

Program to Help Households Afford Internet Service During the Pandemic

WASHINGTON, February 25, 2021—Today, the FCC voted to formally adopt a Report and Order that establishes the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, a **\$3.2 billion federal initiative** to provide qualifying households discounts on their internet service bills and an opportunity to receive a discount on a computer or tablet.

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB Program)

<https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit> (800) 234-9473



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

Eligible consumers can receive:

- Up to \$50/month discount for broadband services
- Up to \$75/month discount for broadband services for households on qualifying Tribal lands;
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet supplied through a participating provider (consumer co-pay of more than \$10 and less than \$50 required)

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per eligible household

Program is temporary and expires 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

When Can I Sign Up for the Benefit?

Possible Opening Date April 21, 2021

- The program has been authorized by the FCC, but the start date has not yet been established. The FCC is working to make the benefit available as quickly as possible. Please continue to check this page for program updates.

Eligibility Criteria

Households can qualify for the EBB Program by showing that at least one member of their household meets one of the following criteria:

1. Qualifies for the FCC's [Lifeline program](#), including those who are on Medicaid or receive SNAP benefits,
2. Approved for the free or reduced-price school breakfast/lunch program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision,
3. Experienced substantial documented 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,
4. Received a federal Pell Grant in the current award year, or
5. Qualifies for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 relief program, subject to FCC approval of that provider's eligibility process.