# Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

## Overview & Eligibility Criteria

**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

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# 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.

# EBB Program Requirements

- Broadband service plans that were available as of December 1, 2020 are eligible for reimbursement.

- Broadband providers, including those that have not been designated as eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs), can participate in the EBB Program after filing an Election Notice with USAC. Non-ETCs must receive FCC approval to participate in the program prior to filing their Election Notice.

- EBB Program service providers will use the Lifeline National Eligibility Verifier (National Verifier) to check consumer eligibility and will use National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD) and Lifeline Claims System to enroll subscribers and submit reimbursement requests. Providers with existing low income or COVID-19 programs can seek FCC approval to use an alternative eligibility verification process.

- 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.

# Stay Informed About The EBB Program

- For service providers:
  - Visit USAC.org to follow EBB Program updates
  - Sign up for the USAC EBB Program Outreach List to:
  - Receive EBB Program email updates
  - Learn about EBB Program trainings
  - Visit https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-program for information about the provider application process

- For consumers:
  - Visit fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit for the latest information on the Emergency Broadband Benefit

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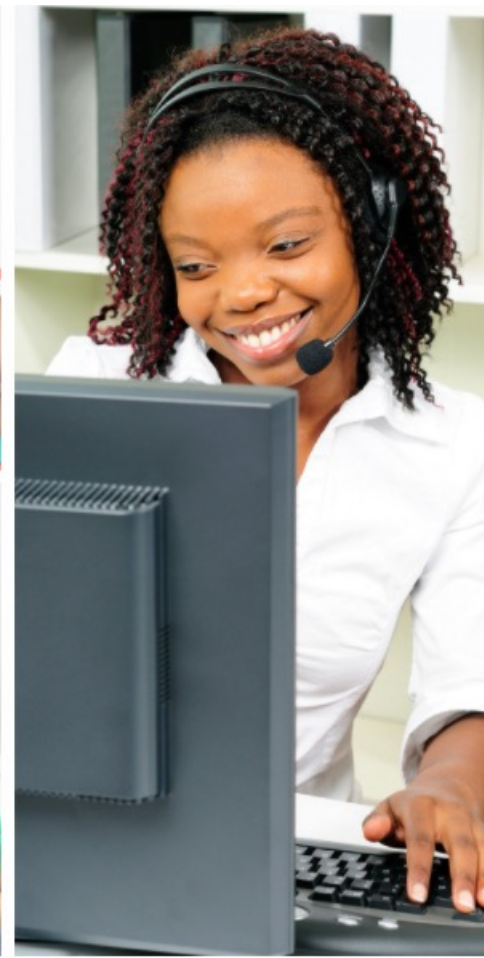
# Questions?

**Up Next: Resident Eligibility**

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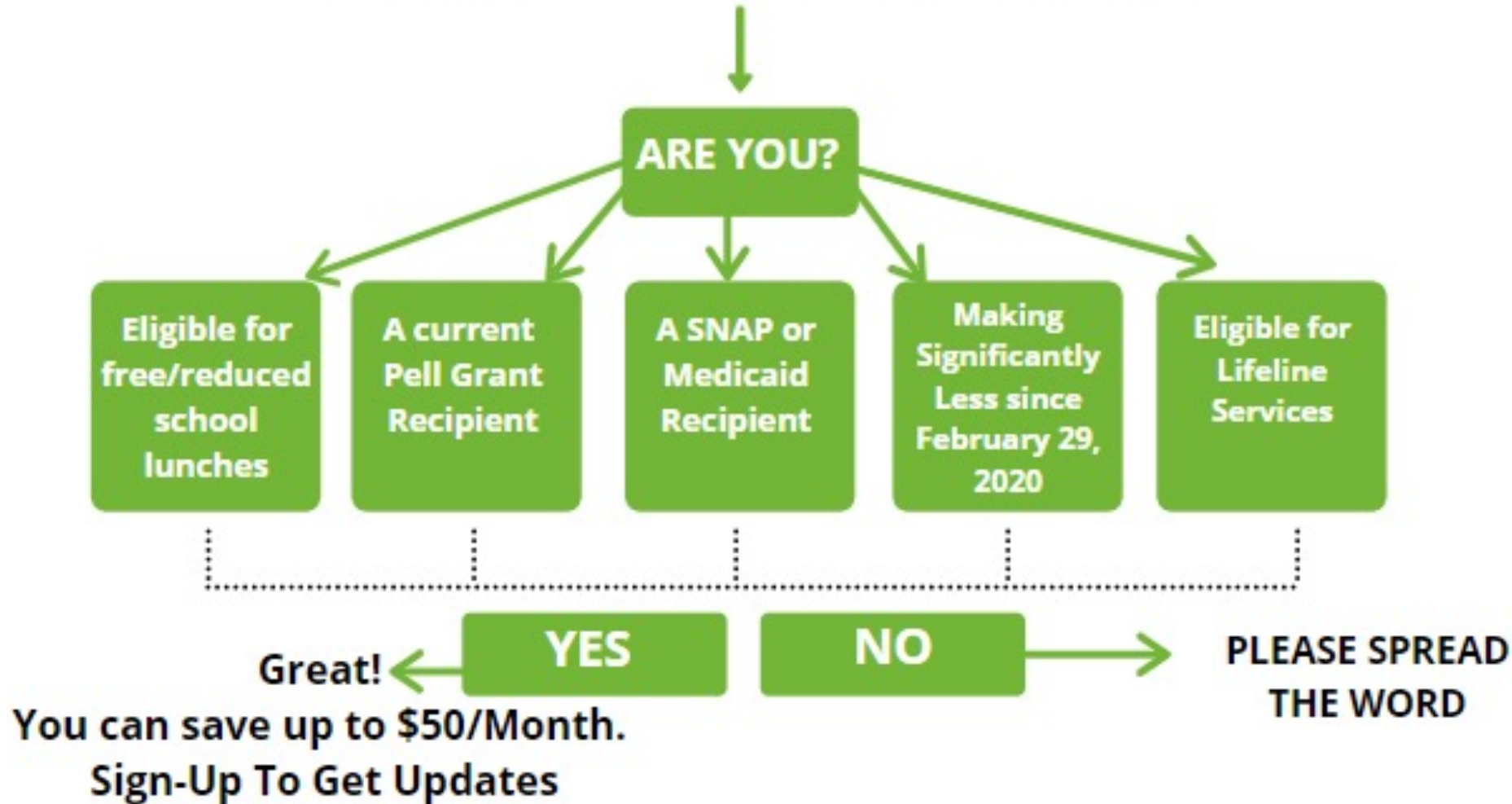
# You can also get a discounted device

