

## Emergency Broadband Benefit vs. Affordable Connectivity Program

*Accessing ways to help pay for Internet access at home*

The **Emergency Broadband Fund (EBB)**, created during the pandemic, is sunsetting on December 31, 2021. In its place will be the **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**, which will be a more permanent benefit. The good news is that any households enrolled in the EBB program as of 12/31/21 will continue to receive their current monthly benefit during a 60-day transition period, and will be automatically enrolled in the ACP if they still meet the criteria, so will not need to enroll again.

	Emergency Broadband Benefit	Affordable Connectivity Program
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?	Up to <b>\$50 per month</b> (\$75 for households on qualifying Tribal lands)	Up to <b>\$30 per month</b> (\$75 for households on qualifying Tribal lands)
	<b>Both:</b> One-time \$100 device credit toward the purchase of a connected device, such as a laptop, desktop, or tablet (only with participating providers)	
WHO IS ELIGIBLE?	<b>A household is eligible if a member meets at least one of these criteria:</b>	
	135% of the federal poverty guidelines	200% of the federal poverty guidelines
	Government assistance programs such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance</li> <li>• Medicaid</li> <li>• Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</li> <li>• Federal Public Housing Assistance</li> <li>• Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit</li> </ul> Participation in Free and Reduced Price School Meal program  Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current year  Demonstrated loss of income post-February 29, 2020	Same as the EBB except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrated loss of income post-February 29, 2020 has been removed.</li> <li>• Participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children has been added.</li> </ul>
FOR HOW LONG?	Phasing out <b>December 31, 2021</b> ; households already enrolled in EBB will be transitioned to the ACP	Beginning <b>January 2022</b> and more permanent until funds are used up
WHAT SERVICE PLANS?	Only certain internet service plans are eligible. The provider chooses which one(s)	The consumer can select any internet service plan to apply for the benefit

## Other notable changes with the Affordable Connectivity Program:

### Public Awareness

- Participating service providers are required to conduct “public awareness” campaigns, in collaboration with public interest groups and non-profit organizations, to highlight the value of the Affordable Connectivity Program as well as inform the public about the benefits of broadband and internet access.

### Collaboration and Data Sharing

- The new law requires that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) work with other federal agencies such as the Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Health and Human Services to ensure that participants in their federal programs receive information about the ACP, as well as how to enroll in the program. In addition, these agencies must work with the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) - which administers the EBB and will administer the ACP - to share data with the online National Lifeline Verifier to streamline eligibility for the ACP.

### Consumer Protections

- The FCC will also issue rules to protect consumers against the following by service providers:
  - Upselling or downselling services by the internet service provider.
  - Restricting the consumer from changing internet service providers or offerings (the consumer still needs to return any provider-owned equipment).
  - Insisting that the consumer enter into an extended contract to participate in the ACP.
  - Requiring consumers to get a credit check to receive the benefit.

## How does a household enroll in the EBB before December 31?

There are three ways to apply:

1. **Contact a participating broadband provider** directly to learn about their application process. For a full list of participating providers see: <https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-providers>
2. Go to [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org) to apply online
3. **Mail in an application** ([English](#) or [Spanish](#)) and return it along with proof of eligibility to **Emergency Broadband Support Center, P.O. Box 7081, London, KY 40742**

### Need Help?

USAC is available to support your families in their EBB enrollment. If they have any questions or need assistance, they can contact them via:

Email: [EBBHelp@usac.org](mailto:EBBHelp@usac.org)

Phone: (833) 511-0311, 7 days a week, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. PT (9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET).