

How to Find a Free Internet Hotspot Near You

- The Illinois State Government has created a drive-up Wi-Fi hotspot finder, located [here](#). The hotspot finder shows free, public Wi-Fi locations that patrons can drive to and access Internet from their car (or sometimes from in the buildings themselves).
- [Through June 30, 2021](#), Xfinity Wi-Fi hotspots in out-of-home locations will be available for free to anyone who needs them, including non-Xfinity Internet customers. To connect to an Xfinity hotspot:
 - Visit xfinity.com/wifi to see a map of Xfinity WiFi hotspots. All open hotspots, both indoor and outdoor, will be displayed on the map in blue.
 - Once at a hotspot, select xfinitywifi from the list of available WiFi networks, and then open your Internet browser.
 - Xfinity Internet customers can sign in using their Xfinity ID and password. Non-Xfinity Internet customers can connect by clicking the Accept and Connect button. Non-Xfinity customers will be able to renew their complimentary sessions every 12 hours.

Free and Low-cost Internet Options

- The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) offers a complete FAQ in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) explaining Broadband service (Internet), what your options are in the United States, and how to get it.
- CUB (Citizens Utility Board) has compiled [a list](#) of Internet/Broadband services programs for low-income households in Illinois.

Here is a short summary of low cost Internet options, including temporary COVID-19 related packages:

- If one person in your household is on SNAP, [AT&T](#) is offering access to Internet with speeds up to 10mbps for \$10/month.
 - Through June 30, 2021, AT&T is:
 - Expanding 'Access from AT&T' eligibility to households with an income 135% or less than the federal poverty guideline as well as households participating in National School Lunch (NSLP) and Head Start Program
 - Waiving home internet data overage fees (does not apply to DSL)
- If you are a new customer and one person in your family is on public assistance (NSLP or SSI), [Spectrum](#) is offering access to internet with speeds up to 30mbps for \$10-15/month + in-home WiFi service for an additional \$5 per month.

- Comcast's [Internet Essentials](#) package (for Xfinity customers who are on public assistance programs like SNAP, NSLP, SSI, and others) offers access to Internet with speeds up to 25mbps for \$9.95/month. Through June 30, 2021, eligible new customers will also receive 60 days of Internet Essentials service free of charge.
- The FCC [Lifeline](#) discount: Households that make less than 135% of the federal poverty guideline or have one member on public assistance programs can get \$9.95 off monthly internet OR phone bill
 - Households on Tribal lands can get \$34.95 off monthly internet OR phone bills.
- As of May 18, 2021, the FCC now also offers the [Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#). Eligible households can get up to \$50 per month towards broadband service and up to \$75 per month if the household lives on qualifying Tribal lands.
 - Eligible households can also get a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

If a household qualifies for the FCC's Lifeline discount, they also qualify for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program.

More Information on Internet in Illinois and COVID-19

- The Illinois State Government released a 5-year Broadband Strategic Plan, located [here](#). Governor Pritzker hopes by 2024, all Illinois homes, businesses, and community institutions throughout the state will have access to basic Internet service.
- The Illinois Department of Commerce is offering [grants](#) to help local institutions address the Internet and technology needs in their communities. The second round of funding for the [Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program](#) opened for applications on December 1, 2020, and will stay open until April 12, 2021. Information about applying can be found [here](#).
- Access Living, the Center for Independent Living (CIL) that serves the City of Chicago, has put together [a list of COVID-related resources](#) for the disability community, including [technology and internet resources](#) that may help make Zoom and other internet-based services more accessible for people with disabilities.