



Michael Preston
Secretary of Commerce,
Executive Director
Arkansas Economic
Development Commission

May 5, 2021

Dear Mayors, County Judges, ISPs, State Department/Agency Heads, Legislators and Arkansans:

I'm pleased to inform you that the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) will begin enrolling qualified households into their Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB) on **May 12, 2021**. This program helps qualified households with discounts on broadband service up to \$50 per month. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from a participating provider if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

Congress has allocated \$3.2 billion to fund the EBB program. This money will be spent nationwide and we want the citizens of Arkansas to get their share. But that will not happen unless everyone goes to www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit and see the qualification. So I encourage you to go to that website **NOW** and see if you qualify and get any documents you need ready for when enrollment opens Wednesday, May 12, 2021. You can use the same website to enroll for the benefits.

I also encourage you to share this information with everyone within your communities and departments. The EBB program will end when the funds run out or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares an end to the COVID-19 health emergency, whichever is sooner.

This is an important benefit for Arkansans. We can only receive what our qualified citizens will apply for through the website. Do not miss out!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Porch".

Steven Porch
Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Commerce
Executive Broadband Manager