

NEK Community Broadband CUD

Canaan has joined the NEK Community Broadband CUD (Communications Union District), which is working to bring fiber broadband to all addresses in the NEK. There is more funding available this year, as the importance of broadband has been brought to the forefront during the pandemic. Just like any build, the results will not be instant, but the goal is to have fiber broadband to all addresses within 5 years from when building starts.

The CUD is planning to utilize existing “backbone” fiber where possible. From the backbone fiber, main lines are built out into communities, with individual houses being served by drops. The CUD hopes to start work on an engineering design in the next month or so, followed by scheduling and supplies, with building to start Spring of 2022.

Canaan’s representative to the NEK Community Broadband CUD is Morgan Wade. You can contact her at morgangoodson@hotmail.com or 266-7066 or the Select Board with questions or thoughts.

Federal Communication Commission’s Emergency Broadband Benefit

The NEK Community Broadband CUD is helping to spread the word about some assistance being offered to help pay for broadband services at this time.

The purpose of the Federal Communication Commission’s Emergency Broadband Benefit, ([FCC program](#)) is to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new benefit will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, virtual classrooms, and so much more.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands from **participating providers**. Eligible households can also receive 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. The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

If your provider is not participating, ask them why not! You can also let your federal Senators and Representative know.

You can find more information and eligibility requirements at <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit> or,

- Go to [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org) to apply online and to find participating providers near you.
- Call 833-511-0311 for a mail-in application, and return it along with copies of documents showing proof of eligibility to:
Emergency Broadband Support Center
P.O. Box 7081
London, KY 40742

After receiving an eligibility determination, households can contact their preferred service provider to select an Emergency Broadband Benefit eligible service plan.