

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

On Friday, March 12, 2021, AT&T issued the following [statement](#), attributed to Joan Marsh, AT&T Executive Vice President of Federal Regulatory Relations:

“Today, we are filing our application to participate in the FCC’s Emergency Broadband Benefit program so we can offer low-income customers additional options for discounted broadband services. We appreciate the Commission’s efforts to move swiftly to implement this program and we look forward to its official launch date. While the EBB will help address the immediate broadband connectivity needs of many low-income Americans, we will continue to work with Congress and others to identify permanent and sustainable funding solutions.”

Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program Overview

In the [Consolidated Appropriations Act](#) COVID-19 Economic Relief Package enacted December 27, 2020, Congress established a temporary \$3.2 billion EBB Program. Each [eligible household](#) may receive a single monthly discount of up to \$50/month (up to \$75/month for Tribal consumers) on eligible fixed or mobile broadband services and associated equipment, and a one-time discount on eligible connected devices from participating providers. The FCC adopted [rules](#) implementing the EBB Program on February 25, 2021 following an expedited rulemaking and is targeting 60 days from the EBB order – around April 26, 2021 – to begin enrolling consumers. The FCC is utilizing [USAC](#) (the Universal Service Administrative Company) to administer the Program. Discounts will vary by participating provider.

AT&T and Cricket Wireless plan to offer EBB discounts throughout their service areas on various home internet and both postpaid and prepaid mobile data services, including select bundles that include internet, voice, and text messaging. Details will be available shortly on att.com/ebb and cricketwireless.com.

Once consumers can begin to enroll – around April 26, 2021 – consumers who wish to obtain EBB benefits from AT&T should first access USAC’s EBB Consumer Portal to apply for the program via the National Eligibility Verifier, which will determine if they are eligible for the EBB Program. Upon approval by the Verifier, consumers may then enroll with AT&T or Cricket if they are within the applicable AT&T or Cricket service area, elect to subscribe to an eligible EBB service offering, and provide affirmative consent to receive the EBB discount. Importantly, consumers should *first* apply via USAC’s EBB Consumer Portal *before* contacting AT&T or Cricket.

The EBB Program is scheduled to end 6 months after the COVID-19 emergency is officially declared over or when the Program’s funding is exhausted, whichever is first. AT&T and Cricket will notify consumers of the anticipated end of the Program, and information will also be available from USAC and the FCC.

For more information, including updates on when consumers may begin enrolling, you can also visit: fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit.