

VPS Consulting Memo

FCC Seeks Outreach Partners for Emergency Broadband Benefit

Summary

The FCC is seeking outreach partners to share consumer information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit.

Key Information

Federal Communications Commission Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel announced the FCC is seeking outreach partners to help share information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit – an FCC program developed to provide relief to households that are struggling to pay for Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FCC has established a new website where service providers can sign up to help promote this new Emergency Broadband Benefit program. To become an outreach partner, you may sign up at the following website <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>. This website will become a resource for consumers and service providers to receive the latest information on the Emergency Broadband Benefit.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for those on Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute \$10-\$50 toward the purchase price.

You will not need to be an ETC to participate in this program. Therefore, ILECs, CLECs and ISPs will all be able to participate in this program. These credits are much larger and the threshold to qualify will likely be lower than the current Lifeline Program. Therefore, we expect many VPS clients to participate. This is a good opportunity to stay informed on this program while it is being designed by the FCC and to also educate your customers that it is

coming. Participation will likely boost your broadband take rates and also help customers that are struggling with better connectivity in the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional Information

The link to the Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund Assistance public notice is here:

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-21-6A1.pdf>

For information on this issue or if you would like VPS guidance, please contact these members of the Vantage Point Solutions team:

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