From: DCF BWF Work Programs Help Desk <<u>BWFWorkProgramsHD@wisconsin.gov</u>>

Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 7:34 AM

**To:** DCF DL DFES BWF W-2 REGIONAL STAFF < <a href="DCFDLDFESBWFW-2REGIONALSTAFF@wisconsin.gov">DCFDLDFESBWFW-2REGIONALSTAFF@wisconsin.gov</a>;

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Subject: Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Changes Dec. 31

Good Morning,

The Bureau of Working Families would like to inform you that the temporary <u>Emergency</u> <u>Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program</u> will become the <u>Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)</u>, a modified longer-term program, on December 31, 2021.

The EBB program was scheduled to end on December 31, 2021 or when funding ran out, whichever came first. To ease internet affordability barriers during the pandemic, the ACP will begin on December 31, 2021 replacing the EBB program.

Current EBB participants enrolled through December 31, 2021 will have a 60-day transition period with all EBB benefits intact. Eligible households can continue to enroll in the EBB before 5:00 p.m. CST December 30. At that time the online program application will close and the paper application will be removed from the website.

The ACP makes the following changes:

- The maximum monthly benefit will change from \$50 per month to \$30 per month for households **not** located on qualifying Tribal lands. The monthly benefit will remain at \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.
- Households have new ways to qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program such as: receiving WIC benefits or having an income at or below 200% of the <u>Federal</u> <u>Poverty Guidelines</u>.
- Households that qualified for the Emergency Broadband Benefit due to a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 or by meeting the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's COVID-19 program will need to requalify for the Affordable Connectivity Program.

More information about the ACP can be found on the <u>Federal Communication Commission's</u> <u>website</u>.

This email will be posted to the <u>BWF Work Programs Help Desk Home Page</u>.