



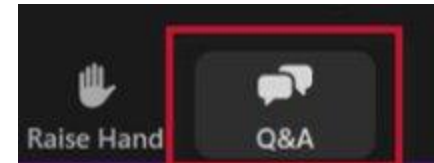
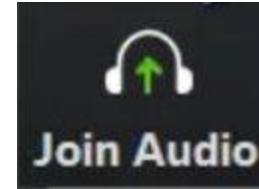
COMMIT TO
Connect

Strengthening Social Connection in Housing Communities: Innovative Approaches

April 30, 2024

Housekeeping

- **Audio Options**
 - Use your computer speakers, OR dial in using the phone number in your registration email.
 - All participants are muted.
- **Questions and Answers (Q&A)**
 - On the Zoom module on the bottom of your screen, click the Q&A icon, type your question in the box and submit.
 - For any questions that we aren't able to respond to, you may follow-up at info@committoconnect.org.
- **Chat Feature**
 - The Chat feature allows webinar attendees, the host, co-hosts and panelists to communicate for the duration of the webinar.
- **Webinar is being recorded**
 - Will be posted on committoconnect.org.



Accessibility and Support

- **ASL services are being provided today and will be pinned**
- **CART services are also being provided.**
 - Click on the CC Show Captions button or click on the link in the chat
- **Screen Reader Users: Reduce unwanted chatter**
 - Request speech on demand: Insert, Spacebar, “S”
- **To get our attention if you need tech assistance:**
 - Raise or Lower Hand: Alt + Y



Presenters



Melissa Harris

Director of Government Affairs, American Association of Service Coordinators

Margot Greenlee

Executive Director, Our Stomping Ground



Luke Barnesmoore

Director of Strategy, Home Match, Front Porch



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Commit to Connect Overview

Katie Clark

Administration for Community Living

Commit to Connect

- Aim is to connect people living with isolation and loneliness with programs and resources to build the social connections they need to thrive.
- Commit to Connect is funded primarily by the U.S. Administration for Community Living
- USAging serves as the Coordinating Center
- Visit www.committtoconnect.org



Strategy

- Increase awareness and availability of programs and strategies that address social isolation and loneliness and grow social connections
- Build and strengthen collaboration with current and potential partners to leverage our collective efforts, resources, innovations and activities to increase social connection in the U.S.



Key efforts include:

- Increase adoption of social connection programs throughout the United States
- Cultivate a Nationwide Network of Champions, an online networking platform, for passionate leaders and innovators dedicated to ending social isolation and loneliness
- Hold specialized events, such as the National Summit to Increase Social Connections
- Strengthen partnerships across national, state and local agencies addressing social isolation
- Develop and provide technical assistance resources that promote greater social connection and reduce social isolation and loneliness





Welcome to a Nationwide Network of Champions

Dedicated to Ending Social Isolation and Loneliness

[Become a champion!](#)



Connect

Connect with peers, expand your network, and make a difference.

[Visit the Member Directory](#)



Collaborate

Join in discussions, voice your opinion, and further your knowledge.

[Visit the Discussions Page](#)



Explore

Explore, share resources, and inspire the work in your community.

[Visit the Resources Library](#)



