NC Department of Health and Human Services
NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP)

June 2021
National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP)
Also known as iCanConnect (iCC)

- Established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in an effort to comply with the 21st Century Video and Communications Accessibility Act (CVAA).
- Administered by Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH) through partnership with Division of Services for the Blind (DSB).
- Main purpose: Distance Communication
- Income-based and applicants must be DeafBlind

source: www.icanconnect.org
Qualification Criteria: DeafBlind

Vision

- Central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses
- Field defect where peripheral diameter of the visual field is no greater than 20 degrees
- A progressive visual loss with a prognosis leading to one or both of these conditions
Qualification Criteria: DeafBlind

Hearing

• 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

  OR

• A combination of impairments described under HEARING/VISION that cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities and employment.
Income Eligibility

• Total family/household income must be below 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines as released in 2021.

• Based on Household Size:
  1 = $51,500
  2 = $69,680
  3 = $87,840
  4 = $106,000
  5 = $124,160
  For each additional person, add $18,160

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Income Eligibility

• Those who can provide documentation that they are currently enrolled in a federal program with an income eligibility requirement that does not exceed 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are automatically income eligible.
  - Medicaid
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Food Stamps
  - Federal public housing assistance or Section 8
  - Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit
Equipment Selection

• Depends on consumer’s skill level and needs
• Must be for DISTANCE COMMUNICATION
• Can get ONE type of computer AND ONE type of mobile device
• AND any additional devices or software needed to make them accessible
• AND accessories to protect and maintain the equipment.
I am interested, how do I apply?

• Contact your local Regional Center
• https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/hearing-loss/regional-centers-for-the-deaf-hard-of-hearing

• Contact Nichole Leonardz, NDBEDP Administrator
• http://www.icanconnect.org/how-to-apply/north-carolina
DSDHH has 3 Demo Centers
The NDBEDP in NC is entering its tenth year.

We have successfully served 273 consumers since 2013.
Questions/Answers

WWW.NCDHHS.GOV/DIVISIONS/DSDHH

NDBEDP Consumer Interest Form
WWW.ICANCONNECT.ORG/NORTH-CAROLINA

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Deaf-Blind Services Specialists

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