



PUBLIC NOTICE

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CONSUMER AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS BUREAU ANNOUNCES 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 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, ¶ 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*, CG Docket No. 10-210, Order, FCC 15-57 (rel. May 27, 2015).

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 2015-2016 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 2015-2016
Alabama	Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind	\$152,998
Alaska	Assistive Technology of Alaska	\$65,648
Arizona	Perkins School for the Blind	\$192,974
Arkansas	Perkins School for the Blind	\$113,004
California	Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$874,147
Colorado	Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	\$163,756
Connecticut	Connecticut Tech Act Project	\$126,392
Delaware	University of Delaware – Center For Disabilities Studies	\$69,872
Florida	Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.	\$472,524
Georgia	Georgia Council for the Hearing Impaired	\$264,463
Hawaii	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$80,151
Idaho	University of Idaho – Idaho Assistive Technology Project	\$84,715
Illinois	The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired	\$323,577
Indiana	Perkins School for the Blind	\$190,114
Iowa	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$115,994
Kansas	Assistive Technology for Kansans	\$111,680

⁵ See *NDBEDP Pilot Program 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. 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, ¶ 85. See also 47 C.F.R. § 64.610.

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

⁸ Population figures for these calculations are derived from U.S. Census data. See National, State, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth Totals Datasets: Population change and rankings: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014 (NST-EST2014-popchg2010-2014), available at <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/national/totals/2014/NST-EST2014-popchg2010-2014.html> (last viewed June 15, 2015). 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 15, 2015). 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 *id.*, 26 FCC Rcd at 5677, 5679, ¶¶ 85, 90.

State	NDBEDP Certified Program	Funding Allocation for 2015-2016
Kentucky	Eastern Kentucky University Center on Deafness and Hearing Loss	\$143,740
Louisiana	Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center	\$148,757
Maine	Maine Center on Deafness	\$78,250
Maryland	Perkins School for the Blind	\$176,936
Massachusetts	Perkins School for the Blind	\$193,269
Michigan	Perkins School for the Blind	\$260,481
Minnesota	Perkins School for the Blind	\$165,908
Mississippi	Perkins School for the Blind	\$113,593
Missouri	Missouri Assistive Technology	\$178,788
Montana	Perkins School for the Blind	\$71,740
Nebraska	Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership	\$89,962
Nevada	Perkins School for the Blind	\$110,301
New Hampshire	Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc.	\$78,181
New Jersey	New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$239,843
New Mexico	Perkins School for the Blind	\$94,297
New York	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$469,401
North Carolina	North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing	\$261,205
North Dakota	Interagency Program for Assistive Technology	\$65,706
Ohio	Ohio Deaf-Blind Outreach Program	\$296,255
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services	\$132,368
Oregon	Access Technologies, Inc.	\$134,326
Pennsylvania	Institute on Disabilities – Temple University	\$321,594
Rhode Island	Perkins School for the Blind	\$72,411
South Carolina	Perkins School for the Blind	\$152,640
South Dakota	South Dakota Department of Human Services	\$68,121
Tennessee	Tennessee Regulatory Authority	\$189,105
Texas	Perkins School for the Blind	\$622,553
Utah	Perkins School for the Blind	\$112,506
Vermont	Perkins School for the Blind	\$63,308
Virginia	Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	\$226,846
Washington	Department of Social and Health Services – Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	\$199,984
West Virginia	Perkins School for the Blind	\$89,300
Wisconsin	Public Service Commission of Wisconsin	\$172,288
Wyoming	Wyoming Institute for Disabilities – University of Wyoming	\$62,407
District of Columbia	Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind	\$63,995
Puerto Rico	Perkins School for the Blind	\$125,366
U.S. Virgin Islands	Perkins School for the Blind	\$52,260
Total		\$9,500,000

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