

## 8 Summary of grant and other funding opportunities

Recent federal actions have led to an unprecedented amount of available broadband funding. Both the Consolidated Appropriations Act and the American Rescue Plan Act created new broadband funding opportunities, and the latter included a sizeable appropriation for the Department of Commerce’s Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program—which continues to be one of the most promising sources of funding for broadband projects in urban communities such as Dallas.

As we were writing this report, the federal government released preliminary guidance and rules on many of these programs—which represent the biggest tranche of broadband funding ever appropriated by Congress. It is important to understand the funding landscape is shifting in real time. As we describe below, for example, initial guidance from NTIA indicates the agency has added project eligibility restrictions that were not part of the statutory language that created one of the new funding programs.

The following sections describe these opportunities and our initial assessment of their feasibility for the City and DISD based on our analysis of the legislation, notices of funding opportunity (NOFO), and other guidance released so far.

### 8.1 Broadband funding in the 2021 appropriations package

The federal appropriations bill<sup>68</sup> signed into law on December 27, 2020, includes several funding streams for broadband, including a subsidy program to offset the cost of monthly internet service for low-income households, administered by the FCC, and three distinct grant programs to build new broadband infrastructure and purchase services, managed by NTIA.<sup>69</sup>

While the funds for NTIA’s programs and the initial statutory requirements were included in the legislation, the program details were released later. The initial statutory program structures and eligibility requirements are described below. The FCC has released the full rules for the Emergency Broadband Benefit, which are described here and also discussed in Section 7.1.4.

#### 8.1.1 Broadband Infrastructure Program (Department of Commerce)

NTIA released a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) on May 19, 2021, for the Broadband Infrastructure Program—what the Consolidated Appropriations Act referred to as the Promote

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<sup>68</sup> “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021,” U.S. Congress, December 21, 2020, <https://rules.house.gov/sites/democrats.rules.house.gov/files/BILLS-116HR133SA-RCP-116-68.pdf> (accessed May 10, 2021).

<sup>69</sup> One of the three programs, the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, is not included here because of Dallas’ lack of Tribal lands.

Broadband Expansion Grant Program.<sup>70</sup> The funding window for submission of grant applications closed on August 17, 2021.

But the City of Dallas had little to no chance of being funded under this program, for two reasons. First, the program prioritizes unserved areas. Second, the fund is only \$288 million for the entire country—and large numbers of more-eligible rural jurisdictions applied for the funds.

According to the appropriations bill, the Broadband Infrastructure Program will fund grants from NTIA to provide fixed service that delivers at least 25/3 Mbps, with priority given to projects that deliver 100/20 Mbps.

### **8.1.2 Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (Department of Commerce)**

The Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program<sup>71</sup> will provide \$285 million in grant funding to eligible recipients to purchase broadband or eligible equipment, or to hire and train IT personnel. The program will be administered by NTIA. The application window has opened, and applications are due on December 1.

This nascent program represents an opportunity for several institutions in Dallas to pursue funding to support instruction and remote learning capabilities, with priority placed on serving students that meet certain criteria to indicate need.

Entities eligible to receive grants through this program include:

- Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs)
- Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs)
- Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs)
- Other minority serving institutions (MSIs)
  - Alaska Native-serving institution (ANSI)
  - Native Hawaiian-serving institution (NHSI)
  - Predominantly Black institutions (PBI)
  - Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution (AANAPISI)
  - Native American-serving, nontribal institution (NASNTI)

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<sup>70</sup> “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021,” U.S. Congress, December 21, 2020, <https://rules.house.gov/sites/democrats.rules.house.gov/files/BILLS-116HR133SA-RCP-116-68.pdf> (accessed May 10, 2021).

<sup>71</sup> “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021,” U.S. Congress, December 21, 2020, <https://rules.house.gov/sites/democrats.rules.house.gov/files/BILLS-116HR133SA-RCP-116-68.pdf> (accessed May 10, 2021).