Learn

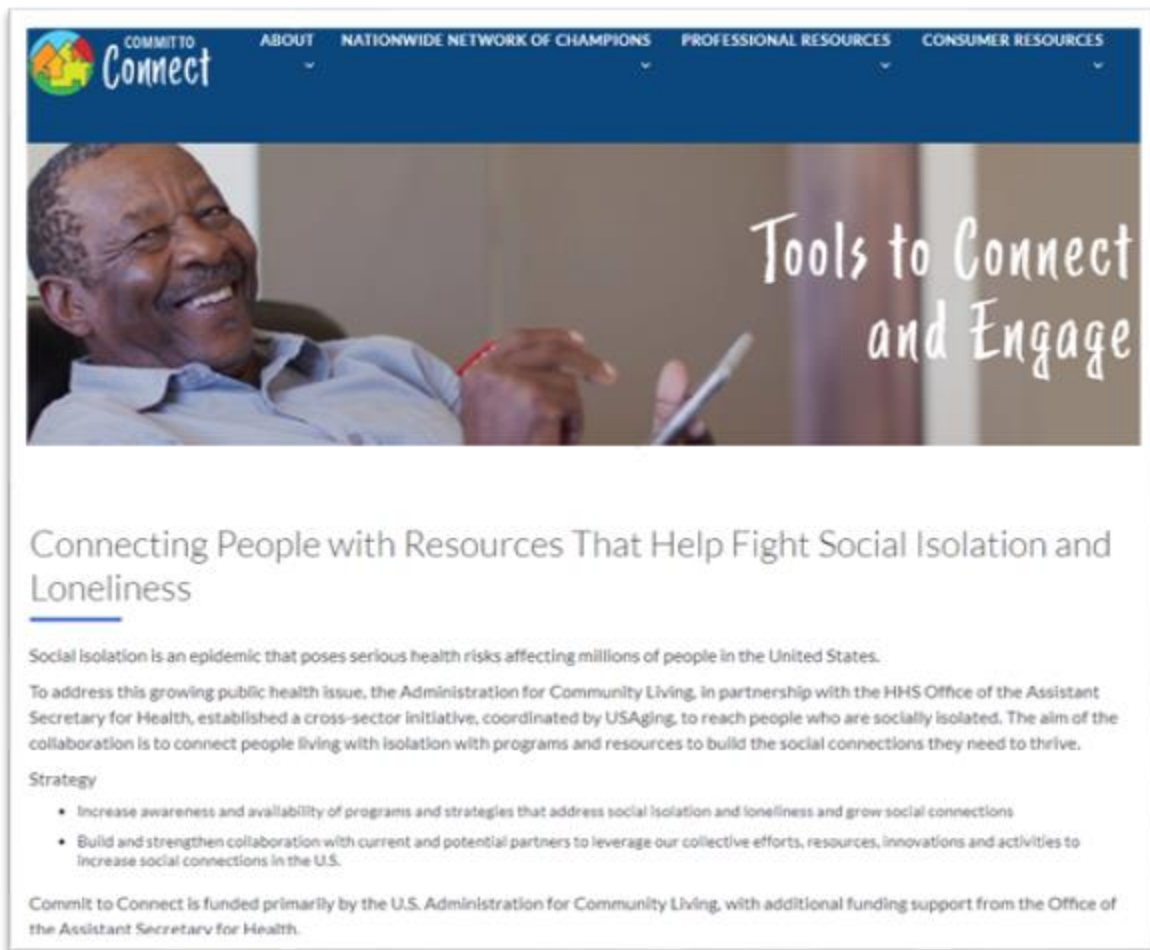
Learn more about the work Champions are doing to address SIL.

[Visit the Blog Page](#)



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Commit to Connect Resources



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ABOUT NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF CHAMPIONS PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES CONSUMER RESOURCES

Tools to Connect and Engage

Connecting People with Resources That Help Fight Social Isolation and Loneliness

Social isolation is an epidemic that poses serious health risks affecting millions of people in the United States.

To address this growing public health issue, the Administration for Community Living, in partnership with the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, established a cross-sector initiative, coordinated by USAging, to reach people who are socially isolated. The aim of the collaboration is to connect people living with isolation with programs and resources to build the social connections they need to thrive.

Strategy

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- Build and strengthen collaboration with current and potential partners to leverage our collective efforts, resources, innovations and activities to increase social connections in the U.S.

Commit to Connect is funded primarily by the U.S. Administration for Community Living, with additional funding support from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health.

- Visit the website and sign up for the newsletter at: <https://committtoconnect.org/>
- Learn about upcoming events and resources:
 - Webinars
 - Office Hours
 - Communities of Practice
 - Topical Guides
 - And more!



Social Isolation in Affordable Housing

- Most older adults live alone
 - HUD's average number of residents per Section 202 Unit: 1.1
 - Service Coordinators report 83% of residents they serve live alone
- Low income leads to reduced opportunities for socialization
 - Lack of transportation, internet access are likely leading causes of loneliness and isolation

Service Coordinators in Affordable Housing

- Connect residents to services and resources to assist them with aging well in their communities
- 5,000+ HUD Section 202 properties with service coordinators

Service Coordinators Address Social Isolation

- Service Coordinators personally support residents an average of 37 times per year
- Service Coordinators facilitate an average of 3 programs per year
- Fitness and Exercise, Socialization and Health and Wellness Programs are the most commonly organized and attended.

Programming that Fosters Social Connection

- Effective Programs Include Those That Are:
 - Informational *and* Entertaining
 - Catered to Demographics
 - Intergenerational
 - Focused on Holidays
- Other Considerations
 - Supporting Functional Design
 - Building a Welcoming Community
- Find Properties in Your Community
 - <https://resources.hud.gov/>





***Creating an Inclusive World,
One Community at a Time***



**Margot Greenlee
Executive Director
Our Stomping Ground**



We are OSG!



Our Mission

To build inclusive communities and strengthen neighborhoods through diverse programming, sustainable affordable housing, and social spaces for people of all abilities



Our Approach

1. **Housing is a human right.** Anyone can be housed with the appropriate supports.
2. We are **dismantling ableism** through building community and integrating neighborhoods.
3. **We don't need to reinvent the wheel.** By leveraging community partnerships and existing programs and services, we can provide robust, affordable programming.
4. **We fill the communication gap.** We connect people looking for housing with DBHDS support to ensure successful application process.
5. **Combat loneliness and isolation** with 100+ hours of programming and informal support.





