iCanConnect promotes the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), a federally funded program, made possible by the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010.

The goal is to get technology into the hands of Americans with combined hearing and vision loss so they can connect with family, friends and community. For those who qualify, technology equipment used for distance communication is provided FREE. Installation, training and technical support are also available at NO CHARGE.

To be eligible the individual must:

- Have combined hearing and vision loss verified by a doctor or professional service provider
- Be able to be trained to use adaptive technology that makes it possible to use telephone, computer or other communication equipment
- Meet the program’s income guidelines

Must meet at least one of these hearing guidelines:

- Chronic hearing disabilities so severe that most speech cannot be understood with optimum amplification
- Progressive hearing loss having a prognosis leading to above condition

Project Partners: Federal Communications Commission, Perkins, and The Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults
Must meet at least one of these sight guidelines:

- Visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses
- A field defect such that the peripheral diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees
- Progressive visual loss with a prognosis leading to one or both of above conditions

Types of equipment available include:

- Braille devices
- Computers
- Mobile devices
- Phones
- Signallers

Determining which equipment is the right fit: an iCanConnect specialist in your area will identify, install and provide training for equipment that meets you/your family member’s needs.

To find out more: Call 1-800-825-4595 / TTY 1-888-320-2656, or visit the website www.iCanConnect.org, to learn more about the program, make a referral, or to apply for eligibility, or an assessment of your needs.