

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT

May 2021

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On December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 became law and established an Emergency Broadband Benefit Connectivity Fund of \$3.2 billion. The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program to help families and households struggling to afford broadband internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new benefit will help connect eligible households to access educational resources, job-related information, critical healthcare services, virtual classrooms and so much more.

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Provisions

The EBB program will provide a **temporary** discount on bills of up to **\$50 per month** towards broadband service and associated equipment rentals for eligible households and up to **\$75 per month** for households on qualifying tribal lands.

Eligible households can also receive a **one-time discount of up to \$100** to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 towards the purchase price.

Eligibility for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

A household is eligible if a member of the household meets one of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 135 percent of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) or participates in certain assistance programs, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, [Lifeline](#), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit or tribal programs (and you live on qualifying tribal lands);
- Received a federal Pell Grant during the current award year;

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- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to a job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020, and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Application

Eligible households can apply in three ways:

1. Contact your local broadband provider directly to learn about the application process or find participating broadband providers at:
<https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-providers#Tennessee>.
2. To apply online, visit [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org)
3. Call 833-511-0311 for a physical application and mail it along with copies of documents showing proof of eligibility to:
Emergency Broadband Support Center
P.O. Box 7081
London, KY 40742

Additional Details

The EBB program is open for enrollment starting May 12, 2021. The EBB program is a temporary program developed as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This program will end once the program funds are exhausted or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares an end to the pandemic, whichever comes first.

For more information, visit www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit.



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