



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
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DA 26-609

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## FCC CERTIFIES COMMUNICATION SERVICE FOR THE DEAF TO ADMINISTER THE NATIONAL DEAFBLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM FOR CALIFORNIA

### CG Docket No. 10-210

By this Public Notice, the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) announces the selection of Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc. (CSD) for certification to administer the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), also called “iCanConnect,” for the state of California.

On April 6, 2026, CGB released a Public Notice inviting applications from entities for certification to distribute equipment under the NDBEDP to eligible individuals in the state of California for a period of one year, from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.<sup>1</sup> In response to the Public Notice, CGB received two applications, CSD and the Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youths and Adults.

After careful review, CSD has been selected as the certified entity to operate the NDBEDP in California for the next year, effective July 1, 2026.<sup>2</sup> CSD meets the criteria set out in the Commission’s rules to be certified under the NDBEDP.<sup>3</sup> As evidenced in its application,

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<sup>1</sup> *FCC Invites Applications for Certification to the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for the State of California*, CG Docket No. 10-210, Public Notice, DA 26-332 (CGB Apr. 6, 2026) (*California Application Public Notice*) (summarizing the qualifications for obtaining certification to participate in the NDBEDP), <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-969A1.pdf>. On May 17, 2022, CGB certified the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired (the LightHouse) to distribute equipment under the NDBEDP for California for a period of five years, from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2027. *See Commission Announces Entities Certified to Participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program*, Public Notice, CG Docket No. 10-210, Public Notice, 37 FCC Rcd 6212 (CGB 2022) (including California), <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-22-541A1.docx>. The LightHouse informed the Commission that it will be relinquishing its certification effective June 30, 2026. Letter from Brandon Cox, Chief Executive Officer, LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, to Jackie Ellington, NDBEDP Administrator, Disability Rights Office (DRO), CGB, FCC (filed Apr. 6, 2026) (on file in CG Docket No. 10-210). In this *Notice*, we use the term “deafblind” unless the term “deaf-blind” appears in statutory or regulatory language or in quotations.

<sup>2</sup> CSD will fulfill the remaining period of the LightHouse’s unexpired 5-year certification term, July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The Commission is also currently accepting applications to serve as a NDBEDP entity for a state or territory during the next 5-year certification period, from July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2032. *Applications for National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program Certification Due June 30, 2026*, CG Docket No. 10-210, Public Notice, DA 26-317 (CGB Mar. 31, 2026) (*Five-Year Certification Applications Public Notice*), <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-317A1.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> The Commission’s rules specify the following certification criteria: (1) “[e]xpertise in the field of deaf-blindness, including familiarity with the culture and etiquette of individuals who are deaf-blind”; (2) “[t]he ability to communicate effectively with individuals who are deaf-blind,” including by using assistive technologies; (3) administrative and financial management experience; (4) staffing that is “sufficient to administer the program, including the ability to distribute equipment and provide related services to low-income individuals who are deaf-

CSD has demonstrated experience in providing accessible services in a manner that shows expert knowledge of the deafblind community; experience working with individuals who are deafblind; expertise in the communications technology used by individuals who are deafblind; the administrative and financial management capability to manage state programs under the NDBEDP; sufficient staffing to manage the state program; and familiarity with the Commission's rules governing this program.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, as the NDBEDP-certified program for California, CSD has indicated a commitment to work in partnership with local agencies to meet the needs of the deafblind population throughout California.

Although CGB has determined that both applicants meet the Commission's qualifications for certification, we have selected CSD because of its extensive experience distributing equipment through its administration of state Equipment Distribution Programs (EDPs), including California's EDP.<sup>5</sup>

Accordingly, CGB certifies CSD as the authorized entity to distribute equipment and provide related services under the NDBEDP in California, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.<sup>6</sup>

CSD will have full responsibility for distributing equipment and providing related services in the state, including outreach, assessments, installation, and training, either directly or through collaboration, partnership, or contract with other individuals or entities in-state or out-of-state, including other NDBEDP certified programs.<sup>7</sup> CSD must comply with the Commission's NDBEDP rules pertaining to its participation in this program,<sup>8</sup> including transitional requirements to ensure the continuation of NDBEDP operations in California if its certification is relinquished, terminated, or not renewed.<sup>9</sup>

**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).

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blind throughout the state"; (5) "[e]xperience with the distribution of specialized customer premises equipment, especially to individuals who are deaf-blind"; (6) experience in training consumers how to set up and use equipment to access covered services; and (7) familiarity with covered services. 47 CFR § 64.6207(c)(1)-(7).

<sup>4</sup> 47 CFR § 64.6207(c).

<sup>5</sup> Notably, CSD administers California's EDP, which is funded by the California Public Utilities Commission. The California EDP is known as the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program, or "California Connect" and has been administered by CSD for 22 years. In this role, CSD has distributed over 1.48 million pieces of equipment and currently serves more than 700,000 active customers. CSD maintains 14 full-time and 2 part-time Service Centers and demonstration facilities throughout California, which it will use to distribute NDBEDP equipment and provide related services to program participants. CSD also administers the Nevada Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program.

<sup>6</sup> See 47 CFR § 64.6207(e) (providing that, when a certified program is replaced prior to the expiration of its certification period, the successor entity's certification will expire on the date that the replaced entity's certification would have expired).

<sup>7</sup> See 47 CFR § 64.6207.

<sup>8</sup> 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*).

<sup>9</sup> *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9197, paras. 44-45; see also 47 CFR § 64.6207(j)(1)-(3).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Contact Jackie Ellington, Administrator, National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program, Disability Rights Office, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, at 202-418-1153 or [NDBEDP@fcc.gov](mailto:NDBEDP@fcc.gov).