

**Deaf-Blind New Mexico Man Discovers New Ways to Communicate Through iCanConnect**

***Federal Program Provides Equipment at No Cost***

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Clovis, NM – A year ago Danny Webb had no idea how to use the Internet. Now, thanks to the [National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program](http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/national-deaf-blind-equipment-distribution-program) (NDBEDP) – which is promoted as iCanConnect – the 41-year-old Clovis man surfs the web constantly, getting information on everything from sports cars to online courses to the latest family news.

“It opened up the world,” says Webb, who has relied on hearing aids since birth and has limited vision in only one eye. “It opened it up wide, and I just walked through it.”

Webb is one of a growing number of New Mexico residents with significant combined hearing and vision loss to receive communications technology at no cost through [iCanConnect](http://www.icanconnect.org).

Last June, iCanConnect provided Webb with a desktop computer equipped with a wide-screen LCD monitor, software that both magnifies and reads aloud screen content, and a wireless headset that amplifies sound. With these new tools, he’s learning more about everything from self-driving cars to steel guitars and taking advantage of services like Skype to connect with his mother and brother who both live more than an hour away.

“It’s very important to me,” explains Webb. “Seeing them face to face and knowing everybody’s alright; talking to family.”

The Albuquerque-based [Community Outreach Program for the Deaf](http://www.copdnm.org/index.htm) manages iCanConnect in New Mexico. Director Larry Rhodes determined what equipment Webb needed and worked with him one-on-one to help him learn how to use it.

“When I first met Danny he had heard of the Internet, websites and emails, but never experienced them,” recalls Rhodes. “He is so driven to figure things out, he figures them out on his own. He is just amazing me.”

With the world now available at his fingertips, Webb hopes to take online courses and eventually get a job helping other people with vision and hearing loss.

Now in its second year, iCanConnect has provided communications technology and training to more than 1,000 people nationwide. The program offers a wide array of options - from iPads, to phone amplifiers to screen-reading software – all designed to help people with significant hearing and vision loss stay connected to family, friends and community. Along with the equipment, iCanConnect provides individualized assessment and training at no charge to qualified consumers who meet income guidelines. The program is available in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Learn more at [www.iCanConnect.org](http://www.iCanConnect.org). The website accommodates users with low vision, people who use screen readers and features video that is both audio-described and closed captioned. Information about iCanConnect is also available by calling 1-800-825-4595 | TTY 1-888-320-2656.

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