**DA 17-616**

**Released: June 23, 2017**

**2017-2018 allocations for the national deaf-blind equipment distribution program**

Under the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), also called “iCanConnect,” the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or 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.[[1]](#footnote-1) By this notice, the Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) announces the funding allocations for the NDBEDP for Fund year 2017-2018.[[2]](#footnote-2)

On August 4, 2016, the FCC adopted rules to convert the NDBEDP from a pilot program to a permanent program as of July 1, 2017.[[3]](#footnote-3) Pursuant to these rules, CGB certified a single entity for each state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, 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.[[4]](#footnote-4)

As directed by the *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order,* during the 2017-2018 Fund year, CGB will set aside $250,000 for national outreach efforts to be conducted by the Perkins School for the Blind.[[5]](#footnote-5) In addition, pursuant to that order, CGB will set aside $100,000 towards the development of a centralized database that certified programs will be required to use to submit information about their NDBEDP-related activities for reporting purposes, and may use for the generation of reimbursement claims.[[6]](#footnote-6)

The remaining $9.65 million of funding for the 2017-2018 Fund year will be used to reimburse certified programs for the cost of equipment and authorized related services, up to each certified program’s funding allocation.[[7]](#footnote-7) Pursuant to the *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, initial funding allocations for the upcoming Fund year are calculated by providing 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 that jurisdiction.[[8]](#footnote-8) The initial allocations for the 56 covered jurisdictions are as follows:[[9]](#footnote-9)

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| **State** | **NDBEDP Certified Program** | **2017-2018** |
| Alabama | Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind | $151,903  |
| Alaska | Assistive Technology of Alaska | $65,545  |
| Arizona | Perkins School for the Blind | $195,230  |
| Arkansas | Perkins School for the Blind | $112,614  |
| California | Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired | $872,426  |
| Colorado | Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing | $166,094  |
| Connecticut | Connecticut Tech Act Project | $124,939  |
| Delaware | University of Delaware – Center for Disabilities Studies | $69,949  |
| Florida | Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults | $481,903  |

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| **State** | **NDBEDP Certified Program** | **2017-2018** |
| Georgia | Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing | $266,039  |
| Hawaii | Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults | $79,933  |
| Idaho | University of Idaho – Center on Disabilities and Human Development | $85,268  |
| Illinois | The Chicago Lighthouse Serving the Blind, Visually Impaired, Disabled and Veteran Communities | $318,237  |
| Indiana | Perkins School for the Blind | $188,986  |
| Iowa | Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults | $115,683  |
| Kansas | Assistive Technology for Kansans | $110,918  |
| Kentucky | Eastern Kentucky University | $142,970  |
| Louisiana | Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center | $148,097  |
| Maine | Disability Rights Maine | $77,899  |
| Maryland | Perkins School for the Blind | $176,066  |
| Massachusetts | Perkins School for the Blind | $192,731  |
| Michigan | Perkins School for the Blind | $258,033  |
| Minnesota | Perkins School for the Blind | $165,663  |
| Mississippi | Perkins School for the Blind  | $112,624  |
| Missouri | Missouri Assistive Technology | $177,670  |
| Montana | Perkins School for the Blind | $71,845  |
| Nebraska | Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership | $89,961  |
| Nevada | Perkins School for the Blind | $111,605  |
| New Hampshire | Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc. | $77,969  |
| New Jersey | New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired | $237,418  |
| New Mexico | Perkins School for the Blind | $93,605  |
| New York | Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults | $463,733  |
| North Carolina | North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing | $262,611  |
| North Dakota | North Dakota Assistive  | $65,882  |
| Ohio | Perkins School for the Blind | $293,362  |
| Oklahoma | Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services | $132,212  |
| Oregon | Access Technologies, Inc. | $135,773  |
| Pennsylvania | Institute on Disabilities – Temple University | $317,875  |
| Rhode Island | Perkins School for the Blind | $72,136  |

