



## **SECTION 1, INSTRUCTIONS AND ELIGIBILITY**

### **OVERVIEW**

The iCanConnect program (National DeafBlind Equipment Distribution Program) is a direct result of the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010. The goal is to ensure that every person who is DeafBlind (with both hearing and vision loss) has access to modern distance communication tools and the training necessary to use them. Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT) is certified by the FCC to administer the program in the state of Missouri.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE EQUIPMENT?**

Individuals who have **both** hearing and vision loss and who meet the income eligibility requirements below. Applicants must provide verification of their status as low-income and DeafBlind.

### **INCOME ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible, your total family/household income must be below 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, as shown in the following table, **2022 Federal Poverty Guidelines**:

**Table 1 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines**

Number of persons in family/household	400% for Missouri
1	\$58,320
2	\$78,880
3	\$99,440
4	\$120,000
5	\$140,560
6	\$161,120
7	\$181,680
8	\$202,240
For each additional person, add	\$20,560

Source: [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/asn/policy/poverty-guidelines)

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For purposes of determining income eligibility for the NDBEDP, the FCC defines “income” and “household” as follows:

“Income” is all income actually received by all members of a household. This includes salary before deductions for taxes, public assistance benefits, social security payments, pensions, unemployment compensation, veteran’s benefits, inheritances, alimony, child support payments, worker’s compensation benefits, gifts, lottery winnings, and the like. The only exceptions are student financial aid, military housing and cost-of-living allowances, irregular income from occasional small jobs such as baby-sitting or lawn mowing, and the like.

A "household" is any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit. A household may include related and unrelated persons. An "economic unit" consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. An adult is any person eighteen years or older. If an adult has no or minimal income, and lives with someone who provides financial support to him/her, both people shall be considered part of the same household. Children under the age of eighteen living with their parents or guardians are considered to be part of the same household as their parents or guardians.

**See Section 7 for the family/household income information that must be provided with this application. Income eligibility is valid for one year.**

## **DISABILITY ELIGIBILITY**

For this program, iCanConnect requires that the term "DeafBlind" has the same meaning given by the Helen Keller National Center Act. In general, the individual must have a certain vision loss and a hearing loss that, **combined**, cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial adjustment, or obtaining a vocation (working).

Specifically, the FCC's NDBEDP rule 64.6203(c) states that an individual who is "DeafBlind" is:

- (1) Any individual:
  - (i) Who has a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses, or a field defect such that the peripheral diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees, or a progressive visual loss having a prognosis leading to one or both these conditions;
  - (ii) Who has a chronic hearing impairment so severe that most speech cannot be understood with optimum amplification, or a progressive hearing loss having a prognosis leading to this condition; and
  - (iii) For whom the combination of impairments described in . . . (i) and (ii) of this section cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial adjustment, or obtaining a vocation.
- (2) An individual's functional abilities with respect to using Telecommunications service, Internet access service, and advanced communications services, including interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services in various environments shall be considered when determining whether the individual is deaf-blind under . . . (ii) and (iii) of this section.
- (3) The definition in this paragraph (c) also includes any individual who, despite the inability to be measured accurately for hearing and vision loss due to cognitive or behavioral constraints, or both, can be determined through functional and performance assessment to have severe hearing and visual disabilities that cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial adjustment, or obtaining vocational objectives.

## **WHO CAN ATTEST TO A PERSON'S DISABILITY ELIGIBILITY?**

A practicing professional who has direct knowledge of the person's vision and hearing loss, such as:

- Audiologist
- HKNC representative
- Medical/health professional
- Independent Living Center
- Educator
- School for the deaf and/or blind
- Rehabilitation Services for the Blind
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Specialist in DeafBlindness
- Speech Pathologist
- Vision professional

Such professionals may also include, in the attestation, information about the individual's functional abilities to use telecommunications, Internet access, and advanced communications services in various settings.

Existing documentation that a person is DeafBlind, such as an individualized education program (IEP) or a Social Security determination letter, may serve as verification of disability.

See Section 6 for the disability attestation information that must be provided with this application.

## **PRIVACY STATEMENT**

iCanConnect is committed to ensuring that your privacy is protected. Information provided on this application form will only be used to determine eligibility for iCanConnect products and services.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) collects personal information about individuals through the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), referred to nationally as iCanConnect. The FCC will use this information to administer and manage the NDBEDP.

