



American
Indian Policy
Institute

Arizona State
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POLICY ARTICLE

AIPI Policy Article:

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

Broadband Access in Indian Country

Broadband is critical for Indian Country, but it is often unavailable. In 2019, the [American Indian Policy Institute](#) (AIPI) found that [18 percent of Tribal reservation residents](#) have no Internet access, while 33 percent rely on smartphones for Internet service. According to the FCC, about [72 percent of people on Tribal lands](#) have broadband access at the FCC benchmark of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Even where broadband is available, cost can be a barrier to access. It is crucial that Tribal communities have broadband access for education, work, and healthcare, all of which will be more accessible via the Emergency Broadband Benefit program (EBB).

What Is the EBB?

The Emergency Broadband Benefit program provides benefits for a single Internet connection per home, and will allow eligible households to receive a monthly discount on broadband access from their Internet provider. The provider may also offer broadband devices at a discount. It is important to check with your provider to see if they are participating in the EBB program. The following are some of the benefits the program can provide through participating Internet providers:

- A monthly discount on Internet service of up to \$50
- Individuals who live on [federally recognized Tribal reservations](#) (including Indian Allotment, Pueblo, Colony, former reservations in Oklahoma, Alaska Native regions, and Hawaiian Homelands) may be eligible for a monthly discount on Internet service of up to \$75. [Click here](#) for more information.
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 on a broadband enabled device such as laptop, desktop computer, or tablet (after qualifying households contribute \$10 - \$50 towards the cost of the device).
- This program is limited to one Internet service discount and one device discount per household.

Note: Only participating Internet providers will be able to offer these benefits. Discounts and devices may differ between providers.

Who Qualifies?

A household that qualifies for the EBB program only needs one member who meets any of the following criteria:

- Is unemployed and/or experienced a substantial loss of income after February 29, 2020. This includes those who were laid off, furloughed, or have applied for unemployment insurance benefits. Households must have made less than \$99,000 for single tax filers or less than \$198,000 in total income to qualify;
- Is a current Pell Grant recipient;
- Currently receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program;
- Is eligible for the Lifeline low-income discount program under the FCC; or
- Is eligible for an existing low-income Internet plan from their current Internet service provider

Households will be able to apply through their participating Internet service provider.

For more information contact:



Arizona State University
American Indian Policy Institute
Watts College of Public Service and
Community Solutions
Chase Building
201 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85005-2420
<https://aipi.asu.edu/>
Phone: 480-965-1055 / Fax: 480-965-6404