- A consortium led by an HBCU, TCUs, HSIs or MSI, with minority business enterprises and/or nonprofit organizations in the anchor community

Entities in Dallas that are eligible to apply for this program include the following:

- Dallas Nursing Institute (PBI)
- El Centro College (HSI)
- Mountain View College (HSI)
- Paul Quinn College (HBCU)
- Richland College (AANAPISI & HSI)
- University of North Texas at Dallas (HSI)

For higher education recipients, grants are intended to support instruction and learning, including remote learning. For minority business enterprises and nonprofits, grants are intended to support the operation of the organization. Educational institutions that receive a grant to support student connectivity must prioritize students that:

- Are eligible to receive the Pell Grant
- Receive need-based financial aid from the federal government, state, or the institution
- Qualify for the FCC's Lifeline program
- Earn less than 150% of the federal poverty line
- Have been approved to receive unemployment insurance since March 1, 2020

Eligible equipment includes Wi-Fi hotspots; modems, routers, or combined modem/routers; laptops, tablets, or similar internet-connected devices; and any other equipment used to provide broadband.

### **8.1.3 Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (Federal Communications Commission)**

As we describe in Section 7.1.4, the Appropriations Act established a \$3.2 billion Emergency Broadband Benefit Program,<sup>72</sup> housed within the FCC, to provide a monthly discount to eligible households for broadband service. This program pays a subsidy directly to eligible residents (in the form of a credit on their ISP's bill), so the City and DISD's role would be limited to encouraging and enabling residents to enroll.

Service providers must elect to participate in the program, and do not need to be considered eligible telecommunications carriers (ETC) by the FCC. While ETCs are automatically eligible to

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<sup>72</sup> "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021," U.S. Congress, December 21, 2020, <https://rules.house.gov/sites/democrats.rules.house.gov/files/BILLS-116HR133SA-RCP-116-68.pdf> (accessed May 10, 2021).

participate in the program, providers that are not ETCs will receive an expedited approval process for participation from the FCC.

Participating providers may verify household eligibility in one of three ways:

1. Based on the National Verifier or the National Lifeline Accountability Database
2. Based on an alternative method that is deemed sufficient by the FCC
3. Based on a school's determination of participation in the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program

Eligible households receive a monthly discount on broadband service of up to \$50 (or \$75 for households on Tribal lands). If the monthly cost to the household exceeds \$50, the household is responsible for the difference. Providers cannot charge households for the discount amount, nor can they require a household to pay an early termination fee if the household entered into a contract in order to receive the service. Additionally, households cannot be subject to a waiting period to receive service based on having previously received service from the provider.

To enact the benefit, a household must either apply through the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) or contact its provider and inquire about eligibility. If the household is eligible, the participating provider applies the discount to the household's bill, and then requests to be reimbursed by the FCC. Providers may also be reimbursed up to \$100 for providing one connected device to a household if the provider charges the household between \$10 and \$50 for the device.

## **8.2 Broadband funding in the American Rescue Plan Act**

President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act into law on March 11, 2021. Included in the \$1.9 trillion package is significant funding that can be used to support expansion of broadband infrastructure. The key broadband-related provisions include the following funds.

### **8.2.1 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Department of the Treasury)**

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has released interim final rules for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program.<sup>73</sup> Established in ARPA, this program will distribute \$350 billion in emergency funding to eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Treasury has allocated about \$350 million to Dallas.<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> "Fact Sheet: The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Will Deliver \$350 Billion for State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Governments to Respond to the COVID-19 Emergency and Bring Back Jobs," U.S. Department of the Treasury, May 10, 2021, <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRP-Fact-Sheet-FINAL1-508A.pdf>.

<sup>74</sup> "Allocation for Metropolitan Cities," U.S. Department of the Treasury, page 24, <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/fiscalrecoveryfunds-metrocitiesfunding1-508A.pdf> (accessed May 14, 2021).

