



NSBA Action Alert: Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

Contact Your Members of Congress Now to Urge the Inclusion of Funding to Close the Homework Gap in the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Reconciliation Package

Background: As Congress works to finalize its budget reconciliation package (S. Con. Res. 14) for Fiscal Year 2022, NSBA and many other education groups are urging the inclusion of funds for the continued operation of the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) that was created through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) to help close the homework gap.

We need your direct advocacy with your senators' and representatives' offices to urge their strong support for a \$10 billion allocation in the FY2022 budget reconciliation package for the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), that is equipping millions of students with the technology and broadband connections needed to complete homework assignments and research projects, as well as college/ apprenticeship applications, and job applications – all necessary for student success in grades K-12 and for college and career readiness.

You can contact your senators and representatives to champion this investment in our students by accessing their offices through the House and Senate directories.

House -- <https://www.house.gov/representatives>

Senate -- <https://www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm>

Talking Points

- As a school board member of the _____ School District, I am urging you to support provisions for the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) in the final Fiscal Year 2022 budget reconciliation package. Specifically, an allocation of \$10 billion is requested to ensure that the ECF can meet the increased demand for services among students, schools and libraries.
- The [Emergency Connectivity Fund](#) (ECF) was created to help schools and libraries keep students, staff, and patrons connected during the COVID-19 health emergency; thereby, helping students receive virtual classroom instruction and complete homework/

research assignments. The funding is available for the purchase of laptops and tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and broadband connections for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons in need, and is available to support off-campus learning, such as homework, even if schools have returned to full time in-person instruction. **[IF YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLIED FOR ECF FUNDS, PLEASE MENTION THIS.]**

- The demand for the continuation of the Emergency Connectivity Fund is far greater than the resources currently available. During the first round of ECF funding, the number of applications received by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to assist students, schools, and libraries was greater than expected. Despite the Commission opening an initial 45-day application window over the summer, when schools were in recess and many were on vacation, schools and libraries applied for \$5.1 billion in ECF support -- more than 70% of available funds. This funding will pay for 9.1 million connected devices and 5.4 million broadband connections.
- If ECF funds are not replenished by next year, schools and libraries face the prospect of cutting off home Internet access for more than five million students, teachers, and library patrons after June 30, 2022.
- There is a real need for this investment in our students and school districts, as the homework gap existed long before the COVID-19 pandemic and impacted more than 16 million students who did not have the proper Internet access, nor the computers/hardware needed. With a continued federal investment in the ECF, these and other students affected by the pandemic can continue learning, which helps our school districts provide virtual instructional time and mitigate learning loss among the most vulnerable students. Also, the students who prefer virtual learning will be able to take advantage of those options with continued home Internet access.
- In addition, this investment in the ECF would help our school districts ensure a continuum of instructional time during this pandemic when several schools are conducting virtual learning programs because of increases in COVID-19 infections and because of hybrid learning programs that are helping reduce the number of COVID-19 infections in communities.
- Schools and libraries from our state and every state and territory benefited from ECF funding in the first application period. We urge you to continue this investment in our students, schools, and libraries by supporting this additional investment of \$10 billion in the FY2022 Budget Reconciliation Act.
- Key examples of how states fared in the first round are below, along with respective leaders in Congress who are key negotiators for this budget reconciliation package. The full chart of state funding requests to the ECF follows.

--New York (Senate Majority Leader Schumer): \$559.6 million
 --Washington State (Senate Commerce Committee Chairwoman Cantwell): \$101.2 million
 --California (Speaker Pelosi): \$812 million
 --New Jersey (House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Pallone): \$225.3 million
 --West Virginia (Senator Manchin): \$48.1 million (It is worth noting that Senator Manchin was instrumental in ensuring that ECF was included in the American Rescue Plan Act [ARP]; and, he issued a press release stating how much money his state received.)

State / Territory	Total Funding Requested	State / Territory	Total Funding Requested
Alabama	\$62,677,788.77	Montana	\$4,248,117.07
Alaska	\$51,874,215.69	Nebraska	\$21,607,941.17
American Samoa	\$25,333,082.75	Nevada	\$29,125,668.53
Arizona	\$200,700,041.70	New Hampshire	\$5,500,399.98
Arkansas	\$29,625,857.99	New Jersey	\$225,318,068.42
California	\$812,045,890.55	New Mexico	\$67,218,187.36
Colorado	\$36,571,291.19	New York	\$559,653,550.51
Connecticut	\$37,089,292.04	North Carolina	\$149,795,970.80
Delaware	\$8,704,910.69	North Dakota	\$3,631,027.80
District of Columbia	\$19,874,749.59	Northern Mariana Islands	\$1,314,000.00
Florida	\$264,359,207.11	Ohio	\$103,412,800.95
Georgia	\$183,225,350.75	Oklahoma	\$94,616,613.76
Guam	\$6,327,126.00	Oregon	\$82,187,638.46
Hawaii	\$67,304,321.57	Pennsylvania	\$99,766,355.39
Idaho	\$35,155,222.55	Puerto Rico	\$102,867,340.87
Illinois	\$197,177,597.95	Rhode Island	\$15,040,521.71
Indiana	\$53,587,049.39	South Carolina	\$27,150,599.18
Iowa	\$23,005,029.79	South Dakota	\$6,821,624.05

Kansas	\$24,789,998.78	Tennessee	\$44,010,989.51
Kentucky	\$54,103,362.53	Texas	\$496,488,916.30
Louisiana	\$72,348,418.89	U.S. Virgin Islands	\$5,016,227.60
Maine	\$7,672,141.84	Utah	\$34,209,445.61
Maryland	\$53,330,800.91	Vermont	\$5,048,353.29
Massachusetts	\$61,436,020.80	Virginia	\$62,890,826.34
Michigan	\$108,365,415.67	Washington	\$101,244,763.67
Minnesota	\$62,868,827.25	West Virginia	\$48,189,817.50
Mississippi	\$21,104,090.16	Wisconsin	\$66,626,909.48
Missouri	\$90,636,490.46	Wyoming	\$2,962,578.64
TOTAL	\$5,137,258,847.31		

More information on the Emergency Connectivity Fund program is available at www.emergencyconnectivityfund.org. The program is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company, with oversight from and under rules unanimously adopted by the Federal Communications Commission.