



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500  
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>  
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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## 2018-2019 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.<sup>1</sup> By this notice, the Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) announces the funding allocations for the NDBEDP for 2018-2019.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

As directed by the *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, for 2018-2019, CGB will set aside \$250,000 for national outreach efforts to be conducted by the Perkins School for the Blind.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 620.

<sup>2</sup> The fund year for the NDBEDP runs from July 1 through June 30 of the following year, which coincides with the TRS Fund year. *See generally* 47 CFR § 64.604(c)(5)(iii)(H).

<sup>3</sup> *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.

<sup>4</sup> 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*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 3959 (CGB 2017); *Commission Announces Entities Certified to Participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for 12 States*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 4078 (CGB 2017); *Commission Announces Entities Certified to Participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for 13 Additional States and Territories*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 4737 (CGB 2017); *Commission Announces Entities Certified to Participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for 8 Additional States and the District of Columbia*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 4999 (CGB 2017); *Commission Announces Entities Certified to Participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for 9 Additional States*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 5041 (CGB 2017).

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

<sup>6</sup> *See id.* 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 2018-2019, CGB and the NDBEDP Administrator will continue to coordinate with the FCC’s

The remaining \$9.65 million of funding for 2018-2019 will be used to reimburse certified programs for the cost of equipment and authorized related services, up to each certified program's funding allocation.<sup>7</sup> Pursuant to the *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, initial funding allocations for 2018-2019 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.<sup>8</sup> The initial allocations for the 56 covered jurisdictions are as follows:<sup>9</sup>

<b>State</b>	<b>NDBEDP Certified Program</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
Alabama	Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind	\$151,363
Alaska	Assistive Technology of Alaska	\$65,383
Arizona	Perkins School for the Blind	\$195,892
Arkansas	Perkins School for the Blind	\$112,469
California	Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$872,101
Colorado	Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	\$166,592
Connecticut	Connecticut Tech Act Project	\$124,611
Delaware	University of Delaware – Center for Disabilities Studies	\$70,002
Florida	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$486,337

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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.* 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 2018-2019. 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.

<sup>7</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 64.6213.

<sup>8</sup> *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9242, para. 149.

<sup>9</sup> 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, 2017 (NST-EST2017-alldata), <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2010-2017/national/totals/nst-est2017-alldata.csv> (Apr. 27, 2018); 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).

<b>State</b>	<b>NDBEDP Certified Program</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
Georgia	Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	\$266,862
Hawaii	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$79,683
Idaho	University of Idaho – Center on Disabilities and Human Development	\$85,701
Illinois	The Chicago Lighthouse Serving the Blind, Visually Impaired, Disabled and Veteran Communities	\$316,198
Indiana	Perkins School for the Blind	\$188,626
Iowa	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$115,410
Kansas	Assistive Technology for Kansans	\$110,574
Kentucky	Eastern Kentucky University	\$142,618
Louisiana	Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center	\$147,403
Maine	Disability Rights Maine	\$77,778
Maryland	Perkins School for the Blind	\$175,845
Massachusetts	Perkins School for the Blind	\$192,639
Michigan	Perkins School for the Blind	\$257,150
Minnesota	Perkins School for the Blind	\$165,957
Mississippi	Perkins School for the Blind	\$112,050
Missouri	Missouri Assistive Technology	\$177,121
Montana	Perkins School for the Blind	\$71,843
Nebraska	Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership	\$89,925
Nevada	Perkins School for the Blind	\$112,339
New Hampshire	Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc.	\$77,921
New Jersey	New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$237,258
New Mexico	Perkins School for the Blind	\$93,418
New York	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$462,736
North Carolina	North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing	\$263,619
North Dakota	North Dakota Assistive	\$65,707
Ohio	Perkins School for the Blind	\$292,422
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services	\$131,736
Oregon	Access Technologies, Inc.	\$136,142
Pennsylvania	Institute on Disabilities – Temple University	\$316,271
Rhode Island	Perkins School for the Blind	\$72,033

<b>State</b>	<b>NDBEDP Certified Program</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
South Carolina	Perkins School for the Blind	\$154,474
South Dakota	South Dakota Department of Human Services	\$68,083
Tennessee	Tennessee Public Utility Commission	\$189,648
Texas	Perkins School for the Blind	\$638,549
Utah	Perkins School for the Blind	\$114,498
Vermont	Perkins School for the Blind	\$62,968
Virginia	Perkins School for the Blind	\$226,120
Washington	Perkins School for the Blind	\$203,991
West Virginia	Perkins School for the Blind	\$87,758
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources	\$170,508
Wyoming	Wyoming Institute for Disabilities – University of Wyoming	\$62,046
<b>Other Jurisdictions</b>	<b>NDBEDP Certified Program</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
District of Columbia	Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind	\$64,430
American Samoa	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$51,154
Guam	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$53,314
Northern Mariana Islands	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$51,120
Puerto Rico	Perkins School for the Blind	\$119,391
U.S. Virgin Islands	Perkins School for the Blind	\$52,213
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$9,650,000</b>
	National Outreach	\$250,000
	Centralized Database	\$100,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>

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.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:Jackie.Ellington@fcc.gov); or Rosaline Crawford, Disability Rights office, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, 202-418-2075, e-mail [Rosaline.Crawford@fcc.gov](mailto:Rosaline.Crawford@fcc.gov).

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