The State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund includes broadband spending as an eligible use, but not a primary focus. (The Treasury-managed, \$10 billion Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund is primarily for broadband projects; see Section 8.2.1 for more details.)

The Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program may be Dallas' most viable source of broadband funding because the City will control the funds.

In brief summary, Congress created this program's \$350 billion allocation with no limitations on how it could be spent on broadband. When Treasury announced its interim final rules, however, those guidelines included new restrictions that were not part of the authorizing legislation. The interim rules said the Local Fiscal Recovery Funds should not be targeted for areas where there is "reliable" 25/3 Mbps broadband service. Treasury has since clarified that these funds can be used in areas that already have 25/3 if the funds are primarily targeted for areas where 25/3 is not available.

Based on the legislation that created it, this program will fund broadband deployments and digital equity strategies designed to facilitate such connectivity and has been designed to enable states and localities "to identify the specific locations within their communities to be served and to otherwise design the project" to fit their needs.<sup>75</sup> Treasury provided interim rules establishing certain minimum requirements on how recipients can use funds for broadband deployments;<sup>76</sup> it also provided suggestive guidance about the range of digital equity projects that can use program funds. Key guidance includes the following:

- **Infrastructure projects must support 100 Mbps symmetrical speeds unless geographical, topographical, or fiscal constraints make it impractical.** For the purposes of the Fiscal Recovery Funds, Treasury's approach to broadband infrastructure matches some of the most forward-thinking states' broadband grant programs. In its interim rules, Treasury expects the funds to be used on broadband deployments that are capable of at least 100/100 Mbps speeds, to address Americans' modern communications needs. The program also strongly suggests that projects focus on fiber deployments, because fiber has the capability of affordably meeting the steady annual increase in broadband capacity demands faced by our nation's networks.

The interim rules also outline a scenario in which symmetrical 100 Mbps service may be considered "impractical due to geographical, topographical, or financial constraints,"<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, Interim Final Rule," Department of the Treasury, 31 CFR Part 35, RIN 1505-AC77, released May 10, 2021, page 71, <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/FRF-Interim-Final-Rule.pdf>. Interim Final Rules, "Interim Final Rules."

<sup>76</sup> "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Frequently Asked Questions," pages 11-12, U.S. Department of the Treasury.

<sup>77</sup> Interim Final Rules, page 75, U.S. Department of the Treasury.

and in that case, require projects to provide 100/20 Mbps service with the ability to scale to 100 Mbps symmetrical. This appears to be a concession to incumbent cable providers who can cost-effectively extend to unserved locations from their current network footprint and are on a roadmap to symmetric speeds. Most cable companies have implemented DOCSIS 3.1—and while they currently limit upstream to 35 to 50 Mbps, field upgrades would allow them to deliver gigabit speeds upstream and would also put them on a long-term roadmap to DOCSIS 4.0's 10/6 Gbps capability.

- **Projects must address areas that lack 25/3 Mbps.** The interim final rules state that projects will be expected to address unserved and underserved areas, defined as those that do not yet have access to speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps. The manner in which this goal is phrased suggests wide latitude in designing projects—as long as they also address unserved locations.
- **Projects are encouraged to prioritize affordability as well as local broadband solutions.** After noting that the U.S. has some of the most expensive broadband service in the world,<sup>78</sup> the program's interim rules place special emphasis on ensuring that the resulting broadband service provided over the funded network is affordable. The "Treasury also encourages recipients to prioritize support for broadband networks owned, operated by, or affiliated with local governments, non-profits, and co-operatives—providers with less pressure to turn profits and with a commitment to serving entire communities."<sup>79</sup>
- **Projects are encouraged to prioritize last-mile connectivity.** While Treasury underscores this, states and localities are not precluded from setting their own priorities, and other initiatives that could improve affordability by investing in capacity bottlenecks such as middle-mile or data center builds could be funded.
- **Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) results likely will not affect funding eligibility.** The interim rules encourage recipients to avoid funding projects that will serve a location with an existing agreement "to build reliable wireline service with minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload by December 31, 2024."<sup>80</sup> In other words, fixed wireless and satellite commitments (such as SpaceX) funded with federal dollars will not be considered ineligible. And because 2024 represents the third year of RDOF, at which point no RDOF winner will yet be obligated to serve a specific area, RDOF-funded wireline

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<sup>78</sup> "Even in areas where broadband infrastructure exists, broadband access may be out of reach for millions of Americans because it is unaffordable, as the United States has some of the highest broadband prices in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)." Interim Final Rules, page 70, U.S. Department of the Treasury.

<sup>79</sup> Interim Final Rules, pages 76-77, U.S. Department of the Treasury.

<sup>80</sup> Interim Final Rules, page 76, U.S. Department of the Treasury.

areas are also not considered. Unless a winner made written commitments separately (for example, through a state grant application) for completing a build before this date, planners can largely disregard RDOF when evaluating projects for funding under this specific allocation.

- **Infrastructure projects are expected to meet strong labor standards.** This includes project labor agreements, community benefit agreements, and wages at or above the prevailing rate with local hire provisions. Treasury notes it will release additional guidance related to workforce reporting requirements at a later date, but expect fair (high) wage provisions, benefits, and local sourcing as key components.
- **Projects can address a wide array of broadband-related concerns.** In addition to infrastructure, these State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars can also be used for an array of other initiatives that respond to the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic. While Treasury leaves the door open for a wide variety of fundable initiatives, it offers the general guidance that recipients should “identify a need or negative impact of the Covid-19 public health emergency and, second, identify how the [proposed] program, service, or other intervention addresses the identified need or impact.”<sup>81</sup>
- **Allocations from these funds can be leveraged as matches for other broadband grant opportunities.** Because these funds are considered locally administered, if you are already targeting a federal grant or state grant opportunity that requires matching funds, the Recovery Funds can be leveraged for that purpose.

### 8.2.2 Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (Department of the Treasury)

The Treasury Department has released only initial information regarding its pending rules for the \$10 billion Coronavirus Capital Projects grant fund. Final rules have yet to be released as of the writing of this report.

ARPA defined this program without using the word “broadband”—noting that funds were to be used for “capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency.” A brief statement posted by Treasury in early May makes clear that the program “allows for investment in high-quality broadband.”<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> Interim Final Rules, page 10, U.S. Department of the Treasury.

<sup>82</sup> The interim rules for the funds show that Treasury intends to favor fiber optic investments, and to target symmetrical 100 Mbps service where feasible—which could indicate one aspect of what Treasury considers “high quality.”

The statement further notes that proposed projects “must be critical in nature, providing connectivity for those who lack it.” We do not know how Treasury will define “unserved” in its final rules.

The Capital Projects Fund is separate and distinct from the \$350 billion State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program (see Section 8.2.1).<sup>83</sup> The former is intended only for broadband; the latter can be used for broadband—but is also intended to support infrastructure and other initiatives. That said, Treasury’s statement makes it clear that Treasury sees the Capital Projects Fund as complementary to the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds when it comes to broadband.

The Capital Projects Fund is not a competitive-application program; states will receive a fixed allocation from this fund. Treasury’s current guidance note that states will be asked to submit proposals on how the Capital Projects Fund allocations should be used. Until we have more defined rules, Treasury’s guidelines indicate that recipients will have wide discretion for determining how to identify worthy projects.

That means, for example, that the City could propose to inject all funding from the Capital Projects Fund into its current programs with alignment to overall program guidelines on timing and purpose of expenditure.

We note that overbuilding is not a program goal. It is not clear what the final Capital Projects Fund rules will be, but Treasury’s statement emphasizes the need to demonstrate bringing critical connectivity to those who do not currently have it. The companion State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds also disincentivize overbuilds.

