

**BROADBAND FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS AND HOME CONNECTIVITY**

Item	<a href="#">ESSER II Funding</a>	<a href="#">CRRSA FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program</a> (\$3.2 billion)	<a href="#">ARPA FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund</a> (\$7.1 billion)	FCC – E-Rate Funding (\$4.28 billion)
<b>Devices, Broadband Equipment, and Connectivity for Students at Home</b>				
LTE, Wi-Fi connected devices	100% eligible	\$100 discount per qualifying household on device purchased via participating provider	100% eligible	Not eligible
Household/Student Off-campus Connectivity	100% eligible	\$50/ month discount (\$75 for tribal) per qualifying household	100% eligible	Not eligible
Individual Wi-Fi Hotspots, Modems, Routers	100% eligible	Not eligible	100% eligible	Not eligible
Internet Filtering on connected devices	100% eligible	Not eligible	TBD	Required but not eligible for funding
Device management licenses, tracking software, etc.	100% eligible	Not eligible	TBD	Not eligible
Home Fiber, Cable and Construction/Installation	TBD	Not eligible	TBD	Not eligible
<b>Community or Multi-family Off-Campus Connectivity and Equipment</b>				
Wi-Fi hotspots, routers, modems for providing free access to the community (including on buses and at community centers and learning pods)	100% eligible	Not eligible	TBD	Not eligible
Monthly broadband services to provide Community access (delivered via hotspots, buses, etc..)	100% eligible	Not eligible	TBD	Not eligible
<b>School Campus Connectivity and Equipment</b>				
Expanded broadband/ telecommunication services	100% eligible	Not eligible	TBD	Eligible
On-Campus Wifi Hotspots, Modems, Routers	100% eligible	Not eligible	TBD	Eligible*
Fiber, Cable, and Construction/Installation	100% eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible*

\*Refer to the [E-Rate Eligible Service List](#) for the most up-to-date information on eligibility. Some equipment is only partially eligible for funding.



**ESSER FUNDING**

As part of the Education Stabilization Fund, congress established the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund) under the CARES Act. Congress appropriated \$13.2 billion through the CARES Act and continued ESSER appropriations of \$54.3 billion in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA) and \$122.7 billion in The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) signed into law in March 2021. States and local education agencies are able to utilize these emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the Nation.

**ESSER Allowability**

Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.

**Period of Availability?**

	ESSER I Funds	ESSER II Funds	ESSER III Funds
Obligation Period*	September 30, 2022	September 30, 2023	September 30, 2024

\*Pre-award costs are allowable for expenses incurred from March 13, 2020

**FCC: EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT FOR FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS**

On February 25, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) unanimously adopted a Report and Order that established the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program, a \$3.2 billion federal initiative to help lower the cost of high-speed internet for eligible households during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program was created by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

**What Is the Benefit?**

- Up to \$50/month discount for broadband services;
- Up to \$75/month discount for broadband services for households on Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a computer ( laptop, desktop, or tablet) purchased through a participating provider.
- The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per eligible household.

**How Long is the Benefit Available?**

Eligible households and schools, on behalf of households, can receive EBB benefits up to 6 months after the date on which the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines the COVID-19 emergency has ended.



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

A household is eligible if one member of the household:

- Qualifies for the [Lifeline program](#), including those who are on Medicaid or receive SNAP benefits;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price (FRL) school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), or did so in the 2019-2020 school year;
- 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;
- 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.

A school can qualify for benefits if the school system is

- purchasing services on behalf of an eligible household member (student) and
- an arrangement has been entered with the household to provide broadband services to an eligible student and notes the school can access EBB funding on behalf of the household.

### **How do I determine if my student qualifies for the EBB program using the school lunch eligibility option?**

On April 15th, parents of Pre-K-12 students will be able to access a webpage via LDOE's Achieve! website to determine if their child is eligible for the EBB Program under the school lunch program criteria. If a student is not eligible via the school lunch program, the household may still be eligible under one of the other criteria listed above.

### **When Can Eligible Households and Schools Sign Up?**

The FCC is working to provide households and schools access to the EBB program by the end of April 2021. Additional details and information will be posted to the Universal Service Administrative Company's [EBB webpage](#).

### **How Will Eligible Households and Schools Sign Up?**

Eligible households will enroll through participating broadband providers or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Households of qualifying students will need to identify their child as the benefit qualifying person.

Eligible schools will enroll through participating providers. School systems will have to provide documentation of eligibility and an acknowledgment that the school will be participating in the EBB program on behalf of the household.

### **Which Broadband Providers Will Be Offering the Emergency Broadband Benefit?**

Contact information for the providers participating in the program will be posted on USAC's website at <https://www.usac.org/> in mid to late April.



## **FCC: EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND**

On March 10, 2021, the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) was created as part of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to provide \$7.1 billion for emergency support of remote learning and remote library services. The ECF provides support for the purchase during the COVID-19 emergency of “eligible equipment or advanced telecommunications or information services (or both)” to provide:

- For schools, for use by schools, students, and staff outside the school building; and
- For libraries, for use by patrons outside the library location.

### **What Is the Benefit?**

The FCC shall reimburse 100 percent of the costs associated with the purchase of eligible equipment and services by schools or libraries. However, the FCC has the authority to adjust reimbursements for costs deemed unreasonable.

### **What equipment and services will be eligible?**

Eligible equipment includes Wi-fi hotspots, modems, routers, devices that combine a modem and router, and end-user connected devices (e.g., laptops, tablets). Eligible services include advanced telecommunications (i.e., broadband) and information (i.e., internet) services. A final list of eligible equipment and services will be released by the FCC in May/June 2021.

### **How Long is the Benefit Available?**

Funding is available during the COVID-19 emergency and until June 30th following the date on which the federal government lifts the COVID-19 emergency declaration or until September 30, 2030.

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

Public schools, non-public schools, and libraries eligible for support under paragraphs (1)(B) and (2) of section 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934.

### **How Schools Apply and what rules must schools follow?**

The FCC is currently taking initial comments through April 5, 2021, and reply comments through April 23, 2021. These comments will assist the FCC in promulgating all the rules and regulations for the application, procurement, and reimbursement process. As soon as these requirements are published the department will update the information provided here.