Personal information is provided voluntarily by individuals who request equipment (NDBEDP applicants) and individuals who attest to the disability of NDBEDP applicants. This information is needed to determine whether an applicant is eligible to participate in the NDBEDP. In addition, personal information is provided voluntarily by individuals who file NDBEDP-related complaints with the FCC on behalf of themselves or others. When this information is not provided, it may be impossible to resolve the complaints. Finally, each state's NDBEDP-certified equipment distribution program must submit to the FCC certain personal information that it obtained through its NDBEDP activities. This information is required to maintain each state's certification to participate in this program.

The FCC is authorized to collect the personal information that is requested through the NDBEDP under sections 1, 4, and 719 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended; 47 U.S.C. 151, 154, and 620.

The FCC may disclose the information collected through the NDBEDP as permitted under the Privacy Act and as described in the FCC's Privacy Act System of Records Notice at 77 FR 2721 (Jan. 19, 2012), FCC/CGB-3, "National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP)," [FCC Disclosure](#)

Printed full link, <https://www.fcc.gov/omd/privacyact/documents/records/FCC-CGB-3.pdf>

This statement is required by the Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93-579, 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(3).

## **ALL 7 SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED, AND YOUR INCOME VERIFICATION DOCUMENT(S) ATTACHED.**

Mail, email, or fax completed application to:  
Missouri iCanConnect Program  
1501 NW Jefferson Street  
Blue Springs, MO 64015  
[BWhitlock@mo-at.org](mailto:BWhitlock@mo-at.org)  
Fax: 816-655-6710

**Alternative formats of the application available upon request.**

# MISSOURI ICANCONNECT APPLICATION

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

## SECTION 2, APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial):

Physical Address (Equipment is shipped UPS.):

City, State, Zip Code:

Cell Phone:

VP or TTY #:

Home or Alternate Phone:

Social Security Number (*Required*):

Date of Birth:

YES  No I am a Missouri resident.

YES  No I have an e-mail address. E-mail (*required*):

YES  No I have a computer with: (Mark the operating system on your computer.)  
 Windows 10       Windows 8       Windows

7

MAC computer       Requesting a Computer

YES  No I have Internet service. My Internet service provider is:

YES  No I have a land-line Telephone. My provider is:

YES  No I have a Cell Phone. My provider is:

## SECTION 3, PROFILE

1. Hearing loss (please check the box that best describes your level of hearing):

Deaf       Hard-of-hearing       Late deafened       Can understand speech  
How old were you when this level of hearing loss was noticed?

2. Vision loss (please check the box that best describes your vision):

Blind       Low vision       Close vision       Tunnel vision

How old were you when you noticed this level of vision?

3. Do you have any difficulty using your hands for keyboarding, dialing the phone, or holding small objects?

Yes       No

4. Communication preference (check all that apply):

American Sign Language (ASL)       Spoken Language; if speak foreign language (specify):  
 Sign Exact English (SEE)        
 Pidgin Sign Language (PSE)

- High Visual Communication Skills (HVCS)/(MLS)
- International Sign Language, (specify):
- Close-Vision Sign Language
- Tactile Sign Language
- Other (specify):

5. How do you read? (check all that apply)

- Regular print       Braille grade 1 (Uncontracted)       Computer Braille
- Large print       Braille grade 2 (Contracted)       Electronic/Screen Reader

## SECTION 4, COMMUNICATION METHODS

1. Which of these activities do you currently perform? Please check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Amplified telephone calls	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
<input type="checkbox"/> Relay calls by landline telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> Text messaging
<input type="checkbox"/> Relay calls with an App	<input type="checkbox"/> Instant messaging
<input type="checkbox"/> Relay calls by web/computer	<input type="checkbox"/> Internet surfing / searching
<input type="checkbox"/> Videophone	<input type="checkbox"/> Other communication App

2. What equipment do you use to perform the above tasks? Please check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Landline Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer with speech screen reader
<input type="checkbox"/> Video Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer with Braille display
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer	<input type="checkbox"/> iPad or other tablet device
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer with screen magnification	<input type="checkbox"/> iPhone or other smart phone

## SECTION 5, PROGRAM GOAL AND EQUIPMENT REQUEST

What is your communication goal through participation in the NDBEDP?

To assist us in helping you to meet your goal and to determine what equipment will support that goal, please check all of the following that apply to you.

- 1. I am requesting equipment for phone use (specify phone provider, and see attached Equipment List):
- 2. I am requesting equipment to access the Internet (see attached Equipment List):  
Please list: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. I DO NOT KNOW what type of equipment I need.

## SECTION 6, PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION OF DISABILITY

*Professional must complete and sign this section.*

This disability verification section is to be completed by a practicing professional who has direct knowledge of the applicant's **combined** vision and hearing loss. Please complete the following fields, and sign and date at the bottom.

