

Computer Resources (free computers, cheap laptops, desktop or tablets)

Computers with Causes:

Computers with Causes distributes donated computers to families with a genuine need. They do a strict needs assessment, background check and reference check to eliminate false requests. It can take several weeks for your application to process. They give priority to foster children, disabled veterans and K-12 students in need. Got to <https://www.computerswithcauses.org/application.htm> to apply.

The On It Foundation:

The On It Foundation has provided free computers and computer training to low income K-12 students and their families for more than 10 years! "On It" stands for Opportunities Necessary to Increase Technology. Website: <http://theonitfoundation.org/>

A Parent/Guardian for the student must write to The On It Foundation requesting a free computer. Information in the letter must provide the following: 1.) Student Name, Age, Grade, School Name, School Address and School Phone Information 2.) Parent/Guardian Name, Address, Phone Number. *Please note 'The Letter of Request' for a free computer must be signed by the Parent/Guardian. Also, we require proof from the school on its letterhead that the student qualifies for free or reduced school lunch. Please mail the Letter of Request and statement from the school to: The On It Foundation Attn: Free Computer Application 18520 NW 67th Avenue, Suite 186 Miami, FL 33015 You may e-mail the Letter of Request (as long as the original signature is included in the letter); However, The On It Foundation requires the original statement from the school regarding the student's confirmation that he/she is on the free or reduced school lunch program. Please send an e-mail to Info@TheOnItFoundation.org

In the event that too many people apply, qualified applicants will be added to a wait list.

PCs for People:

If your income is below the 200% poverty level OR you're currently enrolled in an income-based government assistance program (such as food stamps or Medicaid), you may be able to get a cheap computer from PCs for People at <https://www.pcsforpeople.org/eligibility/>

You'll need to show photo ID, proof of eligibility (such as a dated letter from a government agency confirming your benefits) and/or proof of income. Medicaid cards and EBT cards cannot be used as eligibility documents. You'll need the actual award letter. Once you are determined to be eligible, you'll be able to purchase computers online or visit a **PCs for People office**. Online, you can purchase desktops starting at \$75, laptops starting at \$100 or unlimited Internet devices starting at \$10/month!

EveryoneOn.org:

EveryoneOn.org believes that "there is no way to achieve the American dream without being connected to the Internet." In a world where one in four households lacks home Internet access, EveryoneOn.org connects users with affordable Internet, affordable computers and computer literacy programs.

Using this service is simple. Just visit EveryoneOn.org, enter your zip code, select whatever criteria apply to you (such as low income, SNAP benefits, etc.) and see what is available to you in your area!

Computers for the Blind:

Blind users can get a discounted laptop with accessibility software from **Computers for Blind**. This agency serves all the United States. They do charge a “processing fee” of \$130 per desktop and \$185 per laptop. When payment is received, they’ll build the computer and ship it to you. It usually takes 2-3 weeks.

Retailers and manufacturers often sell good machines at a discount. These machines usually include warranties but are discounted for various reasons.

- **Refurbished laptops** and other machines have been owned previously but were returned due to some sort of malfunction. They’ve been fixed up and are working again... but they’re always sold for less.
- **Scratch and dent laptops** and other machines have surface damage. They may have scratches, dents or other cosmetic flaws but they still function perfectly. However, they are less attractive, so they’re sold for less.
- **Corporate off-lease laptops** and other machines have been returned following a lease period. Often, companies will lease machines for two to three years and then return them for an upgrade. Refurbished business laptops are often a better quality than other refurbished machines because they were used for business and weren’t returned because of a defect.

Buy used machines from the government:

Government surplus stores can be a great source for used but still functional computers. At our local state surplus store, we can usually snag a decent laptop or desktop computer for \$50 or less.

If travelling to your state’s surplus store is not an option, you can still browse sites like GovDeals.com and PropertyRoom.com.

Get a cheap laptop, desktop or tablet from your low-income Internet service provider:

If you've read our posts about low income Internet programs, you know that some low-income Internet service providers also provide access to cheap computers.

Here are some of the deals:

- **Comcast** offers cheap laptops and desktop computers for just \$149.99! The computer you receive will be a computer outfitted with Microsoft Office and Norton Security Suite. Go to: <https://www.internetessentials.com/low-cost-computer> Payment plans may be available. You can purchase this computer at any time as long as you're an Internet Essentials customer in good standing.
- **CenturyLink** offers white, 16 GB Apple iPad Mini 2 tablets for \$150 (plus shipping and handling), but the entire price must be paid before shipping *and* you have to sign a 24 month contract. You can call at 1-866-963-6665 for more information.