

Internet Connectivity Options for Southern Maryland

In response to COVID-19, some Internet providers are offering free services to those in need. Below is a list of options available in Southern Maryland:

Comcast: https://www.internetessentials.com/covid19#undefined&all_DolliveinaComcastarea

Atlantic Broadband: <https://atlanticbb.com/keeping-customers-safe-and-connected-covid-19>

Xfinity Free Hotspots: Xfinity is offering free access to all of their public hotspots. More information is available at <https://wifi.xfinity.com/>

The Tri-County Area Libraries will be providing 24/7 Wifi access within the public library parking lots:

Calvert County <https://calvertlibrary.info/>

Prince Frederick Branch 850 Costle Way, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Fairview Branch 8120 Southern Maryland Blvd, Owings, MD 20736

Southern Branch 13920 HG Trueman Rd, Solomons, MD 20688

Twin Beaches Branch 3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

Charles County <https://www.ccplonline.org/>

La Plata Branch 2 Garrett Ave, La Plata, MD 20646

P.D. Brown Memorial Branch 50 Village St., Waldorf, MD 20602

Potomac Branch 3225 Ruth B. Swann Dr., Indian Head, 20640

Waldorf West Branch 10405 O'Donnell Place, Waldorf, MD 20603

*Charles County Public Schools are also providing hotspots in the school parking lots.

St. Mary's County <https://www.stmalib.org/>

Charlotte Hall Library 37600 New Market Road, Charlotte Hall, MD

Leonardtwn Library 23250 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD

Lexington Park Library 21677 FDR Blvd, Lexington Park, MD

*St. Mary's Public Schools are also providing hotspots at certain school parking lots. For a listing of locations and directions, please visit: <https://www.smcps.org/dci/online>.

Government Assistance: Lifeline (<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/lifeline-support-affordable-communications>) is a government program backed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). It provides a monthly phone or internet service discount for low-income households. At the time of writing, Lifeline benefits give eligible subscribers a discount of at least \$9.25 per month off landline phone service, wireless phone service, broadband, or bundled services. Internet service providers in Southern Maryland: Xfinity, Verizon, and Atlantic Broadband.

Some families and communities can qualify for free or price-reduced internet through government and social programs like Lifeline and [EveryoneOn](https://www.everyoneon.org/) (<https://www.everyoneon.org/>), but for those who don't qualify and still want to save money, it can be difficult to find low-cost internet options.

If you need only bare bones internet, there are a few internet providers who offer limited free internet service:

[NetZero](https://store.netzero.net/account/showService.do?serviceId=nz-dialup) (<https://store.netzero.net/account/showService.do?serviceId=nz-dialup>) offers customers up to 10 hours of free dial-up internet use every month. The connection requires a home phone line, and it's limited to data speeds of around 56 Kbps (about half of 1 Mbps). It's not a fast-enough connection for online gaming or streaming video content, but it'll do for basic messaging, email, and web browsing if you're patient.

[FreedomPop](http://www.freedompop.com/home/qualify) (<http://www.freedompop.com/home/qualify>) also has a few options for free internet service. The company offers both free mobile phone service and free home internet service via 4G LTE connections. The high-speed internet claims to be faster than DSL (and definitely faster than dial-up), but you're limited to 1 GB of data per month.

Mobile Services: A list of mobile providers and their response to COVID-19:

- [AT&T COVID-19 response](https://about.att.com/pages/COVID-19.html) (<https://about.att.com/pages/COVID-19.html>) offers open hot-spots, unlimited data to existing customers, and low monthly plan rates to low income families. Also currently providing savings to Public Safety and Front-line Health Care Workers.
- [T-Mobile COVID-19 response](https://www.t-mobile.com/news/t-mobile-update-on-covid-19-response) (<https://www.t-mobile.com/news/t-mobile-update-on-covid-19-response>) providing a new low monthly plan rate starting at \$15 <https://www.t-mobile.com/news/offers/tmobile-connect-launch>. Plus unlimited data to existing customers and currently providing certain plans with 20GB of additional hotspot data.
- [Verizon COVID-19 response](https://www.verizon.com/about/news/our-response-coronavirus) (<https://www.verizon.com/about/news/our-response-coronavirus>) extending low-income internet offer through 2020: <https://www.verizon.com/about/news/verizon-extends-low-income-internet>.