



PUBLIC NOTICE

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CONSUMER AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS BUREAU ANNOUNCES 2016-2017 ALLOCATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL DEAF-BLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Washington, D.C. – The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB or Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announces the funding allocations for the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), also called “iCanConnect,” for the 2016-2017 fund year.

The NDBEDP is a program mandated by section 105 of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA) that provides funding of up to \$10 million annually for the distribution of communications equipment to low-income individuals who are deaf-blind.¹ In 2011, the Commission established the framework for a pilot program to fulfill this CVAA mandate.² The Bureau launched the NDBEDP pilot program on July 1, 2012.³ At present, there are 53 entities certified by the Commission to participate in the NDBEDP – one entity to distribute communications equipment in each state, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.⁴

¹ Pub. L. 111-260, 124 Stat. 2751 (2010); *see also* Pub. L. 111-265, 124 Stat. 2795 (2010) (providing technical corrections to the CVAA). Section 105 of the CVAA adds Section 719 to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and is codified at 47 U.S.C. § 620. The CVAA allows the Commission to allocate these funds from the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service Fund (TRS Fund).

² *See Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, Section 105, Relay Services for Deaf-Blind Individuals*, Report and Order, 26 FCC Rcd 5640 (2011) (*NDBEDP Pilot Program Order*). The NDBEDP pilot program was established to run for two years, with an option for the Commission to extend it for another year. *Id.*, 26 FCC Rcd at 5649, para. 22. In 2014, the Bureau extended the pilot program for a third year. *See Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, Section 105, Relay Services for Deaf-Blind Individuals*, Public Notice, 29 FCC Rcd 1234 (CGB 2014). In 2015, the Commission extended the pilot program for an additional year, until June 30, 2016. *See Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, Section 105, Relay Services for Deaf-Blind Individuals*, Order, 30 FCC Rcd 5247 (2015). In 2016, the Commission extended the pilot program for an additional year, until June 30, 2017. *See Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, Section 105, Relay Services for Deaf-Blind Individuals*, Order, FCC 16-69 (rel. May 27, 2016).

³ *Commission Announces Launch of the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program*, Public Notice, 27 FCC Rcd 7403 (CGB 2012).

⁴ A full list of the entities currently certified to participate in the NDBEDP is provided below. Contact information for these entities is available at <http://www.icanconnect.org/state-partners>.

For each year of the pilot program, the Commission sets aside \$500,000 of the \$10 million annually allocated for the NDBEDP for national outreach efforts.⁵ The remaining \$9.5 million of annual funding is used to reimburse NDBEDP certified programs for the reasonable costs of operating their programs in compliance with the Commission’s NDBEDP rules.⁶ Funding allocations for each year of the pilot program have been calculated by allocating a minimum base amount of \$50,000 for each jurisdiction plus a portion of the remaining available funding in an amount proportionate to the population of each jurisdiction.⁷ Allocations for the upcoming 2016-2017 fund year have been calculated by using the same formula, using the most current census population estimates. These allocations are as follows:⁸

State	NDBEDP Certified Program	Funding Allocation for 2016-2017
Alabama	Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind	\$152,413
Alaska	Assistive Technology of Alaska	\$65,564
Arizona	Perkins School for the Blind	\$193,915
Arkansas	Perkins School for the Blind	\$112,771
California	Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$875,054
Colorado	Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	\$165,008
Connecticut	Connecticut Tech Act Project	\$125,685
Delaware	University of Delaware – Center For Disabilities Studies	\$69,937
Florida	To Be Determined	\$477,257
Georgia	Georgia Council for the Hearing Impaired	\$265,298
Hawaii	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$80,174
Idaho	University of Idaho – Idaho Assistive Technology Project	\$84,881
Illinois	The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired	\$321,050
Indiana	Perkins School for the Blind	\$189,523
Iowa	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$115,842
Kansas	Assistive Technology for Kansans	\$111,369

⁵ See *NDBEDP Pilot Program Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 5675-76, para. 80. The Commission announced the selection of the Perkins School for the Blind to conduct national outreach efforts to promote the NDBEDP. See *Perkins School for the Blind to Conduct National Outreach for the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program*, Public Notice, 27 FCC Rcd 6143 (CGB 2012). For this effort, the Perkins School for the Blind is partnering with the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, FableVision, Inc., and other national and local consumer groups, parent groups, agencies, and associations. *Id.*

⁶ *NDBEDP Pilot Program Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 5677, para. 85; see also 47 CFR § 64.610.

⁷ *NDBEDP Pilot Program Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 5677, para. 84.

⁸ Population figures for these calculations are derived from U.S. Census data. See Table 2. Cumulative Estimates of Resident Population Change for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico and Region and State Rankings: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015 (NST-EST2015-02) (released Dec. 2015), available at <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/state/totals/2015/tables/NST-EST2015-02.xlsx> (last viewed June 6, 2016). See also U.S. Census Bureau, Population of the U.S. Virgin Islands: 2000 and 2010, available at https://www.census.gov/2010census/news/xls/cb11cn180_vi.xls (last viewed June 6, 2016). The Bureau reviews funding data as it becomes available during the year and works with certified programs to reallocate funding between programs to maximize the use of available funding during each fund year. See *NDBEDP Pilot Program Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 5677, 5679, paras. 85, 90.

State	NDBEDP Certified Program	Funding Allocation for 2016-2017
Kentucky	Eastern Kentucky University Center on Deafness and Hearing Loss	\$143,267
Louisiana	Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center	\$148,445
Maine	Disability Rights Maine	\$78,018
Maryland	Perkins School for the Blind	\$176,597
Massachusetts	Perkins School for the Blind	\$193,206
Michigan	Perkins School for the Blind	\$259,138
Minnesota	Perkins School for the Blind	\$165,704
Mississippi	Perkins School for the Blind	\$113,069
Missouri	Missouri Assistive Technology	\$178,225
Montana	Perkins School for the Blind	\$71,771
Nebraska	Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership	\$89,966
Nevada	Perkins School for the Blind	\$110,930
New Hampshire	Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc.	\$78,045
New Jersey	New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$238,808
New Mexico	Perkins School for the Blind	\$93,948
New York	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$467,235
North Carolina	North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing	\$261,672
North Dakota	Interagency Program for Assistive Technology	\$65,954
Ohio	Ohio Deaf-Blind Outreach Program	\$294,776
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services	\$132,439
Oregon	Access Technologies, Inc.	\$134,919
Pennsylvania	Institute on Disabilities – Temple University	\$319,838
Rhode Island	Perkins School for the Blind	\$72,264
South Carolina	Perkins School for the Blind	\$153,196
South Dakota	South Dakota Department of Human Services	\$68,094
Tennessee	Tennessee Regulatory Authority	\$189,114
Texas	Perkins School for the Blind	\$628,965
Utah	Perkins School for the Blind	\$113,145
Vermont	Perkins School for the Blind	\$63,195
Virginia	Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired	\$226,688
Washington	To Be Determined	\$201,129
West Virginia	Perkins School for the Blind	\$88,869
Wisconsin	Public Service Commission of Wisconsin	\$171,642
Wyoming	Wyoming Institute for Disabilities – University of Wyoming	\$62,353
District of Columbia	Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind	\$64,169
Puerto Rico	Perkins School for the Blind	\$123,225
U.S. Virgin Islands	Perkins School for the Blind	\$52,243
Total		\$9,500,000

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jackie Ellington, Disability Rights Office, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, 202-418-1153, e-mail Jackie.Ellington@fcc.gov; or Rosaline Crawford, Disability Rights office, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, 202-418-2075, e-mail Rosaline.Crawford@fcc.gov.

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