



#146-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #146-21**

DATE: June 4, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Federal Communication Commission's Emergency Broadband Benefit**

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school food authorities (SFAs) of the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC's) Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. The EBB program is a temporary federal program that launched on May 12, 2021, to help eligible households pay for Internet service during the pandemic. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) administers the EBB program under the direction of the FCC.

About the EBB Program

The purpose of the EBB program is to assist eligible families struggling to afford their monthly Internet service. The program provides a monthly discount of not more than \$50 per month on broadband service and associated equipment (for example, a modem) for eligible households and not more than \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. If the participating consumer chooses an eligible plan that costs \$50 per month or less, the consumer will receive that service for free until the EBB program ends.

Each participating household may also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 for one connected device (a laptop, desktop, or tablet computer) where available from a participating broadband provider, as long as the household contributes more than \$10 and less than \$50 towards the cost of the device. Each participating household is limited to a single

device discount. It is important to note that not all participating providers are offering a connected device, so this might be something families consider when selecting which participating provider they will use.

Who is Eligible for the EBB Program?

Households with a child, who was approved to receive free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or the School Breakfast Program (SBP) during the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year, including children who attend schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), are eligible for the EBB program. This includes any child who currently receives benefits during the 2020-2021 school year or did so in the 2019-2020 school year. For 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 CEP-participating schools or divisions, all students are eligible for the EBB program.

In addition, households can qualify for the EBB program if the household has an income at or below 135 percent of the federal poverty guidelines OR any member of the household:

- received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- is enrolled in or qualifies for the Lifeline program through participation 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
- participates in one of several Tribal specific programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal Head Start (only households meeting the relevant income qualifying standard), Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- experienced a substantial loss of income due to 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 providers' existing low-income or COVID-19 Internet service program.

How do Families Sign Up for the EBB Program?

There are three ways to apply for the EBB program:

1. Families may contact their preferred participating broadband provider directly to learn about their application process.
2. Families may visit [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org) to apply online and to find participating providers near them.
3. Families may 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.

Strategies for Outreach to Families

As trusted community members, schools and divisions are encouraged to engage in outreach to eligible families. In addition, schools and divisions can take steps to help families navigate the sign-up process. Consider using the following strategies to get the word out to families:

- Use the **Outreach Toolkit** (linked below) to inform eligible families about the EBB program.
- Create an outreach team or partner with a trusted community organization.
- Help families identify participating providers.
- Organize a provider fair.

EBB Program Resources for Schools and Divisions

The [U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Technology](#) offers a variety of EBB program resources for schools and divisions:

- [Letter and FAQs for K-12 schools and divisions](#) (PDF)
- [Outreach Toolkit for K-12 schools and divisions](#) (PDF)
- [Template Letter for Free or Reduced-Priced Lunch Verification](#) (DOCX)
- [Sample Consent Form](#) (DOCX)

For more information

For more information about the EBB program, please reach out to Kyle Rosner, Deputy Broadband Advisor, Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam, via phone at (804) 371-7041 or at Kyle.Rosner@governor.virginia.gov.

JFL/SCC/cc

- Resource: [FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Providers](#)