

What the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Means for WV

Starting May 12th, eligible West Virginians can take advantage of a new government subsidy designed to offset the cost of getting connected at home during the pandemic and receive:

- \$50 off their monthly internet bill
- One-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers.

The ongoing pandemic has made clear the importance of a reliable, affordable broadband connection at home, but connections like that aren't always easy to afford. That's why Congress helped pass a new subsidy program called the Emergency Broadband Benefit, which is administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). That program starts today and ends when the \$3.2 billion Congress provided for the program runs out.

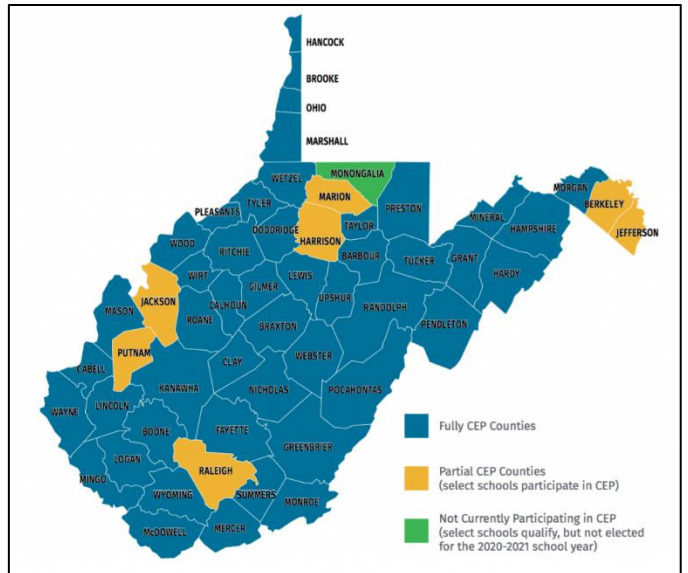
Step 1: Determine Your Eligibility

- Go to the FCC's [website](#) and see if you apply.

Most households with children in WV schools automatically qualify for the Emergency Broadband Benefit.

- If you have a children enrolled in school in any of the counties in blue in Figure 1, you qualify.
- If you live in a gold county and your school district participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program (meaning your child receives free or reduced school lunch), go [here](#) to see if you qualify via your school district.
- If you or your child received federal Pell Grant in the past year, you qualify.

Figure 1. USDA CEP – WV Participating Counties



You can also qualify based on your income.

- See Figure 2 for qualifying income levels, or if a member of your household already participates in certain assistance programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, or Lifeline.

Finally, you can qualify if your household experienced a substantial loss of income, due to a job loss or furlough that occurred since February 29, 2020.

- Households must make \$99,000 or less for single filers and \$198,000 or less for joint filers.

Step 2: Obtain Proof of Eligibility

- Be prepared to show proof of income, or another document if you apply through reduced-school lunch or another program.

Step 3: Check participating providers

- Check Senator Manchin's list of eligible providers in WV
- Go to the FCC's [website](#) and see a list of companies near you

Step 4: Apply now

- You can apply on the FCC's [website](#) or with the assistance of your phone or internet company.

Figure 2.

QUALIFYING INCOME LEVELS	
# of people in household	Income
1	\$17,388
2	\$23,517
3	\$29,646
4	\$35,775
5	\$41,904
6	\$48,033
7	\$54,162
8	\$60,291
<i>For each additional person: +\$6,129</i>	

Participating WV Providers in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

Broadband Provider Name	Service Type	Offering Connected Devices (Laptop, Desktop, or Tablet)
A&A Communications	Fixed	
Access Wireless	Mobile	
American Broadband and Telecommunications Company	Mobile	✓
Armstrong Telecommunications	Fixed	
AT&T	Mobile	
Atlantic Broadband Finance	Fixed	
Boost Mobile	Mobile	
Cellspan	Mobile	✓
Charter (Spectrum)	Fixed	
Cintex Wireless	Mobile	
Comcast (Xfinity)	Fixed	
enTouch Wireless	Mobile	✓
Frontier Communications	Fixed	
good2go mobile	Mobile	
Hardy Telecommunications	Fixed	
human-I-T	Mobile	✓
Life Wireless	Mobile	
Massillon Cable TV (MCTV)	Fixed	
Metro by T-Mobile	Fixed/Mobile	✓
Mikrotec CATV	Fixed	
Otelco	Fixed	
PCs for People	Mobile	✓

Broadband Provider Name	Service Type	Offering Connected Devices (Laptop, Desktop, or Tablet)
QCOL	Fixed	✓
Q Link Wireless	Mobile	✓
Ready Wireless	Mobile	
Sano Health	Mobile	
Selectel Wireless	Mobile	✓
Shentel, Glofiber, Beam Wireless	Fixed	
Skypacket Networks	Fixed	
StandUp Wireless	Mobile	✓
Suddenlink	Fixed	
TerraCom	Mobile	✓
T-Mobile USA	Fixed/Mobile	✓
TracFone Wireless	Mobile	✓
TruConnect	Mobile	✓
U.S. Cellular	Fixed/Mobile	
Verizon	Fixed/Mobile	