



# GET CONNECTED

## with Lifeline and the Emergency Broadband Benefit



Keeping up with technology can be a struggle for individuals and families with limited financial means. Having a cell phone, a laptop or internet service at home is not a luxury – it is a necessity in the modern world. The Lifeline and Emergency Broadband Benefit federal programs provide assistance that can help you get and stay connected. If you participate in Medicaid or SNAP, you qualify for both federal programs.



### Lifeline (Free Smartphone Program)

Lifeline provides eligible low-income individuals with a free smartphone and free monthly data, free monthly minutes and unlimited texting. This is a federal program and should not be confused with the state's Lifeline utility assistance program.



If you qualify for Lifeline, you qualify for the Emergency Broadband Benefit, but you need to apply for both.



### Emergency Broadband Benefit

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a temporary program to help families and households access internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The benefit provides a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. If you have a Lifeline smartphone, you can also request the Emergency Broadband benefit for unlimited talk, text, and data – see below for more information.

**Note: The Emergency Broadband Benefit is temporary and ends when funds are expended.**



## You are eligible to apply for Lifeline if your household:

- Participates in NJ SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit or Tribal Programs; or
- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

## You are eligible to apply for Emergency Broadband Benefit if your household:

- Participates in NJ SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit or Tribal Programs;
- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, or did so in the 2019-2020 school year;
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program; or
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year.



People in Household	Annual Household Income Limit
1	\$17,338
2	\$23,517
3	\$29,646
4	\$35,755
For each additional person after 4, add \$6,129	

## How to Apply for Lifeline:

Apply online through the following providers: **Assurance Wireless** or **SafeLink Wireless**.

You can choose your Lifeline provider. If you already have a Lifeline smartphone, contact your provider and ask for the Emergency Broadband Benefit.

- If you are a Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare member with Horizon, Amerigroup or WellCare, you may receive extra benefits by applying with SafeLink Wireless: [safelinkwireless.com](https://safelinkwireless.com)
- If you are a Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare member with Aetna, you may receive extra benefits by applying with Assurance Wireless: [assurancewireless.com](https://assurancewireless.com)



**Assurance and SafeLink offer Lifeline and Emergency Broadband Benefit bundles that provide free, unlimited talk, text, and data with 10GB hotspot data.**

## How to Apply for Emergency Broadband Benefit:

If you already have a Lifeline smartphone, contact your provider and ask for the Emergency Broadband Benefit.

You can also:

- Apply online at [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://GetEmergencyBroadband.org)
- Call **833-511-0311** for a mail-in application.
- Contact a participating broadband provider and ask about their application process.



State of New Jersey  
Phil Murphy, Governor  
Sheila Oliver, Lt. Governor



Department of Human Services  
Sarah Adelman, Acting Commissioner