

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



- Established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in an effort to comply with the 21<sup>st</sup> 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

SOURCE: [www.icanconnect.org](http://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 2024.

<b>Number of persons in family/household</b>	<b>400% of Federal Poverty Guidelines</b>
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](#)



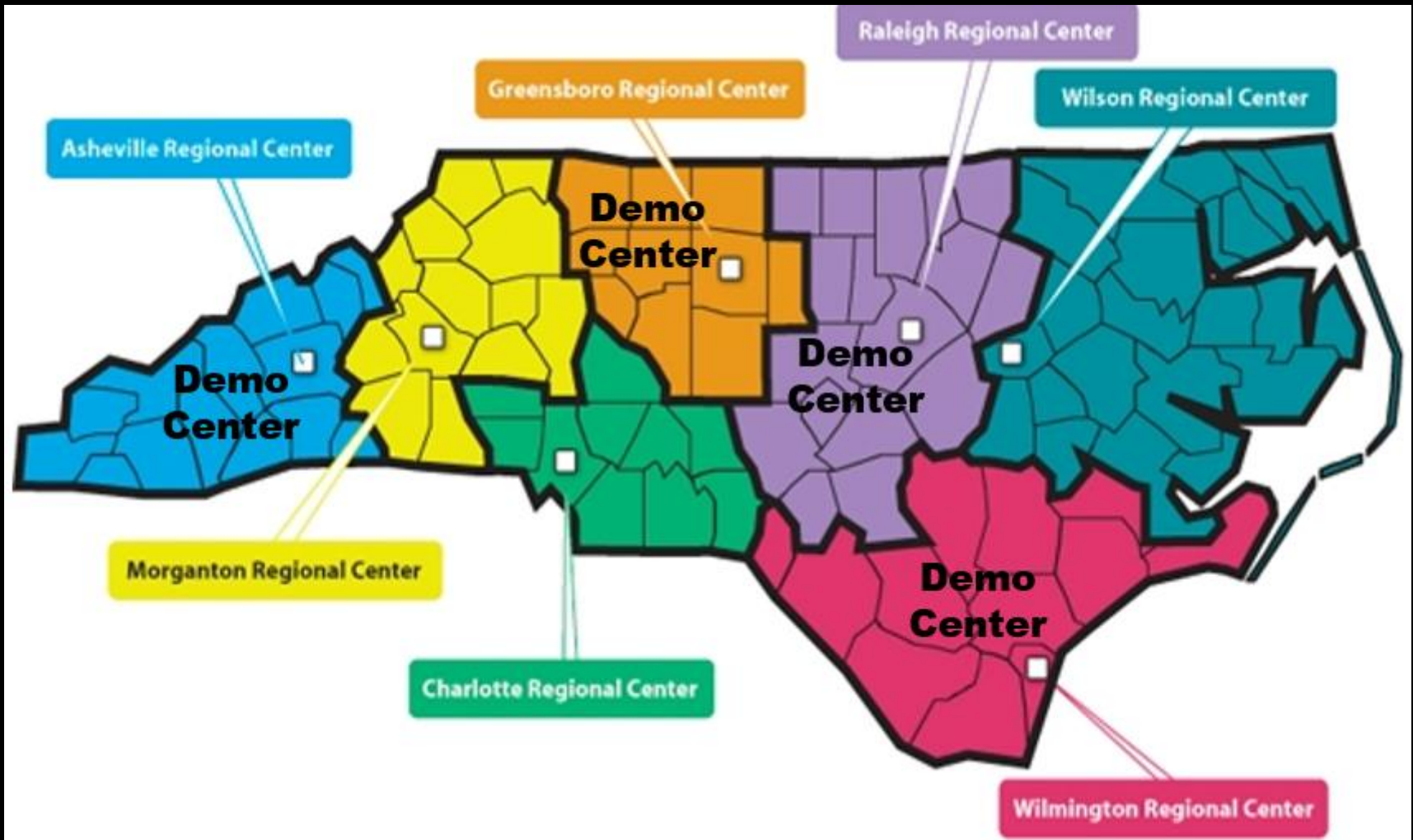
- Contact NDBEDP Administrator, Nichole Leonardz

[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](http://www.icanconnect.org/north-carolina)**

**Nichole Leonardz, NDBEDP Administrator**

**[Nichole.Leonardz@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Nichole.Leonardz@dhhs.nc.gov)**