**Name and Address of DeafBlind Individual:**

Name of Applicant:

Street Address:

City/State/Zip:

**Attester Information:**

Name of Attester:

Title:

Agency/Employer:

E-mail:

Phone:

Street Address:

City/State/Zip:

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(ii) Who has a chronic hearing impairment so severe that most speech cannot be understood with optimum amplification, or a progressive hearing loss having a prognosis leading to this condition; and

(iii) For whom the combination of impairments described in . . . (i) and (ii) of this section cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial adjustment, or obtaining a vocation.

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I certify under penalty of perjury that, to the best of my knowledge, this individual is DeafBlind as defined by the FCC as above (and as previously referenced in Section 1).

**My attestation is based on the following:**

***Please state how you are familiar with each of the applicant's hearing and vision loss, AND the applicant's combination of hearing and vision loss, as defined in the FCC's NDBEDP rules listed directly above:***

**Vision loss:**

**Hearing loss:**

**Describe how the combination of hearing and vision loss affects this person in daily life:**

**Attester Signature:**

**Date:**

## **SECTION 7, APPLICANT SIGNATURE AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

To confirm your income eligibility, please mail, email or fax documentation that proves you are currently enrolled in a federal program with an income eligibility requirement that does not exceed 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, such as the following:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal public housing assistance or Section 8
- Food Stamps or Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit

If none of the above applies, mail, email or fax a copy of last year's Federal IRS 1040 tax form(s) filed by you and members of your family/household, or send other evidence of your **total** family/household income, such as recent Social Security Administration retirement benefit statement(s) or other pension benefit statement(s). Include a signed statement that attests that what you are submitting represents your total family/household income. Note: income eligibility is valid for one year.

I certify that all information provided on this application, including information about my disability and income, is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I authorize program representatives to verify the information provided. I authorize Missouri's iCanConnect program to release my name, address, and phone number to a Trainer for purposes of assessment and training.

I permit information about me to be shared with my state's current and successor program managers and representatives for the administration of the program and for the delivery of equipment and services to me. I also permit information about me to be reported to the Federal Communications Commission for the administration, operation, and oversight of the program.

If I am accepted into the program, I agree to use program services solely for the purposes intended. I understand that I may not sell, give, or lend to another person any equipment provided to me by the program. I will care for the equipment and will not hack or physically abuse equipment.

If I provide any false records or fail to comply with these or other requirements or conditions of the program, program officials may end services to me immediately. Also, if I violate these or other requirements or conditions of the program on purpose, program officials may take legal action against me.

I certify that I have read, understand, and accept these conditions to participate in iCanConnect (Missouri's DeafBlind Equipment Distribution Program).

**Print name of applicant or parent/guardian (if applicant is under age 18):**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

Name & relationship of person completing application (if other than applicant), include Phone & Email:

Mail, email, or fax completed application to:  
**Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT), iCanConnect Program**  
1501 NW Jefferson Street  
Blue Springs, MO 64015  
[BWhitlock@mo-at.org](mailto:BWhitlock@mo-at.org)  
Fax: 816-655-6710    <https://at.mo.gov>

(2/2023)

**ATTACHMENT FOR SECTION 5, EQUIPMENT LIST:**

**1. Equipment for Phone Use:**

- iPhone, with AppleCare warranty
- Otterbox protective case
- NeckLoop

**2. Equipment for Internet Use:**

- Desktop Computer with large screen
- Large print keyboard
- Laptop Computer
- iPad
- Bluetooth keyboard with large print for iPad
- iPad accessories, list:
  - i-Loop (neckloop device for computer or iPad)
  - Braille Display, list if a preference:
  - Braille Notetaker, list if a preference:
  - JAWS Screen Reader, or upgrade
  - ZoomText magnification software, or upgrade
  - Other, list:



1501 N.W. Jefferson St. Blue Springs, MO 64015

[info@mo-at.org](mailto:info@mo-at.org) <https://at.mo.gov>

816/655-6700 (Voice) 816/655-6711 (TTY) 816/655-6710 (Fax)

*Established by state statute to increase access to assistive technology for Missourians with disabilities.*

## **Photo and Video Release**

I hereby give my permission to the Missouri Assistive Technology Advisory Council to use my name and likeness for purposes related to the organization's publications, displays, websites, audio-visual presentations and other promotional, training, and educational materials. I understand that by signing this document, I release the Missouri Assistive Technology Advisory Council from any and all claims and liabilities arising out of the usage of my name and likeness.

Signature:

Print Name:

Date:

Signature of Guardian, if applicable:

Guardian Address:

For Office Use, Program and File Name: iCanConnect