



iCanConnect, the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program

Presented by

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Overview

- **iCanConnect** provides free equipment and training to people with both significant hearing and vision loss who meet federal disability and income eligibility guidelines
- Helps program participants connect with friends, family, community, and the world

Goals

- Promote increased independence
- Reduce isolation
- Enhance social interaction
- For distance communication, not face-to-face
- Supplements, not supplants other resources

Background

- Part of landmark 2010 federal law, the *21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA)*
- Administered by Federal Communications Commission (FCC), with local contacts
- Permanent as of July 1, 2017 after 5-yr pilot

Availability

For eligible U.S. residents in 50 states, District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and U.S Virgin Islands. FCC certifies one organization in each.

Find your local contact:

iCanConnect.org or 800-825-4595

Eligibility

- Significant combined vision and hearing loss that causes difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities
- Household income less than 400% of federal poverty rate, or qualify for low-income assistance program, e.g. SSI, Medicaid, etc.

iCanConnect provides

- Individual assessment to inform suitable equipment and software, per individual's hearing and vision loss, distance communication goals, existing equipment and technical skills
- Training, equipment, and interpreters

iCanConnect doesn't provide

- Equipment for use in classroom or workplace
- Phone service or internet service
- Training or repairs on non-iCanConnect equipment
- Teaching braille or typing
- Hearing aids, wheelchairs

Each local program organization

- Determines eligibility, amount of equipment and training, frequency of replacement, to serve as many eligible people as possible with limited funds
- Must comply with FCC's NDBEDP rules and policies

How to apply

- Each state has its own application
- Can be downloaded from iCanConnect.org or sent – submitted applications must include proof of disability and income eligibility
- Applicants must attest not to sell, give or lend their iCanConnect equipment

After acceptance

- Each person receives assessment to determine suitable equipment and software
- Considerations include individual's hearing and vision loss, distance communication goals, existing equipment and technical skills
- Equipment ordered, installed, training starts

Equipment

- Off-the-shelf and assistive technology: phones, mobile devices, computers, braille devices, signalers, software - see more examples: **[iCanConnect.org/equipment](https://www.icanconnect.org/equipment)**
- Each state program makes equipment decisions within national program guidelines

Equipment repair & replacement

- Includes repairs or replacement of same/similar model, and training
- New equipment requires income reverification after one year
- Each local program determines if/when to upgrade equipment

Consumer success stories

- iCanConnect publishes program participants' stories of how iCanConnect positively impacts their lives
- Helps people see how iCanConnect can help them or those they know
- See [iCanConnect.org/news](https://www.icanconnect.org/news) for all profiles

Dallas Bauer
with his
iPad, signing
in ASL while
video
chatting



Read more at iCanConnect.org/news

Dallas Bauer

Dallas uses his iCanConnect iPad to:

- Video chat with parents whenever he wants
- Share his photos and videos with family and friends, especially with his grandparents
- Use the chat function in virtual games to play with family, friends and other players

Yolanda
Burnett (left)
at baseball
game with
friends who
are deaf-
blind



Read more at iCanConnect.org/news

Yolanda Burnett

Yolanda uses email & social media with her iPhone and iPad to connect with her children, grandchildren, and friends, including:

- Reconnect with former classmates
- Through online group for people who are deaf-blind, make friends and attend outings

Billy Pickens
using his
braille
device, with
laptop in
background



Read more at iCanConnect.org/news

Billy Pickens

Living at college, he said “I like having options for how I communicate with people.” He uses:

- Braille notetaker with professors/classmates
- iPhone and refreshable braille display with family and friends. He said “iCanConnect has given me access to the world around me.”

Jan Attridge
using her
CapTel
phone



Read more at [iCanConnect.org/news](https://www.icanconnect.org/news)

Jan Attridge

Jan's an artist who lives far from the city. Onset of hearing and vision loss made it hard to keep in touch with family and friends. Now she uses:

- CapTel (captioned) phone & amplified phone
- A mobile phone to share pictures she takes with family, friends, and business contacts

Learn more about iCanConnect and find
your local contact:

www.iCanConnect.org

800-825-4595