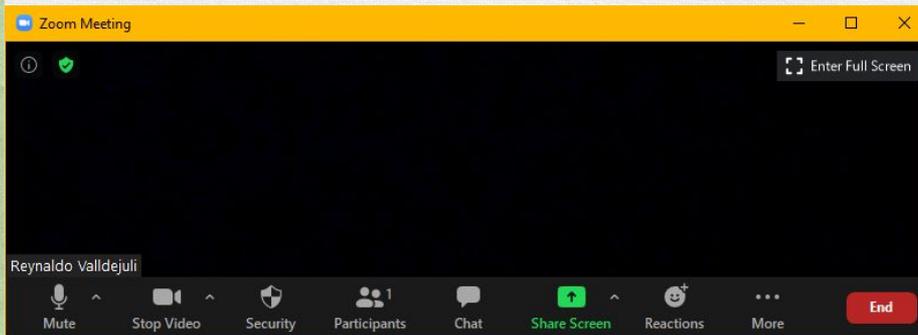


Zoom Meeting Preparation

- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”
- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”
- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.



NOTICE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance at this meeting please contact Idoecommunications@la.gov.



**EBB and ECF Funding
May 2021**

Agenda

- Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program
- Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program

Suggested participants
for this call:

- Chief Technology Officers
- Information Technology Staff
- E-Rate Coordinators
- Budget Managers



Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

The Federal Communications Commission released their rules for the [The Emergency Broadband Benefit program](#). This program provides will provides

- Up to a \$50/month discount on your broadband service and associated equipment rentals
- Up to a \$75/month discount for households living on Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop, or tablet computer with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50 from participating providers.

Eligibility for Students*: Students who attend/attended a CEP school and/or qualify for free/reduced lunch program for 2019-20 or 2020-2021 school years qualify for this benefit. Each household can only qualify for a single benefit even if the household has multiple students.

Consumer applications opened May 12, 2021 and can be accessed at getemergencybroadband.org.

A list of providers approved to participate in the EBB program can be found [here](#).

**Note there are other criteria where families can qualify, go to [EBB Eligibility](#) for more information*

Steps to Apply for EBB

STEP 1: Determine Eligibility

- Students can determine if they are eligible for the program under the CEP criteria by going [here](#) and selecting their school system and school name.
- Students who do not attend a CEP school and qualify based on direct certification or an approved free/reduced lunch program application, will need to provide proof of eligibility. School systems can provide these students with documentation of their eligibility for applying.
 - Documentation can be in the form of a benefit award letter, approval letter, or benefit verification letter.
 - Documentation must include:
 - Student's first and last name
 - Qualifying program name (SNAP, Free/Reduced Lunch, etc..)
 - The name of the government, Tribal entity, program administrator, school, school district, university, or college that issued the document
 - An issue date within the last 12 months or a future expiration date. For the Free and Reduced Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, documents can be from either the 2019-2020 or the 2020-2021 school years.

Steps to Apply

STEP 2: Find a Participating Provider

- Student households can identify providers in their area who are participating in the EBB program by going to <https://getemergencybroadband.org/companies-near-me/>.
- To find a provider, households will list their zip code or city/state
- Depending on the provider chosen, that provider may require additional steps of an applicant or require the applicant to apply for EBB via their provider process.

Steps to Apply for EBB

STEP 3: Apply for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

There are three ways to apply for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program.

- 1. Complete USAC's [Online Application](#)**
- 2. Complete a printed application and Mail to USAC**
 - Printed applications are available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [9 additional languages](#)
 - Complete the application and send with proof of eligibility to:
Emergency Broadband Support Center, P.O. Box 7081, London, KY 40742
- 3. Apply via a Broadband Provider**

Ask your provider if they participate in the EBB Program, or use the [online tool](#) to find a participating provider near you. Participating companies can help you apply through the National Verifier or through their company's application process.

Note: Some applicants may be required to submit qualification documents listed [here](#).

Links to Resources

The FCC has provided the following resources on their [website](#).

- [Toolkit Overview and Guide](#) (including sample social media language)
- [EBB Program Flyer](#)
- [EBB Program Brochure](#) (digital)
- [EBB Program Brochure](#) (print)
- [Social Media Image Files](#)
- [Printed Application forms and instructions](#)





Emergency Connectivity Funding (ECF)

American Rescue Plan Act: Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

The Emergency Connectivity fund is a \$7.1 billion FCC program to address millions of students who lacked home broadband connections and access to computers.

