



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	21 TA/DC034 Upstate and New York City
Date:	June 01, 2021
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, Temporary Assistance (TA) Directors, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Directors, Welfare Management System (WMS) Coordinators, Medicaid Directors, Child Support Coordinators
From:	Alison Maura, Director of Temporary Assistance & HEAP Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Federal Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP) Resource
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Temporary Assistance (TA) Questions – TA Bureau 518-474-9344 or otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	Attachment 1: Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Consumer Handout

Section 2

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to provide information to social services districts (districts) about the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP) that low-income families and individuals may be eligible for, starting May 12, 2021. The EBBP is a temporary program to help eligible households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic. The benefit provides \$50 or \$75 monthly discounts for broadband service, and a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet, for those who apply and are determined to be eligible for the program. Many New Yorkers, including applicants and recipients of TA, SNAP and HEAP may be eligible for the program and may not be aware of the program or know how to apply.

Attached to this GIS is a copy of the EBBP consumer handout with information about program eligibility and steps to apply for EBBP. This information is also available online at: <https://getemergencybroadband.org>, or by calling 833-511-0311. Districts are encouraged to add this information to their local district websites, post the information to bulletin boards in the reception areas, and to share this information with community partners who serve low-income people. EBBP will end when the fund runs out of money, or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) declares an end to the COVID-19 health emergency, whichever is sooner.