more at https://connectednation.org/connect-my-community/.

DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE

Digital Works provides digital skills and customer service training needed to fill remote, work-from-home jobs. Working with more than 70 corporations nationwide, Digital Works tailors the program to employer and employee needs while providing job placement assistance and long-term career mentorship. Learn more at www.digitalworksjobs.org

1,000 jobs placed as of August 2020

Among our graduates: single parents, military spouses and veterans, senior citizens, physically challenged, young adults, rural & urban residents.

MAPPING AND ANALYSIS

Our award-winning geospatial intelligence, mapping, engineering, and technical services teams work to more accurately identify where broadband access gaps exist so we can accurately identify the Digital Divide and focus on strategies to close them. The end result is more effective infrastructure investment, better public policymaking, and, ultimately, more connected families and communities. https://connectednation.org/mapping_analysis/

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

Connected Nation’s staff helps schools navigate the federal E-rate program and tap into the billions of dollars in state and federal funding available to improve classroom technology. We also provide comprehensive school technology assessments to identify the needs of teachers and students within schools and districts.

TELEHEALTH RESEARCH AND PLANNING

We provide guidance and understanding in relation to the field of telehealth—focusing on the needs of patients and hospitals in both rural and urban settings. This work includes but is not limited to in-depth research and analysis, creating a platform for understanding how to leverage current technologies, and bringing together leaders in the field to examine emerging trends in telemedicine while exploring the obstacles and solutions for implementing the technology in communities across the US. https://connectednation.org/telehealth-research-and-development/