The Application for the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Opens May 12th

On May 12, the FCC will launch the Emergency Broadband Benefit, a temporary program to help families and households struggling to afford broadband service during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Prior to the pandemic, many individuals, families, and children relied on their schools, places of work, and other public "third" spaces like libraries, churches, internet cafes and coffee shops to connect to the internet because they did not have a broadband internet connection in the home.

However, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, access to those public places disappeared and with it, so did the access to a reliable broadband internet connection for millions.

Recognizing this issue, Congress passed the COVID-19 relief package in December, setting aside $3.2 billion for the FCC to cover the Emergency Broadband Benefit program.

What is the Emergency Broadband Benefit?

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a temporary FCC program to help families and households struggling to afford broadband internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides:

- Up to $50/month discount for broadband service;
- Up to $75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to $100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider if the household contributes more than $10 but less than $50 toward the purchase price.

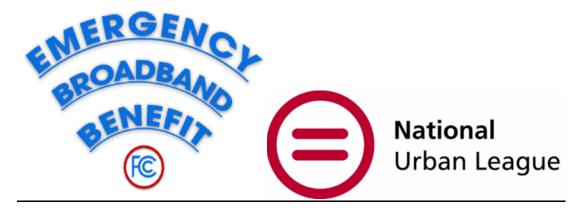The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to *one monthly service discount* and *one device discount per household*.

When does the program start?
The program opens for enrollment on May 12, 2021.

When does the program end?
The EBB is a temporary emergency benefit program. The 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.

Therefore, it is important to apply for the benefit as *early* as possible.

Am I eligible for the Benefit?
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% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or Lifeline;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, or did so in the 2019-2020 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

How will I receive the funds?
Your household will not directly receive funds. The participating broadband service provider will receive the funds directly from the Emergency Broadband Benefit program, and will show as a discount on your monthly bill.

How do I apply for the Benefit?
There are Three Ways to Apply:

1. **Contact your preferred participating broadband provider** directly to learn about their application process.
2. **Go to GetEmergencyBroadband.org** to apply online and to find participating providers near you.
3. **Call 833-511-0311 for a mail-in application**, and return it along with proof of eligibility to:
   Emergency Broadband Support Center
   P.O. Box 7081
   London, KY 40742

Additional Resources
FCC Consumer FAQs for the Emergency Broadband Benefit
NDIA Emergency Broadband Benefit FAQs
NDIA Emergency Broadband Benefit Webinar

How can I help my community? Use the following tweet to help us promote the program!

The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides discounts for households struggling to afford #broadband service during the #COVID19 pandemic. @NatUrbLeague & @FCC want you to know more. Find out if you qualify & how to apply: fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit #DigitalDivide #BroadbandForAll