

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services**

**Michelle Lujan Grisham** *Governor*

**Sonya L. Smith** *Cabinet Secretary*

**FCC Launches Program to Help Struggling Families Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic to Afford Internet Service**

The Federal Communications Commission ([FCC) has launched the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-program) to help families and households who have been struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This new program will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, virtual classrooms, and so much more.

**About the Emergency Broadband Benefit**

The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides a discount of up to $50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to $75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to $100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than $10 and less than $50 toward the purchase price.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

**Who Is Eligible for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program**?

A household is eligible if a member of the household meets one of the criteria below:

• Has an income that is at or below 135% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines) ([**https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines**](https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines)) or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or [Lifeline](https://www.fcc.gov/lifeline-consumers);

• Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;

• Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;

• 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 provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

**To Register**

To register for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, please contact your local internet provider. Here is a link to the list of providers here in New Mexico:

[**https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-providers**](https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-providers.)

**For More Consumer Information**

For more information, please go to the [page:](https://www.fcc.gov/consumer-faq-emergency-broadband-benefit) **(**[**https://www.fcc.gov/consumer-faq-emergency-broadband-benefit**](https://www.fcc.gov/consumer-faq-emergency-broadband-benefit)**)**

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