

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) estimates that 14 million Americans — and 22 percent of those 65 and older — don't have access to a high-speed internet connection. Other estimates say as many as 42 million in the U.S. are on the wrong side of the "digital divide." We know that many retired educators lack access to high-speed internet, which can hinder their involvement with fellow retired educators, family, and their local community.



The FCC is rolling out the \$3.2 billion Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program, which was part of the [third stimulus bill](#), to help all Americans get online. Starting May 12, retired educators can register for assistance at [getemergencybroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org). The FCC says it can respond to mailed requests within two days upon receipt; but the agency will respond to the request in the manner that people indicate is the best method for them. To learn more or get an e-mail application, please call (833) 511-0311.

AARP has long worked for low-cost internet solutions for older Americans, who need high-speed [broadband for teleworking](#), medical and health-related information and news, [online health-care consultations](#) with doctors and nurses, and interacting with loved ones and friends, especially during the [COVID-19 pandemic](#).

"The Emergency Broadband Benefit will help older adults get and stay connected to the internet during the pandemic, and it can provide a road map for more long-lasting policies," says Dawit Kahsai, AARP senior legislative representative. Read more [here](#).