



PRESS RELEASE

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Local Broadband Discounts Announced for EBRPHA Families and other Eligible Households *New FCC Benefit Offers Monthly Broadband Discount And One-Time Discount on Equipment*

The East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority (EBRPHA) announced today that local households who receive federal housing assistance--and other qualifying families throughout the area—are eligible for a new **Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBS)** providing a monthly discount on internet services, as well as a one-time discount on equipment.

The Federal Communications Commission Program (FCC) offers discounts up to \$50 per month towards broadband services for eligible households and up to \$75 for families on Tribal lands. A one-time discount of \$100 for the purchase of a laptop/desktop computer or tablet from participating providers is also available if consumers pay more than \$10 towards the purchase price. The EBBS COVID related program will continue until the \$3.2 billion in federal funding runs out or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares an end to the pandemic.

EBRPHA CEO J. Wesley Daniels, Jr. says the local housing agency has prioritized access to health, education, -and employment to EBRPHA families throughout the pandemic, especially to families with children.

“We commend the FCC, participating internet providers, and the media for getting this important access to families in our region,” Daniels said. “The impactful initiative will pay the internet providers directly and families will receive discounted bills so it will be easy for our residents to implement.”

(more)

A household is eligible for the EBB program, according to the FCC, if a member of the household meets any of the following criteria:

- Has an income level at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Insurance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, or Lifeline
- Approved to receive benefits under the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch program in 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.
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating internet service provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

To learn more or to get a mail in application, call 833-511-0311. Eligible households can enroll through an approved internet service provider or by visiting [GetEmergencyBroadband.org/how to apply](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org/how-to-apply).

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