In other words, the Capital Projects Fund does not seem—according to the brief statement released—to be designed to create more affordable service options by increasing competition (such as by building new infrastructure in an area that already has high-speed wireline service). Similarly, it likely will not help the City improve broadband infrastructure in collaboration with an incumbent cable provider.

### **8.2.3 Emergency Connectivity Fund (Federal Communications Commission)**

As we describe in detail in Section 7.5.4, DISD is well-positioned to apply for funding under this new program.

The FCC’s E-rate program has previously subsidized broadband service to schools and libraries. The American Rescue Plan Act included a \$7.2 billion appropriation to create the Emergency

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<sup>83</sup> For more details, see our analysis here: <https://www.ctcnet.us/blog/initial-guidance-and-analysis-treasury-announces-preliminary-guidance-for-broadband-projects-funded-by-the-350b-coronavirus-state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds/>



Connectivity Fund, which extends E-rate support to reimburse schools and libraries for providing equipment and connectivity services to K-12 students at their homes and other locations. All schools and libraries that are eligible for E-rate are also eligible for the Emergency Connectivity Fund program.

The FCC issued rules for the Emergency Connectivity Fund in early May 2021. Priority is given to students and library users who will be unserved by broadband in this school year. The first application window has passed, but a second ECF application window will be open on Sept 28, 2021, to October 13, 2021, for the current school year (specifically for July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022). ECF will allow for reimbursement retroactively for qualified expenses within this period.

### **8.3 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program (Department of Commerce)**

This program is a rebrand of the previous Economic Development Administration (EDA) Program and is designed to address needs in economically distressed areas. While the agency does not receive many broadband applications, this can actually be a strategic advantage for communities that can show broadband is needed as an element of their economic development plan. While it focuses on distressed communities, especially those that have experienced plant or base closures, an addendum was added on May 7, 2020, to announce additional funding through the CARES Act to support recovery of communities adversely affected by Covid-19. Funding requests that target recovery from Covid-19 distress are intended to be flexible and spent quickly and are not subject to the regular economic distress requirements. ARPA also allocated \$3 billion in additional funding to the program through September 2022.

Eligible entities include city, township, county, or special district governments; state governments; federally recognized Tribal governments; nonprofits, aside from institutions of higher education; private institutions of higher education; and public and state-controlled institutions of higher education.

Regular program rules require the community to qualify as distressed for a project to be eligible. Criteria for eligibility is established by providing “third-party data that clearly indicate that the region is subject to one (or more) of the following economic distress criteria: (i) an unemployment rate that is, for the most recent 24-month period for which data are available, at least one percentage point greater than the national average unemployment rate; (ii) per capita income that is, for the most recent period for which data are available, 80 percent or less of the national average per capita income; or (iii) a “Special Need,” as determined by EDA.”

Note that the EDA has determined that the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic constitutes a “special need,” and has extended eligibility to all communities if applying for coronavirus related funding. Applicants must still explain in their applications how their project would “prevent, prepare for, and respond to” to coronavirus, or respond to “economic injury as

a result of the coronavirus,” and the level of distress of the community is still a factor in application competitiveness.

Building, designing, or engineering infrastructure and facilities to advance economic development strategies, or planning efforts to implement such solutions, are all considered eligible costs for this program. Grant awards vary with a minimum of \$100,000, and a maximum of \$30 million. However, the trends in awards since April 2020 have shown awards closer to an average of \$3 million.

Grants typically covers up to 50 percent of project costs, but the maximum allowable investment rate can increase if other economic factors are met. For projects that constitute a special need (such as the coronavirus), the EDA will determine the maximum award percentage, not to exceed 80 percent of project costs. Funds from other federal financial assistance awards may be considered matching only if authorized by statute and approved by the EDA.

A Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) must be in place for the intended project area and must discuss the need for broadband. The applicant must demonstrate support of the project by the business community.

