

Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2015
Subject: FCC Proposes Rules to Make Permanent the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program; Extends Pilot Program

On May 21, 2015, the FCC proposed rules to make permanent its program that distributes communications equipment to low-income individuals who are deaf-blind. The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), also called “iCanConnect,” provides equipment, such as Braille-enabled devices, magnifiers, and vibrating alerts, to individuals who are deaf-blind for access to communication services. We will announce the deadlines for comments and reply comments after the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is published in the Federal Register.

The FCC also adopted an Order extending the current pilot program one year beyond its June 30, 2015 expiration date, to June 30, 2016.

The Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, signed by President Obama in 2010, authorized the FCC to provide up to \$10 million annually from the Telecommunications Relay Service Fund to support the NDBEDP. The pilot program, launched in July 2012, has helped thousands of Americans with combined hearing and vision loss to connect with family, friends, and others in their communities.

The followings are links to the Order extending the pilot program, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Press Release, and the statements of Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, Pai, and O’Rielly.

Order

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-15-57A1.docx

PDF: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-15-57A1.pdf

Text: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-15-57A1.txt

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-15-58A1.docx

PDF: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-15-58A1.pdf

Text: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-15-58A1.txt

Press Release

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A1.doc

PDF: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A1.pdf

Text: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A1.txt

Statement of Chairman Wheeler

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A2.docx

PDF: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A2.pdf

Text: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A2.txt

Statement of Commissioner Clyburn

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A3.docx

PDF: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A3.pdf

Text: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A3.txt

Statement of Commissioner Rosenworcel

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A4.docx

PDF: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A4.pdf

Text: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A4.txt

Statement of Commissioner Pai

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A5.docx

PDF: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A5.pdf

Text: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A5.txt

Statement of Commissioner O'Rielly

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A6.docx

PDF: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A6.pdf

Text: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333591A6.txt

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