Our Communities

We partner with affordable housing properties to support diverse communities



Gilliam Place
Arlington



Queens Court
Arlington



The Arden
Alexandria



The Waypoint
Alexandria



The Cadence
Arlington



Ovation at Arrowbrook
Herndon

Our Approach

Housing First Model

Prioritize permanent housing then add support through over 100+ hours of programming each month.



Our Approach

1. **First steps.** Find local partners with a mission match to provide free programming.
2. **Most engaging activities?** Make things together (food, art, gardens). Play partner games. Invite people to vote on what they want (movies, music). Lots of physical options (walks, hikes, yoga, dance.) Choice-making is key.
3. **Biggest lesson.** Ask opinions. Offer day, afternoon and evening events. Tutoring after school. Movies on Friday night. Think multi-generation.
4. **Barriers.** Cultural differences in definition of the role of older adults.
5. **Asset mapping.** Look for potential partners within a close radius. Local universities have Community Learning programs. Get interns!



Please get in touch.
We'd love to hear from you.



OSG website



Voice of America
Video

EMAIL

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WEBSITE

www.ourstompingground.org



@OSGInclusiveLiving



@OurStompingGround



@OurStompingGround





SOMETIMES THE SMARTEST MOVE IS NOT MOVING AT ALL

A Front Porch
Community Service





Front Porch Community Services

Front Porch Provides

- 19 Market Rate Retirement Communities
 - 32 Affordable Housing Communities
-

Four Categories of Support

- Nutrition
 - Social Connection
 - Creative Engagement
 - Housing
-

Six Community Service Programs

- Well Connected
- Well Connected Español
- Social Call
- Creative Spark
- Ruth's Table
- Market Day
- Home Match



WHAT IS HOME SHARING?

Renting a Room in a Home or Apartment
or an ADU on a Property

Economic Support:

Increased income for providers through rent and
affordable rent for seekers

Social Support:

Combat social isolation and support aging in place
through companionship, task exchange and
increased social connections



WHY HOME SHARING

“Given the significant health consequences of loneliness and isolation, we must **prioritize building social connection** the same way we have prioritized other critical public health issues” – U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy

We Can't Build Enough

Building affordable housing is costly and time consuming—we can't build enough fast enough. Shared housing allows us to leverage existing infrastructure to meet our housing needs.

Cost Burdened Older Adults

42% of Bay Area residents over the age of 65 are cost burdened, spending over 30% of income on rent. [1]

Social Isolation

“Although it's hard to measure social isolation and loneliness precisely, there is strong evidence that many adults aged 50 and older are socially isolated or lonely in ways that put their health at risk. Recent studies found that:” [2]

- “Social isolation significantly increased a person's risk of premature death from all causes, a risk that may rival those of smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity.” [2]
- Social isolation was associated with about a 50% increased risk of dementia. [2]

(1) <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/older-adults-2023-cost-burdens>

(2) <https://www.cdc.gov/aging/publications/features/lonely-older-adults.html>





HOME MATCH PROCESS

Home Visit/Intake

Compatible Matching

Introducing Candidates

Match Agreement

Ongoing Support

Application, home visit, list rooms, home seeker intake, vetting

Lifestyle preferences & communication style

Phone call, in-person meetings

Living together agreement, two parts: shared use of space, lease agreement

Support throughout the match



PROFILE OF SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPANTS

Home Providers

- Healthy Communication
- Task Exchange, Not Caregiving
- Adaptability

Home Seekers

- Healthy communication
- Affordability
- Not Emergency Housing
- Supportive/Stable housemate





Match Story San Francisco

Excerpt from Gary and Richard’s interview in the SF Chronicle.

“Because of [Home Match’s] vetting, Allenby and Sanchez say, they’ve found that respecting each other’s space and co-existing is no problem.

“If I wasn’t able to take in a roommate like this, I’d have to leave this city — maybe go live with family in Los Angeles,” Gary said. “And I don’t want to go there. I love San Francisco. This is my home, and this is how I stay here.”



Housemates Richard Sanchez, left, and Gary Allenby share a home in San Francisco through the Home Match nonprofit.
Santiago Mejia/The Chronicle



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THE WAY TO STAY

A Front Porch
Community Service





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Questions and Discussion

Please submit your questions or comments through the Q&A.

Thank you!

- Please complete the survey which will be displayed in your browser after Zoom closes.
- The recording will be available on www.committtoconnect.org
- For further questions, contact us at:
info@committtoconnect.org

Join us for more discussion in the Office Hours!

