**DA 23-352**

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**2023-2024 allocations for the**

**national deaf-blind equipment distribution program**

**CG Docket No. 10-210**

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 deafblind, so that these individuals can access telecommunications service, Internet access service, and advanced communications services.[[1]](#footnote-3) By this notice, the Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) announces the funding allocations for the NDBEDP for 2023-2024.[[2]](#footnote-4)

As directed by the *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order,* for 2023-2024, CGB will set aside $250,000 for national outreach efforts to be conducted by the Perkins School for the Blind.[[3]](#footnote-5) In addition, pursuant to that order, CGB will set aside $150,000 towards the maintenance of the centralized database to be used by certified programs for reporting and reimbursement purposes.[[4]](#footnote-6)

The remaining $9,600,000 of funding for 2023-2024 will be used to reimburse certified programs for the cost of equipment and authorized related services, up to each certified program’s funding allocation.[[5]](#footnote-7) Pursuant to the *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, initial funding allocations for 2023-2024 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.[[6]](#footnote-8) CGB reminds certified entities that the below 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 TRS Fund year and (2) involuntary realloca­tions when individual program performance indicates that NDBEDP funds could be more fully utilized by other certified programs.[[7]](#footnote-9)

The initial allocations for the 56 covered jurisdictions are as follows:[[8]](#footnote-10)

| **State** | **NDBEDP Certified Program** |  **2023-2024** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Alabama | Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind |  $152,436  |
| Alaska | Assistive Technology of Alaska |  $64,809  |
| Arizona | Perkins School for the Blind |  $198,561  |
| Arkansas | Perkins School for the Blind |  $111,483  |
| California | Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired |  $837,893  |
| Colorado | Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind |  $167,892  |
| Connecticut | Connecticut Tech Act Project |  $123,203  |
| Delaware | University of Delaware – Center for Disabilities Studies |  $70,559  |
| Florida | Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youth and Adults |  $499,060  |
| Georgia | Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing |  $270,300  |
| Hawaii | Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youth and Adults |  $79,073  |
| Idaho | University of Idaho – Center on Disabilities and Human Development |  $89,144  |
| Illinois | Lester and Rosalie Anixter Center (Chicago Hearing Society) |  $303,996  |
| Indiana | Perkins School for the Blind |  $187,940  |
| Iowa | Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youth and Adults |  $114,609  |
| Kansas | Assistive Technology for Kansans |  $109,293  |
| Kentucky | Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youth and Adults |  $141,091  |
| Louisiana | Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center |  $142,664  |
| Maine | Perkins School for the Blind |  $77,966  |
| Maryland | Perkins School for the Blind |  $174,447  |
| Massachusetts | Perkins School for the Blind |  $190,946  |
| Michigan | Perkins School for the Blind |  $252,560  |
| Minnesota | Perkins School for the Blind |  $165,414  |
| Mississippi | Perkins School for the Blind  |  $109,351  |
| Missouri | Missouri Assistive Technology |  $174,716  |
| Montana | Perkins School for the Blind |  $72,668  |
| Nebraska | Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership |  $89,727  |
| Nevada | Perkins School for the Blind |  $114,150  |
| New Hampshire | Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc. |  $78,166  |
| New Jersey | New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired |  $236,968 |
| New Mexico | Perkins School for the Blind |  $92,662  |
| New York | Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youth and Adults |  $447,226  |
| North Carolina | North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing |  $265,982  |
| North Dakota | North Dakota Assistive  |  $65,731  |
| Ohio | Perkins School for the Blind |  $287,322 |
| Oklahoma | Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services |  $131,148  |
| Oregon | Access Technologies, Inc. |  $135,596  |
| Pennsylvania | Institute on Disabilities – Temple University |  $311,868  |
| Rhode Island | Perkins School for the Blind |  $72,079  |
| South Carolina | Perkins School for the Blind |  $156,642  |
| South Dakota | South Dakota Department of Human Services |  $68,367  |
| Tennessee | Tennessee Public Utility Commission |  $192,347 |
| Texas | Perkins School for the Blind |  $656,213  |
| Utah | Perkins School for the Blind |  $118,249  |
| Vermont | Perkins School for the Blind |  $63,062  |
| Virginia | Perkins School for the Blind |  $225,298  |
| Washington | Perkins School for the Blind |  $207,173 |
| West Virginia | Perkins School for the Blind |  $85,835  |
| Wisconsin | Wisconsin Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources |  $168,954  |
| Wyoming | Wyoming Institute for Disabilities – University of Wyoming |  $61,736  |
| **Other Jurisdictions** | **NDBEDP Certified Program** |  **2032-2024**  |
| District of Columbia | TCS Access | $63,562  |
| American Samoa | Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youth and Adults | $51,004 |
| Guam | Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youth and Adults | $53,106 |
| Northern Mariana Islands | Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youth and Adults | $50,955 |
| Puerto Rico | Perkins School for the Blind | $115,039  |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | Perkins School for the Blind | $51,759 |
|  | **Subtotal** | **$9,600,000** |
|  | National Outreach | $250,000 |
|  | Centralized Database Maintenance | $150,000 |
|  | **Total** | **$10,000,000** |

**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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Contact Jackie Ellington, Disability Rights Office, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, at 202-418-1153 or Jackie.Ellington@fcc.gov.

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1. 47 U.S.C. § 620; *see also* 47 CFR §§ 64.6201-64.6219; *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, Report and Order, 31 FCC Rcd 9178 (2016) (*NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
2. 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). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
3. *See NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9236-37, 9242, paras. 135, 149. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
4. *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); 47 CFR § 64.6205 (directing CGB to designate an NDBEDP Administrator to determine annual funding allocations and reallocations). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
5. *See* 47 CFR § 64.6213. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
6. *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9242, para. 149. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
7. *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9244, para. 153. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
8. Population figures for these calculations are derived from U.S. Census data. *See* U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022 (NST-EST2022-POP), <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/tables/2020-2022/state/totals/NST-EST2022-POP.xlsx> (accessed Apr. 3, 2023); U.S. Census Bureau, Table 1. Population of Guam: 2010 and 2020, <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/data/island-areas/guam/population-and-housing-unit-counts/guam-phc-table01.pdf> (Oct. 28, 2021); U.S. Census Bureau, Table 1. Population of Guam: 2010 and 2020, <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/data/island-areas/american-samoa/population-and-housing-unit-counts/american-samoa-phc-table01.pdf> (Oct. 28, 2021); U.S. Census Bureau, Table 1. Population of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: 2010 and 2020, <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/data/island-areas/commonwealth-of-the-northern-mariana-islands/population-and-housing-unit-counts/commonwealth-northern-mariana-islands-phc-table01.pdf> (Oct. 28, 2021); U.S. Census Bureau, Table 1. Population of the United States Virgin Islands: 2010 and 2020, <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/data/island-areas/us-virgin-islands/population-and-housing-unit-counts/us-virgin-islands-phc-table01.pdf> (Oct. 28, 2021).

  [↑](#footnote-ref-10)