



## **Application Section 1 of 6: Instructions and Guidelines**

### **Overview**

Access Technologies, Inc. (ATI) has been selected by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to administer the National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP). The NDBEDP distributes equipment to low-income individuals who are deaf-blind (have combined hearing and vision loss) to enable access to telephone, advanced communications and information services. The support was mandated by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA). For more information about the NDBEDP, please visit <http://accesstechnologiesinc.org/> or <http://www.fcc.gov/ndbedp>.

### **Who Is Eligible To Receive Equipment**

Under the CVAA, only low-income individuals who are deaf-blind are eligible to receive equipment provided through the NDBEDP. Applicants must provide verification of their status as low-income and deaf-blind.

### **Financial Eligibility**

To be eligible, your family/household income must be below 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, as shown in the table on page 2.

## 2021 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family/Household	400% for the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia
1	\$51,520
2	\$69,680
3	\$87,840
4	\$106,000
5	\$124,160
6	\$142,320
7	\$160,480
8	\$178,400
For each additional person add \$18,160	

Source: [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)

For purposes of determining income eligibility for the NDBEDP, the FCC defines “income” and “household” as follows:

“Income” is all income actually received by all members of a household. This includes salary before deductions for taxes, public assistance benefits, social security payments, pensions, unemployment compensation, veteran's benefits, inheritances, alimony, child support payments, worker's compensation benefits, gifts, lottery winnings, and the like. The only exceptions are student financial aid, military housing and cost-of-living allowances, irregular income from occasional small jobs such as baby-sitting or lawn mowing, and the like.

A “household” is any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit. A household may include related and unrelated persons. An “economic unit” consists of all adult individuals contributing to

and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. An adult is any person eighteen years or older. If an adult has no or minimal income, and lives with someone who provides financial support to him/her, both people shall be considered part of the same household. Children under the age of eighteen living with their parents or guardians are considered to be part of the same household as their parents or guardians.

See Section 3 for the family/household income information that must be provided with this application: either 1) proof of your current participation in a federal low-income program whose income limit is below 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or 2) proof of household income.

### **Medical Eligibility**

For this program, the CVAA requires that the term "deaf-blind" has the same meaning given by the Helen Keller National Center Act. In general, the individual must have a certain vision loss and a hearing loss that, combined, cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial adjustment, or obtaining a vocation (working).

Specifically, the FCC's NDBEDP rule 64.6203(c) states that an individual who is "deaf-blind" is:

- (1) Any individual:
  - i. Who has a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses, or a field defect such that the peripheral diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees, or a progressive visual loss having a prognosis leading to one or both these conditions;

- ii. Who has a chronic hearing impairment so severe that most speech cannot be understood with optimum amplification, or a progressive hearing loss having a prognosis leading to this condition; **and**
  - iii. For whom the combination of impairments described in (i) and (ii) of this section cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial adjustment, or obtaining a vocation.
- (2) The definition in this paragraph also includes any individual who, despite the inability to be measured accurately for hearing and vision loss due to cognitive or behavioral constraints, or both, can be determined through functional and performance assessment to have severe hearing and visual disabilities that cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial adjustment, or obtaining vocational objectives.
- (3) An individual's functional abilities with respect to using telecommunications service, internet access, and advanced communication services in various environments shall be considered when determining whether the individual is deaf-blind under (ii) and (iii) of this section.

### **Do you need help filling out the application**

You may ask another person to fill the application out for you.

Note: The individual filling out the application must enter the information of the person who is applying for the equipment.

## **Who Can Attest To A Person's Disability Eligibility**

A practicing professional who has direct knowledge of the person's vision and hearing loss, such as:

- Audiologist
- Community-based service provider
- Educator
- Hearing professional
- Medical/health professional
- School for the deaf and/or blind
- Specialist in Deaf-Blindness
- Speech pathologist
- Vision professional
- Vocational rehabilitation counselor

Such professionals may also include, in the attestation, information about the individual's functional abilities to use telecommunications, Internet access, and advanced communications services in various settings.

Existing documentation that a person is deaf-blind, such as an individualized education program (IEP), or a Social Security determination letter, may serve as verification of disability.