## **Appendix A: Internet usage survey instrument**

The City of Dallas and Dallas Independent School District distributed a version of the attached survey in December 2020. The document below is the English-language version of the survey; the survey instrument mailed to residents was printed in both English and Spanish.

# City of Dallas and Dallas Independent School District Internet Usage Survey



**December 2020**

Even if you do not have home internet service, please complete this survey form and return to us. Your opinions, experiences, and information are important to us. If you need help completing this survey in your language, please email [officeofresilience@dallascityhall.com](mailto:officeofresilience@dallascityhall.com) or [rebsanchez@dallaisd.org](mailto:rebsanchez@dallaisd.org) or call [972-925-5671](tel:972-925-5671).

The City of Dallas, together with the Dallas Independent School District, is sending you this survey to help develop strategies to improve internet accessibility and affordability—and to ensure that residents have the skills needed to make the most effective use of broadband. *The information gathered will not be used to sell you anything.* Your responses will be kept strictly confidential.

**How long will the survey take?**

This survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

**What is the due date to complete the survey?**

Please return your completed form in the enclosed postage-paid envelope by **December 31, 2020**.

**What if I have questions about the survey?**

If you have questions, please contact:

**Liz Cedillo-Pereira**

Chief of Equity and Inclusion, City of Dallas

Email: [officeofresilience@dallascityhall.com](mailto:officeofresilience@dallascityhall.com)

**Rebecca Sanchez**

Director, IT Business Services, Dallas Independent School District

Email: [rebsanchez@dallaisd.org](mailto:rebsanchez@dallaisd.org)

**City of Dallas Covid-19 Hotline**

Phone: 214-670-INFO (4636).

Please also conduct a speed test of your home or mobile broadband service.

To do so, please visit <https://speedsurvey.dallas.gov/>, answer the brief questions, and conduct the speed test.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

**INTERNET USE AND DEVICES**

**Do you use the internet (also known as “going online”) at all on any computer or phone from any location (e.g. home, work, coffee shop, library, friend’s house, etc)?**

- Yes (**Please skip to Question 0**)
- No

**Thinking about the reasons why you do NOT ever use the internet, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements** (please circle your response for each statement, where 1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neutral, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree)

Aspect	Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree
	1	2	3	4	5
(a) An internet connection is too expensive	1	2	3	4	5
(b) I am concerned about my safety and privacy	1	2	3	4	5
(c) I am not interested	1	2	3	4	5
(d) I don’t need to go online because I have someone who will do it for me	1	2	3	4	5
(e) I have no one to teach me how to go online	1	2	3	4	5
(f) I do not have a computer or other device for using the internet	1	2	3	4	5
(g) Using the internet is too difficult	1	2	3	4	5

**How important are the following services to your household?** (please circle your response for each aspect, where 1=Not at all important, 2=Slightly important, 3=Moderately important, 4=Very important, 5=Extremely important)

Aspect	Not at all important			Extremely important	
	1	2	3	4	5
(a) Internet connection (any speed)	1	2	3	4	5
(b) High-speed internet connection	1	2	3	4	5
(c) Cable television service	1	2	3	4	5
(d) Free broadcast TV from an antenna	1	2	3	4	5
(e) Satellite television service	1	2	3	4	5
(f) Fixed (land-line) telephone service	1	2	3	4	5
(g) Cellular/mobile telephone service	1	2	3	4	5
(h) Free public Wi-Fi service	1	2	3	4	5

**If you use the internet in your home, who is your primary internet service provider?** (✓ only one)

- Do not have internet service (home internet or cellular/mobile) (**Please answer Question 0 and then skip to Question 0**)
- AT&T (wired service—fiber or DSL) (**Please answer Question 0 and Question 0**)
- Frontier
- Spectrum (**Please answer Question 0**)
- Rise Broadband
- TierOne
- NextLink
- Argon Technologies
- Dish Network
- HughesNet
- ViaSat
- AT&T wireless (mobile service)
- Verizon wireless (mobile service)
- T-Mobile/Sprint, also called “New T-Mobile” (mobile service)
- Mobile Wi-Fi hotspot provided to me by a school, library or other entity
- Other (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

