

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

National DeafBlind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP)

June 2024

National DeafBlind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), also known as iCanConnect (iCC)



Refreshable Braille Display



SOURCE: www.icanconnect.org

- Established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in an effort to comply with the 21st Century Video and Communications Accessibility Act.
- 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

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 2024.

Number of persons in family/household	400% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
1	\$60,240
2	\$81,760
3	\$103,280
4	\$124,800
5	\$146,320

For each additional person, add \$21,520

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, formerly known as Food Stamps)
 - Federal public housing assistance or Section 8
 - Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit

Equipment Selection

- Must be for **DISTANCE COMMUNICATION**
- Options depend on consumer's skill level and needs
- Eligible for **ONE** type of computer **AND** one type of mobile device
- Also, any additional devices or software needed to make the computer and mobile device accessible
- Includes accessories to protect and maintain the equipment (protective cases, warranties).

I am interested, how do I apply?

- Contact the nearest DSDHH Regional Center

DSDHH: Regional Centers for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing

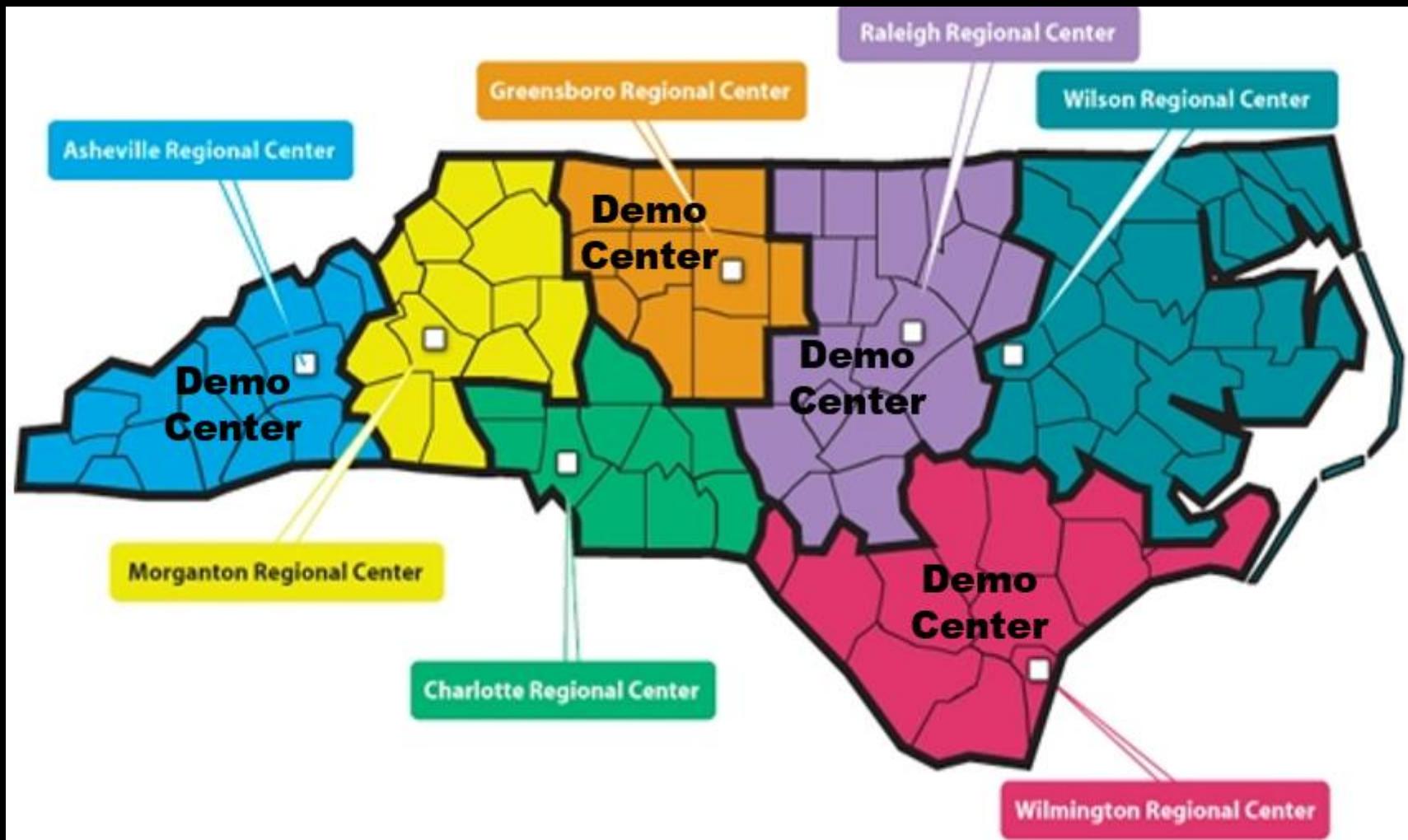


- Contact NDBEDP Administrator, Nichole Leonardz

North Carolina - iCanConnect



DSDHH has 4 Demo Centers



The NDBEDP in NC is in its
twelfth (12th) year

DSDHH and DSB have
successfully served 308
consumers since 2013

Questions/Answers

NDBEDP Consumer Interest Form

www.icanconnect.org/north-carolina

Nichole Leonardz, NDBEDP Administrator

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