

## Free and Low-Cost Wi-Fi Options

**Free Community Wi-Fi Hot-Spots:** The FCC has asked the nation's telecommunications companies to take the <https://www.fcc.gov/keep-americans-connected>, which includes a commitment that vendors make their community Wi-Fi Hotspots open and free to all. These are the ones I could find; please let me know if there are others, particularly small PA providers:

- Comcast/Xfinity - <https://hotspots.wifi.xfinity.com/>
- PenTeleData/Service Electric - <http://www.ptdunleashed.com/>
- Zito Media - <https://www.zitomedia.net/wifi/>
- Frontier - <http://www.frontierwifi.com/coverageareafirstfrontier.aspx>
- Charter Spectrum - <https://www.spectrum.com/wifi-hotspots>
- Lackawanna County Free Wi-Fi - <https://www.lackawannacounty.org/index.php/wireless>
- Atlantic Broadband - <https://atlanticbb.com/my-services/my-account/wifi-hotspots>

**National Free Wi-Fi Map** - <https://www.wifimap.io/>. Many of these locations are restaurants that are now closed, but their parking lots may continue to have active service.

**Library Parking Lot Wi-Fi:** The American Library Association has asked every library in the country to keep their Wi-Fi open during the shutdown so patrons can access it from their parking lots. I know of at least one PA library that is allowing/encouraging the community to use their free Wi-Fi in the library parking lot, in the safety of their cars (see wonderful picture at [http://e-ratepa.org/?page\\_id=32310](http://e-ratepa.org/?page_id=32310)). As long as the Internet doesn't extend beyond the school or library's property boundary, I don't think there are any E-rate rules that would prohibit it. In fact, it's a fantastic idea. If you know of any schools or libraries that are making their Wi-Fi available to the public from their parking lots, please let me know (and share a picture if you can).

**CENTRAL DAUPHIN SCHOOLS PARKING LOTS** - You may be able to pick up CDSW Wi-Fi outside the buildings in the parking lots. Student would be required to login with their district credentials.

**Low-Cost Home Internet:** Several companies have low-cost, home-based Internet for low-income households.

- Comcast/Xfinity – Comcast will offer new residential, low-income customers its \$9.95-per-month Internet Essentials program free for 60 days. The company is also boosting the internet service speeds in this program from 15/2 Mbps to 25/3 Mbps, which qualifies the service as high-speed broadband under FCC guidelines. Comcast will also suspend data caps for 60 days. <https://internetessentials.com/>

- AT&T – AT&T's Access program provides \$10/month home-based Internet to limited income households. <https://digitalyou.att.com/low-cost-internet/>

- Charter Spectrum (formerly Time Warner Cable) - Eligible low-income households can receive discounted 30 Mbps high-speed internet, along with Security Suite and an internet modem, at no additional charge. <https://www.spectrum.net/support/spectrum-internet-assist/>

## Resource: Internet/Broadband Access Resource Links

- Comcast
  - <https://corporate.comcast.com/covid-19>
  - Free XFINITY WiFi hotspots (public spaces)
  - Data caps paused for 60 days, all plans temporarily unlimited
  - Internet Essentials (normally \$9.95/mo) for low income households are now free for 60 days
- Verizon Wireless
  - <https://www.verizon.com/about/news/our-response-coronavirus>
  - Waive router rental charges for new customers for 60 days.
  - \$19.99 for 200/200 Mbps with no data caps.
- T-Mobile
  - <https://www.t-mobile.com/news/t-mobile-update-on-covid-19-response>
  - Data allowance extended to schools and students to provide 20GB of data/month for 60 days
- Sprint
  - <https://newsroom.sprint.com/covid-19-updates-sprint-responds.htm>
- AT&T
  - <https://about.att.com/pages/COVID-19.html>
  - Additionally, they will continue to offer internet access for qualifying limited income households at \$10 a month through our Access from AT&T program.
  - AT&T Wifi is also free (not sure about timing for how long)
  - 50% off FirstNet for 6 months.
- RCN
  - <https://www.rcn.com/hub/about-rcn/coronavirus/>
  - No reported special changes to network at this point
- US Cellular
  - <https://www.uscellular.com/covid-19>
  - Waiving late fees, not terminating accounts
  - Waiving data overages
  - Wifi hotspots open for the next 60 days