## New Program in Idaho Distributes Communication Technology to People with Vision and Hearing Loss

Many thousands of Americans who have combined loss of hearing and vision may soon connect with family, friends, and community thanks to a new program called, the **Idaho Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program** **(IDBEDP)**. Mandated by the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) provided funds to establish this new program nationally, to provide support for the local distribution of a wide array of accessible communications technology for individuals with a dual sensory impairment.
The goal of the IDBEDP is to ensure that every person with combined hearing and vision loss has access to modern telecommunication tools, from screen enlargement software and video phones, to off-the-shelf products that are accessible or adaptable and the training necessary to use them, granting every individual the opportunity to interact with the world as an involved, contributing member of society. The program provides outreach, assessments, telecommunications technology and training free of charge to those who meet federal eligibility guidelines. For more information about the **IDBEDP**, call 1-800-432-8324.