

Community Affairs



Microsoft NGO Connection is an internet portal, an entry into a digital community that enables nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) around the world to more efficiently use technology to achieve their goals, share best practices and learn from one another. It is a web site that was driven by feedback from nonprofit partners and years of experience working with (NGOs). NGO Connection provides real-life examples and makes it easy for nonprofits to access Microsoft resources and offerings.

A 'Learn from NGOs' section provides links to stories, discussion forums, and partners; 'Software Grants and Products' links to information on how to get free or discounted goods; and 'Help and Training' connects to support, training, and certification opportunities.

Connect and Learn:

Connect with NGOs around the world through online forums. Access case studies to learn how other NGOs have made the connection between their needs and how to solve them with technology.

- Learn from other NGOs about how they are using technology to lower costs, improve effectiveness, and enable more meaningful services to the communities they serve.
- Improve communication and collaboration within your organization and with other NGOs. Streamline project management and establish a web presence that will help meet your marketing goals.
- Increase productivity by implementing an effective technology infrastructure. Connect multiple sites with a common network. At the same time it is possible to reduce costs and simplify manageability.
- Organize critical information with database tools to help manage donor, volunteer and beneficiary information. Use financial software tools and keep technology secure.
- Enable technology training. Create a community learning platform. Use curricula to increase technology literacy. Increase technology literacy so that your organization can use limited resources for higher value-add activities in achieving your mission.

Valuable Learning Resources:

Microsoft Digital Literacy Curriculum

Digital Literacy is to teach and assess basic computer concepts and skills so that people can use computer technology in everyday life to develop new social and economic opportunities for themselves, their families, and their communities. From using the Internet, to sending e-mail, to creating a résumé, the Digital Literacy Curriculum helps develop the essential skills necessary to begin computing with confidence.

The Digital Literacy Curriculum is available in 25 languages and dialects with additional languages under development



Microsoft Unlimited Potential Community Learning Curriculum

The Unlimited Potential Community Learning Curriculum, available in 21 languages, provides the foundation for teaching basic to intermediate technology skills in a hands-on manner. Designed to be used in community technology centers (CTCs) or telecenters, the curriculum provides quality content focused on real-world skill development in the areas of:

- Beginning information, technology, and computer literacy
- Information and communications technologies
- Workforce development and preliminary technical certification

Software Grants and Products:

NGO Connection offers NGOs around the world the opportunity to get free and discounted software. Access to Microsoft online software, including communications and collaboration programs, business and office programs as well as search and security tools, is available without any requirements for eligibility.

The Microsoft Software Donation program enables qualified organizations to acquire Microsoft software, free or at a significantly reduced cost. Microsoft office, operating system and server products may be available to your organization upon meeting the eligibility requirements.



Microsoft Software Support:

The Microsoft Software Donation program enables qualified organizations to acquire Microsoft software, free or at a significantly reduced cost. Microsoft office, operating system and server products may be available to your organization upon meeting the eligibility requirements.

Microsoft Hardware Support:

The hardware infrastructure is the foundation for the software technology solution that your organization uses. The Community Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher (MAR) program includes a global network of more than 1,000 eligible computer refurbishers who provide reconditioned computers with genuine Microsoft software installed to NGOs.

TechSoup Hardware:

Microsoft has partnered with, TechSoup, an organization that provides knowledge and resources to NGOs in North America and around the globe. Qualified NGOs can choose from a range of donated products available through TechSoup's hardware programs:

- Refurbished Computers
- Network Accessories
- Switches and Routers

“Technology is as essential for NGOs as it is for any business in today’s networked economy. But unlike most businesses, NGOs typically lack the resources and knowledge to access the technologies that can make them more effective, efficient and sustainable in serving those at the margins of modern life,” said Rebecca Masisak, Co-CEO of TechSoup, a trusted technology resource for the nonprofit community. “Microsoft’s new portal, NGO Connection, is a well-organized, user-friendly and comprehensive guide to the free, the donated and the affordable.”

NGO Connection makes it easy for NGOs to make the connection between their needs and how to solve them with technology

www.Microsoft.com/NGO