



PUBLIC NOTICE

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FCC ANNOUNCES APPLICANTS FOR CERTIFICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL DEAF-BLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

CG Docket No. 10-210

On August 4, 2016, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) adopted rules to convert the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), also known as “iCanConnect,” from a pilot program to a permanent program as of July 1, 2017.¹ Pursuant to these rules, the Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB), must certify a single entity for each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as the sole entity for that jurisdiction to administer the NDBEDP and receive reimbursement for NDBEDP activities from the TRS Fund.² On February 7, 2017, CGB announced that it would accept certification applications from interested parties for a 60-day period, ending on April 7, 2017.³

In accordance with the *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, CGB publishes this list of entities that have applied for certification to participate in the NDBEDP.⁴ This announcement puts all certification applicants on notice of competing applications.⁵

¹ *Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, Section 105, Relay Services for Deaf-Blind Individuals*, Report and Order, 31 FCC Rcd 9178 (2016) (*NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*); see also 47 CFR §§ 64.6201-64.6219. Under the NDBEDP, the Commission may provide up to \$10 million annually from the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service Fund (TRS Fund) to support local programs that distribute equipment to eligible low-income individuals who are deaf-blind, so that these individuals can access telecommunications service, Internet access service, and advanced communications services. 47 U.S.C. § 620.

² 47 CFR § 64.6207; see also *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9184, para. 9.

³ *FCC Announces 60-day Period to Apply for Certification to Participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program*, CG Docket No. 10-210, Public Notice, DA 17-138 (Feb. 7, 2017). In addition, CGB announced that any entity that held certification under the NDBEDP pilot program that did not wish to participate in the permanent NDBEDP was required to notify the Commission by April 7, 2017. *Id.* at 1, 5; see also *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9186, para. 15. Only the entities certified to serve Virginia and Wisconsin under the NDBEDP pilot program notified CGB of such intent. These entities must comply with certain requirements set forth in the *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order* that are designed to ensure the continuation of NDBEDP operations in their jurisdictions, including the submission of final reimbursement claims and reports to the Commission, the transfer of data and equipment inventory to their successors, and notification of their exits from the program to consumers. *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9197, paras. 44-45.

⁴ *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9186-87, para. 16.

⁵ *Id.* CGB received at least one application for certification for each jurisdiction. On a rolling basis, CGB will release additional public notices announcing entities selected for certification under the permanent NDBEDP after

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APPLICANTS FOR CERTIFICATION:

State	Applicants
Alabama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind
Alaska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistive Technology of Alaska
Arizona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
Arkansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Colorado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Connecticut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecticut Tech Act Project
Delaware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Delaware – Center for Disabilities Studies
Florida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. • Tools for Life
Hawaii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults
Idaho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Idaho – Center on Disabilities and Human Development
Illinois	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chicago Lighthouse Serving the Blind, Visually Impaired, Disabled and Veteran Communities
Indiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
Iowa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults
Kansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistive Technology for Kansans
Kentucky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Kentucky University
Louisiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center
Maine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Rights Maine
Maryland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
Massachusetts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
Michigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
Minnesota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind

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 reviewing applications and supplemental materials received for each state. In addition, CGB will take appropriate steps to minimize possible disruptions of service by providing as much advance notice as possible about such selections. *See id.*

Mississippi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
State	Applicants
Missouri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missouri Assistive Technology
Montana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind • Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults
Nebraska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership
Nevada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
New Hampshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc.
New Jersey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
New Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults
North Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing
North Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Dakota Assistive
Ohio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
Oklahoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
Oregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Technologies, Inc.
Pennsylvania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute on Disabilities – Temple University • Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania
Rhode Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
South Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
South Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Dakota Department of Human Services
Tennessee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennessee Public Utility Commission
Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
Utah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
Vermont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
West Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
Wisconsin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Wyoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyoming Institute for Disabilities – University of Wyoming
Other Jurisdiction	Applicants

District of Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind
American Samoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults
Other Jurisdiction	Applicants
Guam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults
Northern Mariana Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults
Puerto Rico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind
U.S. Virgin Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins School for the Blind

ACCESSIBLE FORMATS: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY).

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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