

Federal Communications Commission



Broadband and device benefit for low-income consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program – Enrollment begins May 12th

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB Program) is a broadband and device benefit for low-income consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The EBB Program will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month for broadband services for eligible consumers and/or a one-time device discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider. The one-time discount requires a consumer co-payment of more than \$10 and less than \$50.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is temporary. It will expire when funds are exhausted or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) declares the end of the COVID-19 health emergency.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced that the program will launch on May 12, 2021. At this time, consumers can apply for the program through the National Verifier at [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org) and service providers can begin enrolling consumers in the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD) who qualified through the National Verifier or through an alternative verification process (AVP), or who opted into the program from Lifeline.

Visit [USAC.org](https://www.usac.org) to follow EBB Program updates. For questions, email EBBHelp@usac.org.

FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Fact Sheet

On February 25th, the FCC unanimously adopted a Report and Order that established the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, a \$3.2 billion federal initiative to help lower the cost of high-speed internet for eligible households during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program was created by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

The Report and Order along with the rules governing this program can be [found here](#), but below are a few important facts:

What Is the Benefit?

- Up to \$50/month discount for broadband services;
- Up to \$75/month discount for broadband services for households on Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.
- The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per eligible household.

Who Is Eligible for the Emergency Broadband Benefit?

A household is eligible if one member of the household:

- Qualifies for the [Lifeline](#) program, including those who are on Medicaid or receive SNAP benefits;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, or did so in the 2019-2020 school year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020, and the household had a total income in 2020 below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

When Can Eligible Households Sign Up?

- The FCC expects the Emergency Broadband Benefit program to be open to eligible households before the end of April, 2021. Please check the FCC's website, www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit, regularly for the latest information.

How Will Eligible Households Sign Up?

- Eligible households will enroll through participating broadband providers or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Please check the FCC's website, www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit, regularly for the latest information on the enrollment process.

What Broadband Providers Will Be Offering the Emergency Broadband Benefit?

- Many types of broadband providers can qualify to provide service in this program.

- The FCC is currently setting up the systems needed for providers to participate.
- Contact information for the providers participating in the program will be posted on USAC's website: <https://www.usac.org/>.

Outreach

- The FCC is excited to partner with those who want to help get the word out about this critical program. Please visit www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit to sign up to receive important updates and information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit program.