Introduction

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 E-mail or access the Internet.

The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program mandated by the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 and established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will ensure that low-income individuals who have combined hearing and vision loss can access telephone, advanced communications and information services. The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities was selected to administer the iCanConnect program in Wyoming.
Frequently Asked Questions

How does this equipment distribution program work?
Wyoming’s iCanConnect program provides communications technology free of charge to low-income people of all ages who have combined vision and hearing loss. This program will distribute communications equipment to qualified individuals and provide equipment installation, training and support to help recipients make the most of this technology.

What kind of equipment will be distributed?
Wyoming’s iCanConnect 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.

Is this program for me?
If you are a person who has combined vision and hearing loss, and you cannot afford communications technology that enables you to use a telephone, send an E-mail, access
the Internet, or use other communications technology, you may be eligible for this program.

**How do I choose the best equipment to suit my needs?**

A qualified specialist from Wyoming’s iCanConnect program can help you identify equipment that will meet your needs.

**How do I learn how to use the equipment?**

Specialists from Wyoming’s iCanConnect program are also available to train you to use the equipment.

**To qualify for this program, you must:**

- Have combined vision and hearing loss to be considered “deaf-blind” 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 “deaf-blind.”

- Have an income that does not exceed 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). Applicants who are enrolled in federal subsidy programs with income thresholds lower than 400 percent of the FPG 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 review of a recent income tax return or other means.

To learn more contact iCanConnect.org or call 1 (800) 825-4595

To learn about Wyoming’s iCanConnect program visit: www.uwyo.edu/wind/wydeafblind