See Section 6 for the disability attestation information that must be provided with this application. If you disagree with the professional's disability decision, please call Access Technologies, Inc. at 503-361-1201 or 1-800-677-7512, or send an email to [info@accesstechnologiesinc.org](mailto:info@accesstechnologiesinc.org)

## **Confidentiality Policy**

ATI and iCanConnect are committed to ensuring that your privacy is protected. Information provided on this application form will only be used to determine eligibility for iCanConnect products and services. ATI and iCanConnect will not sell, distribute or lease your personal information to third parties unless you give permission, or if the iCanConnect program is required by law to do so. ATI and iCanConnect are committed to ensuring that personal information is secure. In order to prevent unauthorized access or disclosure, suitable physical, electronic and managerial procedures are in place to safeguard and secure the information ATI and iCanConnect collects.

## **Program Model**

iCanConnect-Oregon is a permanent equipment loan program. During this time the title of the equipment remains with Access Technologies, Inc. This allows for flexibility in the sense that as AT changes, or as a client's vision or hearing changes, individuals will be able to upgrade their AT to accommodate these changes as necessary.

Technologies that are traded-in are distributed to another Program consumer or placed in the Device Lending Library; for use during assessments or while a consumer's equipment is being repaired. Additionally, with the onset of the permanent rules, iCanConnect-Oregon has adopted a policy that allows ownership of the AT to transfer to the consumer after five years of using the equipment.

## **Access To Telephone Or Internet Services**

NDBEDP equipment applicants will need to demonstrate that they have access to the telephone, Internet or wireless services that the equipment is designed to use and make accessible.



14. Preferred Method of Contact:

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alt Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

15. State in which you are a permanent resident: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Have you participated in iCanConnect (the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program) before? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what state/states did you participate in iCanConnect?  
(list all)

\_\_\_\_\_

17. Did you previously receive equipment through iCanConnect in another state? (Check Yes or No) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what state/states did you participate in iCanConnect?  
(list all)

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Language preference (Check all that apply)

ASL  Close Vision ASL/PSE

Tactile ASL/PSE  Pidgin Signed English

Signed English  English Spoken

Spanish Spoken  No Formal Language

Other . \_\_\_\_\_

19. Which format do you prefer for written correspondence?

Braille  Email

Large Print  Standard Print

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Application Section 3 of 6: Financial Income

Income eligibility valid for ONE year

To confirm your income eligibility, mail or fax documentation that proves one of the following:

1. You are currently enrolled in a federal program with an income eligibility requirement that does not exceed 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, such as the following:
  - Medicaid
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - Federal public housing assistance or Section 8
  - Food Stamps or Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program
  - Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit
2. Proof of all household income (as described in Section 1)

If none of the above applies, provide a copy of last year's Federal IRS 1040 tax form(s) filed by you and members of your family/household, or send other evidence of your total family/household income, such as recent Social Security Administration retirement benefit statement(s) or other pension benefit statement(s).

Additionally, if you are not enrolled in a federal subsidy program, please provide the following:

Family size: \_\_\_\_\_ (parents in the household and any dependent children, including the applicant)

Monthly Gross Income: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Annual Gross Income: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Application Section 4 of 6: Applicant Attestation

1. I certify that all information provided on this application, including information about my disability and income, is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I authorize program representatives to verify the information provided.
2. I permit information about me to be shared with my state's current and successor program managers and representatives for the administration of the program and for the delivery of equipment and services to me. I also permit information about me to be reported to the Federal Communications Commission for the administration, operation, and oversight of the program.
3. If I am accepted into the program, I agree to use program services solely for the purposes intended. I understand that I may not sell, give, or lend to another person any equipment provided to me by the program.
4. If I provide any false records or fail to comply with these or other requirements or conditions of the program, program officials may end services to me immediately. Also, if I violate these or other requirements or conditions of the program on purpose, program officials may take legal action against me.
5. I certify that I have read, understand, and accept these conditions to participate in iCanConnect (the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program).

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of applicant, or parent /guardian if applicant is under age 18 )

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Print name of parent /guardian** if applicant is under age 18

## Application Section 5 of 6: Program Goals

What are your telecommunication goals through participation in the NDBEDP?