Eligible Recipients: Public schools, non-public schools, libraries and consortiums. Recipients do not need to participate in the E-Rate program to participate in ECF.

Prioritization:

To ensure that funding is focused on unmet need, schools are required to certify, as part of their funding application, that they are only seeking support for eligible equipment and services provided to students and school staff who would otherwise lack access to connected devices sufficient to engage in remote learning.

The EDF program will not impose any specific metrics or process requirements on need determinations, but schools are expected to take reasonable measures to determine need, avoid duplicating support provided by other programs.

American Rescue Plan Act: Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

Eligible Equipment and services:

- Wi-Fi hotspots
- Modems,
- Routers,
- Devices that combine a modem and router
- Air-cards
- Laptops or Tablet computers that are capable of connecting to a network/Internet connection, including being Wi-Fi enabled and able to support video conferencing platforms and educational software. Devices should accommodate disabilities if needed.

American Rescue Plan Act: Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

Service Locations: Locations other than the school or library where students would be virtually learning or teachers would be virtually instructing.

Cost Reimbursements:

- Connected Devices (laptops and tablets) - maximum of \$400 reimbursement per device
- Wi-Fi Hotspots - maximum of \$250 reimbursement
- Modems, routers, and devices that combine modems and routers - Reimbursement amount TBD

Any costs above the reimbursement amount will be the responsibility of the school system. School system can use other federal funds to cover the difference in cost; but CAN NOT duplicate claim reimbursements for any amount funded through ECF.

American Rescue Plan Act: Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

Application Process/Windows:

The application process will utilize modified E-Rate forms for applying. USAC will open an initial 45-day application window for funding purchases being made between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. If there are remaining funds after the initial application window, USAC will open a second application window for schools and libraries to seek funding for eligible equipment and services they previously purchased to address the needs of students, school staff, and library patrons. During this second application window, applicants will be able to submit requests for funding for purchases made from March 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

However, the FCC may consider opening a second window for new purchases before opening an application window to fund previously purchased eligible equipment and services in the event that demand for prospective support in the first window appears to be far short of meeting current needs.

American Rescue Plan Act: Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

Invoicing and Reimbursements:

- USAC will institute a streamlined invoicing process for applicants and service providers to submit requests for reimbursement, leveraging existing E-Rate forms to reduce administrative burdens where possible, while providing effective safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse.
- As part of the invoicing process, applicants and service providers must provide required certifications, along with any necessary documentation to support their requests.
- Applicants may use consultants and service providers to assist with the preparation of their reimbursement requests to the extent necessary, but any fees associated with such assistance are not eligible for funding.
- Applicants can submit requests for reimbursement before they have paid for the requested equipment and services as long as the applicant has entered into contractual arrangements or are otherwise legally obligated to purchase eligible equipment and services. The applicant must pay any equipment and services within 30 days after receipt of funds and will be required to certify compliance and provide verification of payment to the service provider.

American Rescue Plan Act: Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

Invoicing and Reimbursements - continued:

- Although service providers can submit invoices on behalf of applicants, service providers are not required to so.
- To protect against waste, fraud, and abuse of the Fund, applicants and service providers are required to submit, along with their reimbursement requests, invoices detailing the items purchased. Invoices must support the amounts requested in the application form and reimbursement request.
- The invoicing process will leverage existing E-Rate invoicing forms to the extent feasible for the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program.
- Reimbursement request can be submitted within 15 days of the first wave of commitments in the first application filing window. Applicants and service providers can submit reimbursement requests and invoices for prior and prospective purchases for 60 days from the date of the funding commitment decision letter; a revised funding commitment decision letter approving a post-commitment change or a successful appeal of a previously denied or reduced funding commitment; or service delivery date, whichever is later.

SAM Registration

All applicants that intend to participate and all service providers that elect to submit requests for reimbursement in the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program must also register with the [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#).



Children's Internet Protection Act

CIPA applies to the use of school or library owned computers, including laptop and tablet computers, if the school or library accepts Emergency Connectivity Fund or E-Rate support for Internet access or Internet services, or E-Rate support for internal connections.

However, CIPA does not apply where schools or libraries have purchased advanced telecommunications and information services through the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program to be used only in conjunction with student-, school staff- or patron-owned computers.