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| **State** | **NDBEDP Certified Program** | **2017-2018** |
| South Carolina | Perkins School for the Blind | $153,953  |
| South Dakota | South Dakota Department of Human Services | $68,134  |
| Tennessee | Tennessee Public Utility Commission | $189,366  |
| Texas | Perkins School for the Blind | $633,820  |
| Utah | Perkins School for the Blind | $113,934  |
| Vermont | Perkins School for the Blind | $63,087  |
| Virginia | Perkins School for the Blind | $226,257  |
| Washington | Perkins School for the Blind | $202,709  |
| West Virginia | Perkins School for the Blind | $88,368  |
| Wisconsin | Wisconsin Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources | $171,084  |
| Wyoming | Wyoming Institute for Disabilities – University of Wyoming | $62,268  |
| **Other Jurisdictions** | **NDBEDP Certified Program** | **2017-2018** |
| District of Columbia | Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind | $64,273 |
| American Samoa | Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults | $51,163  |
| Guam | Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults | $53,339  |
| Northern Mariana Islands | Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults | $51,129  |
| Puerto Rico | Perkins School for the Blind | $121,479  |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | Perkins School for the Blind | $52,230  |
|  | **Subtotal** | **$9,650,000**  |
|  | National Outreach | $250,000 |
|  | Centralized Database | $100,000 |
|  | **Total** | **$10,000,000** |

CGB reminds certified entities that the above amounts are intended to serve as initial allocations only. To maximize available funds under the NDBEDP, CGB may make (1) voluntary reallocations between certified programs at any time during the Fund year and (2) involuntary realloca­tions when individual program performance indicates that NDBEDP funds could be more fully utilized by other certified programs.[[10]](#footnote-10)

**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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1. 47 U.S.C. § 620. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Each Fund year for the NDBEDP runs from July 1 of each year through June 30 of the following year. This coincides with the Fund year for TRS. *See generally* 47 CFR § 64.604(c)(5)(iii)(H). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *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. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 47 CFR § 64.6207; *see also NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9184, para. 9; *Commission Announces Entities Certified to Participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for 13 States and Territories*, CG Docket 10-210, Public Notice, DA 17-460 (CGB May 12, 2017); *Commission Announces Entities Certified to Participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for 12 States*, CG Docket 10-210, Public Notice, DA 17-495 (CGB May 22, 2017); *Commission Announces Entities Certified to Participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for 13 Additional States and Territories*, CG Docket 10-210, Public Notice, DA 17-549 (CGB June 6, 2017); *Commission Announces Entities Certified to Participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for 8 Additional States and the District of Columbia*, CG Docket 10-210, Public Notice, DA 17-596 (CGB June 20, 2017); *Commission Announces Entities Certified to Participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for 9 Additional States*, CG Docket 10-210, Public Notice, DA 17-605 (CGB June 21, 2017). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *See NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9236-37, 9242, paras. 135, 149. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *See NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9242, 9250-51, paras. 149, 169 (authorizing CGB to allocate an amount necessary from the $10 million available annually from the TRS Fund for the NDBEDP for the development and maintenance of the centralized database). During the first year of the permanent program, 2017-2018, CGB and the NDBEDP Administrator will coordinate with the FCC’s Office of Managing Director and Chief Information Officer, as well as with NDBEDP certified programs that will use or access the database, as appropriate, to identify the data elements, structure of the database, and other implementation details in accordance with the *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*. *See id*., 31 FCC Rcd at 9250-51, 9264-65, paras. 169, 202. CGB may reallocate to certified programs all or part of the funds set aside for this purpose if it determines that they will not be used during the 2017-2018 Fund year. *See* 47 CFR § 64.6205 (directing CGB to designate an NDBEDP Administrator to determine annual funding allocations and reallocations). In subsequent years, it is expected that additional funds will be allocated for the production, testing, implementation, and maintenance of the centralized database. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 64.6213. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9242, para. 149. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Population figures for these calculations are derived from U.S. Census data. *See* U.S. Census Bureau, Population, population change, and estimated components of population change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2016 (NST-EST2016-alldata), <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2010-2016/national/totals/nst-est2016-alldata.csv> (Dec. 16, 2016); U.S. Census Bureau, Table 1b, Population, Housing Units, Land Area, and Density by Place for American Samoa: 2010, <https://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/cph-t/t-8tables/table1b.pdf> (Oct. 28, 2013); U.S. Census Bureau, Table 3b, Population, Housing Units, Land Area, and Density by Place for Guam: 2010, <https://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/cph-t/t-8tables/table3b.pdf> (Oct. 28, 2013); U.S. Census Bureau, Table 2b, Population, Housing Units, Land Area, and Density by Place for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: 2010, <https://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/cph-t/t-8tables/table2b.pdf> (Oct. 28, 2013); U.S. Census Bureau, Table 4b, Population, Housing Units, Land Area, and Density by Place for the U.S. Virgin Islands: 2010, <https://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/cph-t/t-8tables/table4b.pdf> (Oct. 28, 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9244, para. 153. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)