

## **Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program**

### *Community Outreach Initiative*

#### Program Detail

The Emergency Broadband Benefit program was created to provide a discount of up to \$50 towards broadband services for eligible households (up to \$75 for households on Tribal lands), and to receive funds of up to \$100 towards laptop/desktop/tablet purchases from specific providers.

Eligible households include at least one member who:

- Income at or below 135% FPG or participation in SNAP, Medicaid, Lifeline
- Eligibility for free or reduced school lunch program
- Pell Grant recipient
- Experienced substantial loss of income due to the pandemic and had total HH income at or below \$99,000 for single/\$198,000 for joint filers
- Eligible for providers existing low-income/COVID-19 program

#### Start Date

Households can apply starting **May 12, 2021**. Providers have been signing up for the program over the past few weeks.

#### Participating Providers in Dakota County

The EBB program website contains an updated list of participating providers by state. You can access the list here: [Emergency Broadband Benefit Providers | Federal Communications Commission \(fcc.gov\)](#)

#### Proposed Outreach Plan

Successful implementation of the EBB depends on collaborative partnerships; the Dakota Broadband Board has an opportunity to facilitate and participate in these outreach activities to help connect eligible individuals across the county. Based on the eligibility requirements for the programs, the following entities may be valuable partners in this process:

- School districts and colleges
- Non-profit organizations
- Local government entities
- Libraries
- Existing Internet Service Providers (ISPs) participating in the program

The EBB program offers a number of materials to assist with outreach that can be branded with the appropriate voice for the outreach effort. Using these template materials will save time and money, and will advance a consistent message. Outreach efforts may include:

- Identify specific organizations in each category throughout Dakota County
- Review EBB templates and update as appropriate, including the identification of communication formats
- Connect with identified organizations and determine where/how the organization and the DBB can partner to communicate messaging about the program

The DBB website currently contains a link to the EBB website which will guide county residents through the application/eligibility process.