

HELP FOR AFFORDABLE BROADBAND IS HERE!

Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Federal Program for PA Consumers

Began May 12, 2021

What is the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. The EBB uses \$3.2 billion in federal funding Congress approved in December 2020. The EBB gives eligible households money to buy internet service and equipment to use the internet. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the important role that affordable broadband plays in education, employment, health and other purposes as people are now relying on broadband access to the internet more than ever.

How Much is the Average EBB Support?

The program will provide eligible households with discounts of up to \$50 a month for broadband service. Eligible households can also get a one-time discount of up to \$100 on equipment to use the internet. Equipment includes a computer or tablet if they contribute \$10-\$50 toward the price for the equipment. The benefit is limited to one service discount per month and one device discount per household. This EBB is in addition to, not in place of, the current Lifeline Program that provides \$5.25 a month to support affordable broadband service.

Who is Eligible for the EBB?

The program is income based. For example, it is open to Lifeline subscribers and households that currently participate in [Lifeline](#), including consumers whose income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or who receive Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, Federal Housing or Veterans benefits. Consumers who receive free or reduced-price school lunch, or have received a federal Pell grant, are also eligible.

Eligibility for EBB also includes individual households with annual income up to \$100,000 or dual households making up to \$198,000 a year if they are impacted by COVID through a substantial loss of income since Feb. 29, 2020. More information is available on the [FCC website](#).

When Did the EBB Begin?

The EBB began May 12, 2021. The program will end when the fund runs out of money, or six months after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declares an end to the COVID-19 health emergency, whichever is sooner.

How Can Consumers Get the EBB?

1. Visit the EBB website at [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org) or
2. Call your internet service provider and ask if they are an EBB provider.

Who is Providing EBB in Pennsylvania?

Most of the telephone, cable and wireless providers are providing EBB. Consumers also can visit the [FCC website](#) to see a list of participating Pennsylvania providers.

Where Can I Get More Information on EBB?

Visit the EBB website at [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org). Ask your provider about EBB. Visit the [FCC website](#).



Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

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www.puc.pa.gov

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