Frequently Asked Questions

How can NYC Mesh's community network strengthen your constituents' community?

- We're committed to bridging the Digital Divide by connecting underserved communities in New York
- We are a neutral network that does not block or discriminate content or throttle data
- We do not collect personal data
- We offer reliable, low-cost, donation-based service, which we do not cut off for inability to contribute financially
- We are building a resilient emergency community network (for the next hurricane)
- We are decentralized, with no possible single point of failure as an organization or network
- We believe in building community and supporting highly localized websites and services
- We offer public wi-fi hotspots across the network
- We allow for fast uploads as well as downloads, so members of our community can serve content and services rather than only consume them from centralized hosts

How does it work?

Many NYC Mesh community members have wireless routers mounted on a rooftop or balcony to connect to other buildings, forming a network. Other installs, such as Grand Street Guild, use fiber in the ground to connect.

Our network peers (connects) with many other networks inside data centers, using an internet exchange point (IXP) connection. This gives us direct access to the Internet without paying a commercial Internet Service Provider. NYC Mesh maintains a number of fiber connected sites that we call "Supernodes."

Community Benefits Over Corporate Interests

Bypassing for-profit ISPs makes communities stronger

The internet is not a product people buy, it is a network people join. It was started by networks joining together. There was no charge for this, as both sides benefited. When networks join together, it is called "peering," which continues today in data centers. Nobody is required to pay for peering.

Internet Service Providers (ISPs) get between people and this free peering community by charging rent for these cables. ISPs aren't really selling bandwidth, they are renting cables. You can bypass the ISP and their fees and data collection. Community networks can bypass the ISPs by using long range wireless connections from data centers to your roof.

The internet is distributed across the planet with no central ownership, yet many people don't realize this. *We believe internet access is a human right.*

NYC Mesh legally bypasses the ISPs and uses community networks to reliably extend the internet to everyone...bringing fairness, equity and accessibility to ALL New Yorkers.

nycmesh.net
info@nycmesh.net

@nycmesh @nycmesh @nycmesh @nycmesh

NYC Mesh

NYC Mesh

Non-profit Community Internet dedicated to ending the digital divide
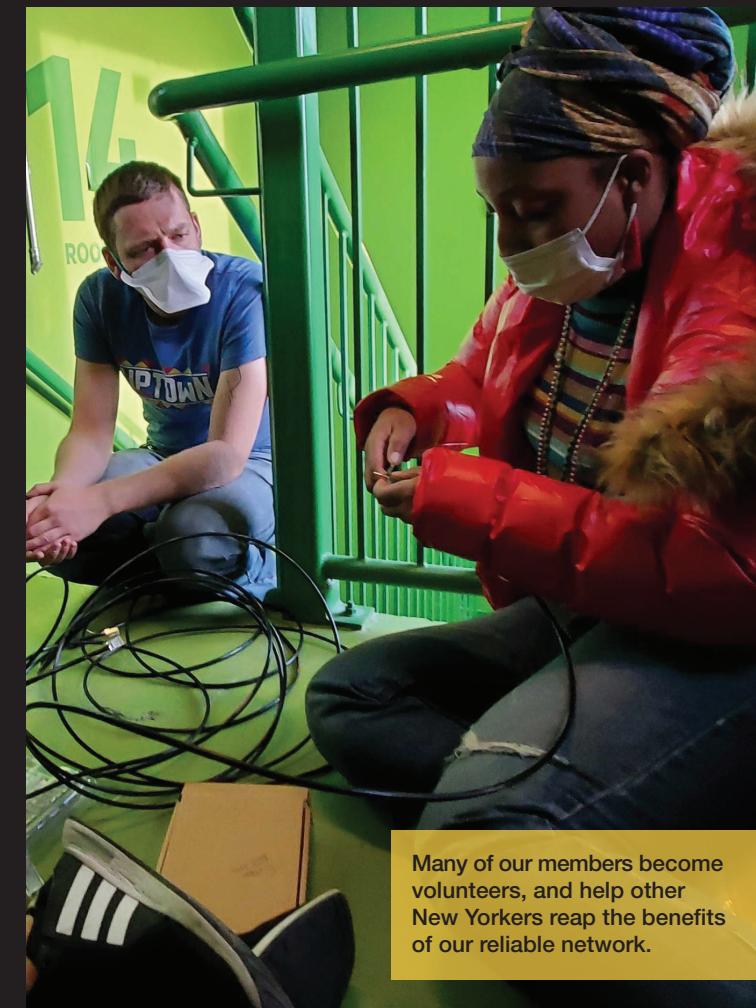
Many of our members become volunteers, and help other New Yorkers reap the benefits of our reliable network.

High-speed, low-cost, community-based internet for all New Yorkers

Forty-six percent of New York City households that live in poverty lack broadband internet acces. NYC Mesh [is] working to change that. —Newsweek —*Newsweek*

Case Studies

Sumner Houses

Located in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, and home to 2,400 NYCHA residents, Sumner Houses was the first public housing community at which NYC Mesh set up high-speed internet, after winning the City's Request for Proposals call. The 22-acre development now uses NYC Mesh as its ISP in community open spaces. The feedback is consistently encouraging.

"[It] blows my mind...how a pay-what-you-want ISP can routinely achieve speeds 2-4 times the crumbs the franchise providers throw their customers."

—TSB, NYC Mesh member

Grand Street Guild

Our first in-ground fiber project has been the Grand Street Guild campus on the Lower East Side, with its three 26-story towers. With over 1,500 residents, NYC Mesh has connected over 150 apartments in this HPD-sponsored complex to high-speed internet. The satisfaction of residents underscore how a community-based non-profit can deliver connectivity more effectively and equitably than the big-name ISPs.

"...Just wanted to let you know that I'm very satisfied with NYC Mesh. The speeds are insanely fast and smooth. Wish we could've had this sooner. Thank you for bringing this to the neighborhood.

—Grand Street Guild resident
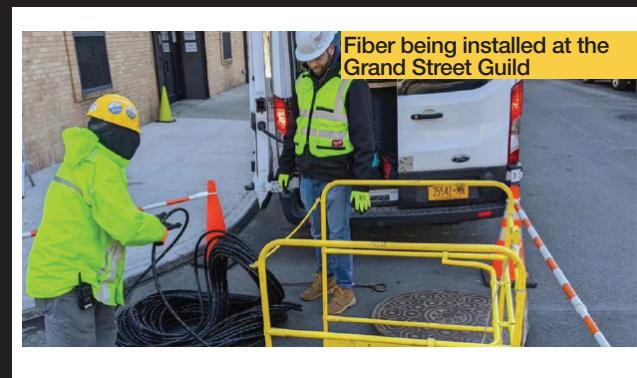
Residents and volunteers at the Sumner Houses install

Fiber being installed at the Grand Street Guild

NYC Mesh...

Our support is:

- ■ Fast,
- ■ Friendly
- ■ Same-day

"Check out @NYCMesh!! I will never look back."

—CB, NYC Mesh member