



PUBLIC NOTICE

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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 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

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 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

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 In addition, pursuant to that order, CGB will set aside \$100,000 towards the development of a centralized

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 620.

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).

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.

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).

⁵ *See NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9236-37, 9242, paras. 135, 149.

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

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 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 The initial allocations for the 56 covered jurisdictions are as follows:⁹

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

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.

⁷ See 47 C.F.R. § 64.6213.

⁸ *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9242, para. 149.

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).

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

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

¹⁰ *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9244, para. 153.

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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