



PUBLIC NOTICE

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DA 14-947
Released: July 1, 2014

BUREAU ANNOUNCES 2014-2015 STATE ALLOCATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL DEAF-BLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Washington, D.C. – The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announces the state funding allocations for the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) for the 2014-2015 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 On April 4, 2011, the Commission adopted the *NDBEDP Pilot Order*, establishing the framework for a pilot program to fulfill this CVAA mandate.² In that Order, the Commission determined that it would certify one entity per state as eligible to receive support for the local distribution of equipment to low-income individuals who are deaf-blind.³ On July 2, 2012, after an application and selection process, the Commission announced the entities that had been selected as certified programs to participate in the NDBEDP and informed them of the respective state allocations for the 2012-2013 Fund year.⁴

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

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 Order*). The NDBEDP pilot program was established to run for two years, with an option for the Commission to extend the pilot for another year. *Id.* at 5649, ¶ 22. The Commission recently 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).

³ *NDBEDP Pilot Order* at 5646, ¶ 12.

⁴ *Commission Announces Entities Certified to Participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program*, Public Notice, 27 FCC Rcd 7397 (CGB 2012).

⁵ *See NDBEDP Pilot Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 5675-76, ¶ 80. The Commission announced the selection of the Perkins School for the Blind to conduct national outreach efforts to promote the NDBEDP pilot. *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.*

their programs in compliance with the Commission’s NDBEDP rules.⁶ Funding allocations for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 Fund years were 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 2014-2015 Fund year were calculated by using the same formula with the most current census population estimates and appear below:⁸

State	NDBEDP Certified Program	Funding Allocation for 2014-2015
Alabama	Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind	\$ 153,520
Alaska	Assistive Technology of Alaska	\$ 65,744
Arizona	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 191,918
Arkansas	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 113,379
California	Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$ 870,939
Colorado	Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	\$ 162,829
Connecticut	Connecticut Tech Act Project	\$ 127,015
Delaware	University of Delaware – Center For Disabilities Studies	\$ 69,826
Florida	Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.	\$ 468,749
Georgia	Georgia Council for the Hearing Impaired	\$ 263,995
Hawaii	Island Skill Gathering	\$ 80,070
Idaho	University of Idaho – Idaho Assistive Technology Project	\$ 84,526
Illinois	The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired	\$ 325,887
Indiana	To Be Determined	\$ 190,724
Iowa	Iowa Utilities Board	\$ 116,185
Kansas	Assistive Technology for Kansans	\$ 111,978
Kentucky	Eastern Kentucky University Center on Deafness and Hearing Loss	\$ 144,131
Louisiana	Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center	\$ 149,060
Maine	Maine Center on Deafness	\$ 78,447
Maryland	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 176,973
Massachusetts	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 193,335
Michigan	Michigan Commission for the Blind	\$ 261,927
Minnesota	To Be Determined	\$ 166,084
Mississippi	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 114,060
Missouri	Missouri Assistive Technology	\$ 179,444
Montana	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 71,741
Nebraska	Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership	\$ 90,017
Nevada	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 109,754

⁶ *NDBEDP Pilot Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 5677, ¶ 85.

⁷ *NDBEDP Pilot Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 5677, ¶ 84. The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau may adjust these allocations, as needed and appropriate. *Id.* at 5677, ¶¶ 85, 90.

⁸ Population figures for these calculations are derived from U.S. Census data. *See* National, State, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth Totals Datasets: Population change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013 (NST-EST2013-popchg2010-2013), available at <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/national/totals/2013/NST-EST2013-popchg2010-2013.html> (last visited June 18, 2014). *See also* U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 for the U.S. Virgin Islands and the 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands available at http://www.census.gov/2010census/news/xls/cb11cn180_vi.xls (last visited June 18, 2014).

State	NDBEDP Certified Program	Funding Allocation for 2014-2015
New Hampshire	Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc.	\$ 78,344
New Jersey	New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$ 240,591
New Mexico	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 94,659
New York	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$ 470,854
North Carolina	North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing	\$ 260,909
North Dakota	Interagency Program for Assistive Technology	\$ 65,492
Ohio	Ohio Deaf-Blind Outreach Program	\$ 297,804
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services	\$ 132,465
Oregon	Access Technologies, Inc.	\$ 134,167
Pennsylvania	Institute on Disabilities – Temple University	\$ 323,567
Rhode Island	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 72,519
South Carolina	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 152,259
South Dakota	South Dakota Department of Human Services	\$ 68,094
Tennessee	Tennessee Regulatory Authority	\$ 189,120
Texas	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 616,422
Utah	Utah Public Service Commission	\$ 112,126
Vermont	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 63,420
Virginia	Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	\$ 226,907
Washington	Department of Social and Health Services – Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	\$ 199,301
West Virginia	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 89,712
Wisconsin	Public Service Commission of Wisconsin	\$ 172,987
Wyoming	Wyoming Institute for Disabilities – University of Wyoming	\$ 62,478
Washington, DC	Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind	\$ 63,845
Puerto Rico	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 127,422
U.S. Virgin Islands	Perkins School for the Blind	\$ 52,279

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