Households eligible for **FREE INTERNET** are also eligible for a discounted device.

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# FAQ

**When can I sign up?**
Sign-Up for updates! The earliest date will probably be April 26. We'll let you know as soon as the information is available.

**What documentation will I need to provide?**
Sign-Up for updates. We don't know everything, but we do know there are options to *not* provide a social security number.

**Have an unpaid internet bill?**
You're still eligible!

Am I eligible?

**Does the benefit go directly to applicants?**
No. The bill is discounted by the provider.

**How long does the benefit last?**
There is no set expiration date. The benefit will end when the 3.2 billion is spent or six months after the end of Covid-19.

**Can my roommate and I get the benefit?**
No. One benefit per household.

**Can I receive Lifeline and EBB at the same time?**
Yes!

# Am I eligible?

There are several ways in which a household can qualify for EBBP discounts. An household is eligible when it has experienced one of the following conditions:

- Substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020, due to layoff or furlough;
- Applying for or receiving unemployment benefits;
- One household member received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year;
- One household member receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program, or breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, or did so in the 2019-2020 school year;
- One household member meets the eligibility requirements for an Internet service provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program;
- One household member qualifies for the Lifeline program, or participates in one of the following federal assistance programs:
  - Medicaid Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - Federal Public Housing Assistance Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit; or
  - A household's income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of that size.

# How Do I Enroll?

Current Lifeline Subscribers
- Will not need to apply for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program or provide any new documents to prove eligibility.
- Subscribers need to opt-in to a plan provided by their current broadband provider or request enrollment in the program.
- Current subscribers can keep Lifeline benefit while also adding a plan that is offered through the EBBP

Non-Lifeline Subscribers
- Apply through the National Lifeline Verifier
  - Can be completed online or via mail
  - Applicants must provide a full name, date of birth, address and one of the following SSN, government issued ID, passport, driver's license or Taxpayer Identification Number
- Applicants can immediately find out whether they qualify or if additional documents are required

# When Can I Apply?

The FCC has not set a date for enrollment to begin. However, enrollment is expected to start by May 2021. The enrollment period is required to close six months after the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that the pandemic emergency is over, or when the $3.2 billion appropriated by Congress has been exhausted, whichever occurs first.
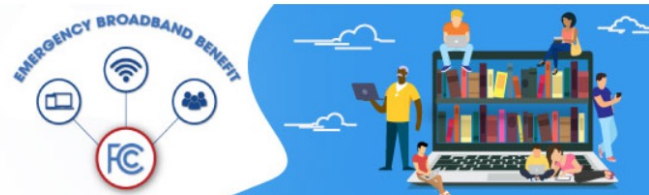
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# Resources

For consumers:

- Visit fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit for the latest information on the Emergency Broadband Benefit

## Emergency Broadband Benefit

Español | 繁體中文 | Tagalog | Tiếng Việt | 한국어

**Helping Households Connect During the Pandemic**

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is an FCC program to help households struggling to pay for internet service during the pandemic. This new benefit will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, and virtual classrooms.

*"We need to use all available tools to get 100% of us connected in this country and this program is an essential part of making that happen."*
*Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel*

## Become an Outreach Partner

The FCC is mobilizing people and organizations to help share important consumer information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit. To participate, please fill out and submit the form below:

**Email** *

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# Thank You!