# iCanConnect video transcript

(NARRATOR AND TEXT, WITH MUSIC): iCanConnect.

(NARRATOR and ASL interpreter): Communication is essential for staying healthy, holding a job, managing a household, and participating in the community. Modern technology has vastly expanded the way most people communicate, through voice, data, and video services. But for people who have combined vision and hearing loss, special equipment may be necessary to make a phone call, send an email, or access the Internet.

The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program will ensure that low-income individuals who have combined hearing and vision loss can access telephone, advanced communications, and information services.

This program was mandated by the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 and established by the Federal Communications Commission.

(TEXT AND NARRATOR): Frequently Asked Questions. How does this equipment distribution program work?

(NARRATOR AND ASL INTERPRETER): This program provides communications technology free of charge to low-income people of all ages who have combined vision and hearing loss. The FCC has set aside funding to support one program in each state, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These participating programs will distribute this communications equipment to qualified individuals and provide equipment installation, training, and support to help recipients make the most of this technology.

(TEXT): Frequently Asked Questions

(TEXT AND NARRATOR): What kind of equipment will be distributed?

(NARRATOR AND ASL INTERPRETER): This program provides a wide range of hardware, software, and applications to suit the varying communications technology needs of people who have hearing and vision loss. Examples include products that are available to the general public and may be accessible to people with hearing and vision loss or products that are adaptable through the use of specialized equipment, such as screen enlargement software, screen readers, or Braille displays.

(TEXT): Frequently Asked Questions

(TEXT AND NARRATOR): Is this program for me?

(NARRATOR AND ASL INTERPRETER): If you are a person who has a combined vision and hearing loss, and you cannot afford communications technology that enable you to use a telephone, send an email, access the Internet, or use other communications technology, you may be eligible for this program.

(TEXT): Frequently Asked Questions

(TEXT AND NARRATOR): How do I choose the best equipment to suit my needs?

(NARRATOR AND ASL INTERPRETER): A qualified program specialist can help you identify equipment that will meet your needs.

(TEXT): Frequently Asked Questions

(TEXT AND NARRATOR): How do I learn how to use the equipment?

(NARRATOR AND ASL INTERPRETER): Program specialists are also available to train you to use the equipment.

(TEXT AND NARRATOR): To qualify for this program, you must….

(NARRATOR AND ASL INTERPRETER): One, have combined vision and hearing loss to be considered deafblind as that term is defined by the Helen Keller National Center Act. A practicing professional who has direct knowledge of your vision and hearing loss, such as vision- or hearing-related professionals, educators, medical professionals, or community-based service providers, must verify that you are deafblind.

Two, have an income that does not exceed 400% of the federal poverty guidelines. Applicants who are enrolled in federal subsidy programs with income thresholds lower than 400% of the federal poverty guideline are automatically deemed income eligible for this program. Applicants who are not enrolled in a qualifying federal low-income program must be deemed eligible by a review of a recent income tax return or other means.

(TEXT AND NARRATOR):

To Learn More:

iCanConnect.org

Phone: 1-800-825-4595

TTY: 1-888-320-2656

(NARRATOR AND ASL INTERPRETER): To apply, contact your state’s program. For more information, visit [www.fcc.gov/NDBEDP](http://www.fcc.gov/NDBEDP).

(TEXT AND NARRATOR): [www.fcc.gov/NDBEDP](http://www.fcc.gov/NDBEDP)