**(If you do not have internet service) What is your main reason for not purchasing home internet service?** (✓ only one)

- No good internet service is available at our location
- No internet-enabled devices in our home
- No interest or need for the internet
- Can get internet access at another location
- Privacy and security concerns
- Cost of internet service is too high
- Don't know how/not skilled enough to use the internet
- Cellular/mobile data service meets our needs
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If your home internet service provider is AT&T, is the service DSL or fiber? (If you aren't sure, check if your Wi-Fi router is connected to a phone jack. If it is, you have DSL service.) (✓ only one)**

- DSL (my router is connected to a phone jack)
- Fiber (my router is not connected to a phone jack)
- Unsure

**If you are an AT&T customer, are you enrolled in AT&T Access, which provides \$10 home internet service and other benefits to eligible low-income subscribers?**

- Yes
- No
- I have not heard of this program until now
- I attempted to enroll in this program but was declined
- I am not an AT&T customer

**If you are a Spectrum customer, are you enrolled in Spectrum Internet Assist, which provides \$14.99 home internet service and other benefits to eligible low-income subscribers?**

- Yes
- No
- I have not heard of this program until now
- I attempted to enroll in this program but was declined
- I am not a Spectrum customer

**Do you receive a \$9.25 subsidy on either a wireline or wireless broadband service under the FCC's "Lifeline" program, which is available to eligible low-income subscribers?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**How many personal computing devices (desktop/laptop computers, tablets, smartphones, console gaming devices) are used in your household?**

- 1 or 2
- 3 or 4
- 5 or more
- I do not have any personal computing devices in my home

**What devices are available for use in your home? Check all that apply, but only for device or devices that are in good working order.**

- Desktop computer
- Laptop computer
- Tablet computer, such as an iPad
- Smartphone
- Console gaming devices

**Thinking about the computer you primarily use (desktop, laptop or tablet computer), about how often does it become inaccessible or unusable for any reason?**

- Once a week or more
- Once a month
- Once a year
- This has never happened to me

**Thinking about the computer you primarily use (desktop, laptop or tablet computer), if it were lost or damaged beyond repair, how long do you think it would take you to replace it?**

- I could not do so in the foreseeable future
- 1-6 months
- 2-4 weeks
- About one week
- About one day

**Please estimate how much your household pays PER MONTH for your home internet service (not including television or phone service).**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$0- \$10    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$61 to \$80    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$11 to \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$81 to \$100   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$21 to \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$101 to \$120  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$41 to \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$120 |

**How often do you and anyone in your household use your primary home internet connection for: (please circle your response for each activity)**

Home Internet Activity	Never	Occasionally	Frequently
(a) Listening to music (streaming)	1	2	3
(b) Watching movies, videos, or TV	1	2	3
(c) Playing online games	1	2	3
(d) Connecting to work	1	2	3
(e) Using social media	1	2	3
(f) Shopping online	1	2	3
(g) Running a home business	1	2	3
(h) Accessing educational resources	1	2	3
(i) Accessing government information	1	2	3
(j) Accessing medical services	1	2	3
(k) Banking or paying bills	1	2	3
(l) Accessing home security/other "smart home" devices	1	2	3
(m) Accessing cloud-based file storage and sharing	1	2	3



**COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND INTERNET USE**

Thinking about your activities **BEFORE** the Covid-19 pandemic, how frequently did you use the internet at various times in your home? (please circle your response for each timeframe, where 1=never, 2=less than monthly, 3=at least monthly, 4=at least weekly, and 5=at least daily)

