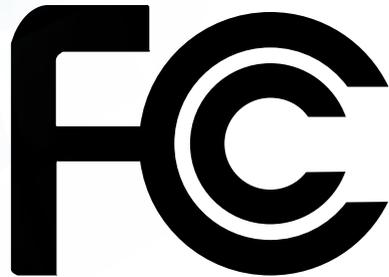




# **FCC February 2021 Open Meeting**

## **Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Overview**



**Federal Communications Commission  
Wireline Competition Bureau  
Telecommunications Access Policy  
Division**

**February 17, 2021**

# Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Overview

## February 17, 2021

## Overview

- On December 27, 2020, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act (the Act) into law.
- The Act, among other changes, established the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program to support broadband service and equipment for low-income households.



# Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Overview

## February 17, 2021

### Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Provisions

- **Funding.** The Act establishes a \$3.2 billion Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund and directs the FCC to use that Fund to create the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP).
- **Participating Providers.** Providers must elect to participate in EBBP.
  - Eligible telecommunications carriers that currently participate in the Lifeline program may participate in EBBP.
  - Other broadband providers that had a low-income program as of April 1, 2020 may receive automatic approval from the FCC.
  - All other broadband providers may seek expedited approval from the FCC to participate.

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### Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Provisions

- **Broadband Service.** The EBBP benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month on broadband service and associated equipment provided to low-income households.
  - On Tribal lands, the discount increases to up to \$75 per month.
  - Participating providers receive reimbursement for providing discounts to eligible low-income households.
- **Connected Devices.** EBBP will support a one-time discount of up to \$100 off the price of a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet.
  - Household must pay between \$10 and \$50 toward the price of the device.



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### Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Provisions

- **Eligible Households.** A household may qualify for the EBBP benefit if at least one member of the household:
  - Meets the qualifications for Lifeline;
  - Has been approved to receive benefits from the free and reduced price lunch program or school breakfast program;
  - Has experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020;
  - Has received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year; or
  - Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

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### Implementation

- **Administration.**

- FCC will be using the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to administer the EBBP
  - USAC operates the Lifeline National Verifier and National Lifeline Accountability Database, which the FCC will leverage for eligibility verifications and reimbursement processing.
- FCC may apply existing Lifeline program rules to the EBBP



Universal Service  
Administrative Co.

Lifeline National Verifier

NLAD

# Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Overview

## February 17, 2021

### Next Steps

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EBBP Roundtable

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