Additionally, CIPA does not apply to the use of computers owned by a school or library including those laptop computers or tablet computers purchased with support from the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program, if the purchasing entity does not also receive Emergency Connectivity Fund or E-Rate discounted Internet access or Internet services, or E-Rate discounted internal connections—or network equipment for Internet access, Internet service, or internal connections.

Lastly, CIPA does not apply to the use of third-party owned devices, even if the school or library receives Emergency Connectivity Fund or E-Rate support for Internet access or Internet services, or E-Rate support for internal connections.

Device and Service Inventory Requirements

It is the obligation of schools and libraries to keep track of and document the devices and other equipment that they distribute, and that includes documenting information about missing, lost, or damaged equipment. **These records must be kept for 10-years consistent with the E-Rate program rules.**

The asset inventory for devices provided to individuals, must include the following information:

- (a) device type (i.e., laptop, tablet, mobile hotspot, modem/router);
- (b) device make/model;
- (c) equipment serial number;
- (d) the name of the person to whom the device was provided; and
- (e) the dates the device was loaned out and returned to the school or library.

Device and Service Inventory Requirements

The inventory for devices not provided to individual students, school staff, or library patrons, but used to provide service to multiple eligible users, for example, a Wi-Fi hotspot used to provide service on a school bus, must include the following information:

- (a) device type (i.e., laptop, tablet, mobile hotspot, modem/router);
- (b) device make/model;
- (c) equipment serial number;
- (d) the name of the school or library employee responsible for that device; and
- (e) the dates the device was in service

Device and Service Inventory Requirements

The record for services provided to an individual student must include the following information:

- (a) type of service provided (i.e., DSL, cable, fiber, fixed wireless, satellite, mobile wireless);
- (b) broadband plan details, including: upload and download speeds and monthly data cap;
- (c) the name(s) of the person(s) to whom the service was provided; and for fixed broadband service;
- (d) the service address, and
- (e) the installation date of service: and
- (f) the last date of service (as applicable).

The inventory for service not provided to an individual student, school staff member, or library patron, but used to provide service to multiple eligible users must include the following information: (a) type of service provided (i.e., DSL, cable, fiber, fixed wireless, satellite, mobile wireless); (b) broadband plan details, including: upload and download speeds and monthly data cap; and (c) the name of the school or library employee responsible for the service; (d) a description of the intended service area; and for fixed broadband service; (e) the service address; (f) the installation date

Device and Service Inventory Requirements

The inventory for service not provided to an individual student, school staff member, or library patron, but used to provide service to multiple eligible users must include the following information:

- (a) type of service provided (i.e., DSL, cable, fiber, fixed wireless, satellite, mobile wireless);
- (b) broadband plan details, including: upload and download speeds and monthly data cap; and the name of the school or library employee responsible for the service;
- (d) a description of the intended service area; and for fixed broadband service;
- (e) the service address;
- (f) the installation date of service, and
- (g) the last date of service (as applicable)

Gifting Rule/Gift Restrictions



The Gift Rule restrictions within the E-Rate program also apply for the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program. This includes school and library employees, officers, representatives, agents, independent contractors, and individuals who are on the governing boards, from soliciting or accepting any gift or other thing of value from a service provider participating in or seeking to participate in the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program.

However, based on the partial waiver of the gift rule due to the pandemic, an exception is allowed for = service providers to offer and provide, and applicants to solicit and accept, broadband connections, devices, networking equipment, or other things of value that are directly related to addressing the pandemic-related needs of students, school staff, and library patrons through June 30, 2022.

Audits

Similar to the E-Rate program, audit and compliance is required as part of the ECF program. Audit requirements and guidelines will be developed by the Office of the Managing Director, be mindful of the emergency nature of the pandemic and take into account the security of providing personally identifiable information to USAC or the FCC about individuals (e.g., student, school staff member, or library patron) receiving and using the Emergency Connectivity Fund-supported devices and services.

Equipment Disposal

Schools and libraries are **prohibited** from selling, reselling, or transferring equipment funded through the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program in consideration of money for three (3) years after its purchase. Obsolete equipment may be resold or transferred in consideration of money or any other thing of value, disposed of, donated, or traded.





Thank you for joining today's call.

**Please “stay-tuned” for additional information on these programs
to be covered in the newsletter and during the
Education Technology Monthly Calls and Office Hours.**