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1. Name of person completing application \_\_\_\_\_  
(if other than applicant)

2. Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

4. Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Alternate contact person (for applicant): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

8. Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

(of individual completing this application on behalf of applicant)

By affixing my name above, I certify that I am signing this application for the applicant and with the applicant's knowledge and consent.

## **Application Section 6 of 6: Disability Verification**

This disability verification section is to be completed by a practicing professional who has direct knowledge of the applicant's vision and hearing loss.

**Please complete the following fields, then sign and date page 15**

### **Name and Address of Deaf-Blind Individual**

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Attester Information**

Name of Attester: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

For this program, CVAA requires that the term “deaf-blind” has the same meaning given by the Helen Keller National Center Act. In general, the individual must have a certain vision loss and a hearing loss that, combined, cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial adjustment, or obtaining a vocation (working).

Specifically, the FCC’s NDBEDP rule 64.6203(c) states that an individual who is “deaf-blind” is:

- (1) Any individual:
  - i. Who has a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses, or a field defect such that the peripheral diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees, or a progressive visual loss having a prognosis leading to one or both these conditions;
  - ii. Who has a chronic hearing impairment so severe that most speech cannot be understood with optimum amplification, or a progressive hearing loss having a prognosis leading to this condition; **and**
  - iii. for whom the combination of impairments described in (i) and (ii) of this section cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial adjustment, or obtaining a vocation.
- (2) An applicant’s functional abilities with respect to using Telecommunications service, Internet access service, and advanced communication services, including interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services in various environments shall be considered when

determining whether the individual is deaf-blind under (ii) and (iii) of this section.

- (3) The definition also includes any individual who, despite the inability to be measured accurately for hearing and vision loss due to cognitive or behavioral constraints, or both, can be determined through functional and performance assessment to have severe hearing and visual disabilities that cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial adjustment, or obtaining vocational objectives.

My attestation is based on the following: (Please state how you are familiar with each of the applicant's hearing and vision loss, AND the applicant's combination of hearing and vision loss, as defined in the FCC's NDBEDP rules listed directly above.

**Combination of Hearing and Vision Loss** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Hearing Loss** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Vision Loss** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I certify under penalty of perjury that, to the best of my knowledge, this individual is deaf-blind as defined by the FCC as above (and as previously referenced Section 1).

**Attester Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions, please call our office at 503.361.1201**

## **Privacy Statement**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) collects personal information about individuals through the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), a program also known as iCanConnect. The FCC will use this information to administer and manage the NDBEDP.

Personal information is provided voluntarily by individuals who request equipment (NDBEDP applicants) and individuals who attest to the disability of NDBEDP applicants. This information is needed to determine whether an applicant is eligible to participate in the NDBEDP. In addition, personal information is provided voluntarily by individuals who file NDBEDP-related complaints with the FCC on behalf of themselves or others. When this information is not provided, it may be impossible to resolve the complaints. Finally, each state's NDBEDP-certified equipment distribution program must submit to the FCC certain personal information that it obtained through its NDBEDP activities. This information is required to maintain each state's certification to participate in this program.

The FCC is authorized to collect the personal information that is requested through the NDBEDP under sections 1, 4, and 719 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended; 47 U.S.C. 151, 154, and 620.

The FCC may disclose the information collected through the NDBEDP as permitted under the Privacy Act and as described in the FCC's Privacy Act System of Records Notice at 77 FR 2721 (Jan. 19, 2012), FCC/CGB-3, "National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP)," <https://www.fcc.gov/omd/privacyact/documents/records/FCC-CGB-3.pdf>.

This statement is required by the Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93-579, 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(3).

**Send Completed Application  
(Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6) to:**

**By Mail:**

Access Technologies, Inc.  
2225 Lancaster Drive NE  
Salem, OR 97305

**By Fax:**

Fax: 503-370-4530

**By Email:**

Email: [info@accesstechnologiesinc.org](mailto:info@accesstechnologiesinc.org)

If submitting scanned documents, please use PDF format.

Questions, please call our office at 503.361.1201

This information is available in alternate format upon request.