



# EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT NEWS RELEASE



## Partner Contact Information

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Today, Central Arkansas Telephone Cooperative announced it is working to help build consumer awareness about the Emergency Broadband Benefit, a new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program. The temporary benefit will help to lower the cost of broadband service for eligible households during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$3.2B Emergency Broadband Benefit program provides a discount of up to a \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households.

A household is eligible if one member of the household meets at least *one* of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid or the FCC's [Lifeline](#) program;
- 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 through 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.

Emergency Broadband Benefit enrollment will begin on May 12, 2021. Eligible households can enroll at any Central Arkansas Telephone Cooperative business office, located at 4036 Highway 7 in Bismarck or 411 Bryant Drive in Donaldson. Eligible households can also enroll directly with the [Universal Service Administrative Company \(USAC\)](#) using an online or mail-in application.

Additional information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit is available by calling 501-865-3333 any day of the week.

## About CATC

CATC connects thousands of residential and business members through a robust high speed broadband fiber network. CATC employees are member focused on providing the most effective fiber solutions through our user-friendly support network. With offices in Bismarck and Donaldson, CATC has been delivering exceptional service for over 70 years. Visit us at [www.catc.net](http://www.catc.net).