



Getting Connected:

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

New federal initiative to cut the cost of high-speed internet

What is the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program?

The EBB is a \$3.2 billion federal initiative to help Americans access the affordable, high-speed internet they need during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a short-term program that will end once the funds have been utilized.

What Is the Benefit?

- Up to \$50/month discount for high-speed internet services.
- Up to \$75/month discount for high-speed internet services for households on Tribal lands.
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

Do I Qualify?

Americans who may have experienced financial setbacks during the COVID-19 pandemic or are struggling to get by may be eligible for the EBB program, including those who:

- Qualify for the Lifeline program, as well as those who participate in certain federal assistance programs, such as Medicaid, SNAP, and SSI benefits.
- Experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020, and the household had a total income in 2020 below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers.
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, or did so in the 2019-2020 school year.

How Do I Sign Up?

- Eligible households will enroll through participating broadband providers or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

Where Do I Go to Learn More?

See the latest information and participating providers in your state:

- Website: aarp.org/EBB
- Text: **INTERNET to 22777**
- Call: **1-833-511-0311**



End the Digital Divide

If the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us anything, it's that access to high-speed internet is not a luxury; it's a necessity. AARP fought for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB) because too many Americans do not have access to the affordable, high-speed internet they need.

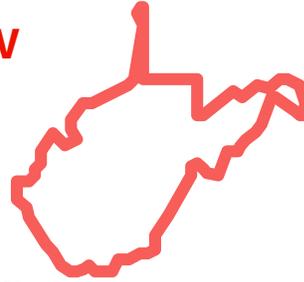
High-Speed Internet Deployment in WV

Total Population
Unserviced:

20%

Rural Population
Unserviced:

33%



Data as of December 2019, released by the FCC on Jan. 19, 2021
High-Speed Internet Deployment (ADSL, Fiber, Cable), 25/3 Mbps and above

Improve Communities Across the State

Without access to high-speed internet, communities suffer, losing out on opportunities for people to learn, find jobs, stay healthy—and for local businesses to prosper. West Virginians without access to high-speed internet are losing out and being left behind when it comes to:



**Teleworking and
finding new jobs**



**Connecting with
family and friends**



**Accessing virtual
classrooms for kids
and adults**



**Finding new
customers for their
small business**



**Virtual visits with
doctors and nurses**

Avoid Isolation for Seniors

High-speed internet helps older Americans avoid isolation from family and friends and helps them remain independent as they age. Virtual visits keep residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities connected when in-person visits are limited.



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