Time of Day	Never	Less Than Monthly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
(a) Early morning (6 a.m. – 9 a.m.)	1	2	3	4	5
(b) Midmorning (9 a.m. – noon)	1	2	3	4	5
(c) Early afternoon (noon – 3 p.m.)	1	2	3	4	5
(d) Late afternoon (3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)	1	2	3	4	5
(e) Evening (6 p.m. – 9 p.m.)	1	2	3	4	5
(f) Night (9 p.m. – midnight)	1	2	3	4	5

Now, thinking about your activities **DURING** the Covid-19 pandemic, how frequently have you been using the internet at various times in your home? (please circle your response for each timeframe, where 1=never, 2=less than monthly, 3=at least monthly, 4=at least weekly, and 5=at least daily)

Time of Day	Never	Less Than Monthly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
(a) Early morning (6 a.m. – 9 a.m.)	1	2	3	4	5
(b) Midmorning (9 a.m. – noon)	1	2	3	4	5
(c) Early afternoon (noon – 3 p.m.)	1	2	3	4	5
(d) Late afternoon (3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)	1	2	3	4	5
(e) Evening (6 p.m. – 9 p.m.)	1	2	3	4	5
(f) Night (9 p.m. – midnight)	1	2	3	4	5

Thinking about your normal habits **BEFORE** the Covid-19 pandemic, how often did you use the internet in the following locations on average? (please circle your response for each timeframe, where 1=never, 2=less than monthly, 3=at least monthly, 4=at least weekly, and 5=at least daily)

Location	Never	Less Than Monthly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
(a) At my home	1	2	3	4	5
(b) At the home of a friend or family member	1	2	3	4	5
(c) At work	1	2	3	4	5
(d) Inside a school or a college/university building	1	2	3	4	5
(e) Inside a coffee shop or other private business	1	2	3	4	5
(f) Inside a library	1	2	3	4	5

(g) Inside other public buildings such as a municipal office or senior center	1	2	3	4	5
(h) At any outdoor public spaces (including outside any of the above locations) using free Wi-Fi	1	2	3	4	5

**Now, thinking about how you have been using the internet DURING the Covid-19 pandemic, how often do you use the internet in the following locations on average?** (please circle your response for each timeframe, where 1=never, 2=less than monthly, 3=at least monthly, 4=at least weekly, and 5=at least daily)

Location	Never	Less Than Monthly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
(a) At my home	1	2	3	4	5
(b) At the home of a friend or family member	1	2	3	4	5
(c) At work	1	2	3	4	5
(d) Inside a school or a college/university building	1	2	3	4	5
(e) Inside a coffee shop or other private business	1	2	3	4	5
(f) Inside a library	1	2	3	4	5
(g) Inside other public buildings such as a municipal office or senior center	1	2	3	4	5
(h) At any outdoor public spaces (including outside any of the above locations) using free Wi-Fi	1	2	3	4	5

**Thinking about how often you engaged in various internet activities BEFORE the Covid-19 pandemic, how often did you engage in the following activities?** (please circle your response for each timeframe, where 1=never, 2=less than monthly, 3=at least monthly, 4=at least weekly, and 5=at least daily)

Internet activity	Never	Less Than Monthly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
(a) Telework/working from home	1	2	3	4	5
(b) Telemedicine/doctor appointments	1	2	3	4	5
(c) Do homework	1	2	3	4	5
(d) Attend online classes	1	2	3	4	5
(e) Homeschool	1	2	3	4	5

**Now, thinking about how often you have been engaging in various internet activities DURING the Covid-19 pandemic, how often do you engage in the following activities?** (please circle your response for each timeframe, where 1=never, 2=less than monthly, 3=at least monthly, 4=at least weekly, and 5=at least daily)

Internet activity	Never	Less Than Monthly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
(a) Telework/working from home	1	2	3	4	5
(b) Telemedicine/doctor appointments	1	2	3	4	5
(c) Do homework	1	2	3	4	5