

Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Programs

State telephone programs, known as Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Programs (TEDPs), provide free or low-cost telephone equipment to qualified individuals to improve phone access. In general, individuals with speech disabilities or hearing loss are eligible. Eligibility requirements, types of equipment covered, and benefit amounts vary from state to state. Many states mention a requirement of a hearing test but also state that speech disabilities are covered. I recommend contacting the program to find out specific eligibility for individuals with a speech disability. For up-to-date information for each state, visit the Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Programs Association (TEDPA) at tedpa.org. The Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Programs Association (TEDPA) may be found at tedpa.org.

ALABAMA Name of Program: Alabama Telecommunications Access Program (ATAP)

Website: alabamarelay.com/atap.html, additional website: <https://www.aidb.org/domain/170>

Eligibility Requirements: Certification of hearing loss by hearing health professional

Financial status (maximum family income based on family size) How Equipment Provided:

Loaned to recipient for as long as necessary Funding Source: Surcharge applied to every landline consumer's bill Combined with Relay Services

ALASKA Name of Program: Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP)

Website: www.alaskarelay.com/edp-program Eligibility Requirements: Certification of hearing

loss by hearing health professional How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipient Funding

Source: Surcharge on all telephone bills Combined with Relay Services

ARKANSAS Name of Program: Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Website:

arcareereducation.org/services/arkansas-rehabilitation-services/accessaccommodations/teleco

[mmunications-access-program-\(tap\)](http://arcareereducation.org/services/arkansas-rehabilitation-services/accessaccommodations/telecommunications-access-program-(tap)) Eligibility Requirements: Certification of hearing loss by

qualified professional; maximum family income base on family size How Equipment Provided:

Loaned for two (2) years after which it becomes property of the recipient Funding Source:

Monthly surcharge on telephone bills

ARIZONA Name of Program: Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (AzTEDP)

Website: acdhh.org/home/aztedp Eligibility Requirements: U.S. Citizen; hearing loss certified by

designated professional How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipient Funding Source:

Telecommunications excise tax levied on every provider of telephone services

CALIFORNIA Name of Program: Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP)

Website: ddtp.cpuc.ca.gov/HomePage.aspx?id=91&LangType=1033 Eligibility Requirement:

Verification of hearing loss by medical professional How Equipment Provided: Loaned to

recipients as long as needed Funding Source: Surcharge on all telephone bills Combined with

Relay Services

COLORADO Name of Program: Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP)
Website: ccdhh.com/index.php/tedprogram/ Eligibility Requirement: Proof of income less than 300% of federal poverty guidelines based on family size How Equipment Provided: Recipients own the equipment Funding Source: Surcharge on each telephone line

CONNECTICUT Name of Program: Telecommunications Relay Service Distribution Program
Website: dhoh.ct.gov/dhoh/cwp/view.asp?a=2603&q=321676 (go to www.conversecommunications.com) How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients Funding Source: Telecommunications providers are assessed a proportionate amount based upon each provider's gross revenues on both intrastate and interstate services Combined with Relay Services

DELAWARE No program

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA No program **FLORIDA Name of Program:** Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. Website: ftri.org/ Eligibility Requirement: Hearing loss certified by qualified professional How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients for as long as needed Funding Source: Surcharge on every telephone line Combined with Relay Services

GEORGIA Name of Program: Georgia Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (GATEDP) Website: gachi.org/?page_id=37 Eligibility Requirements: Hearing loss certified by designated professional; income of applicant and spouse less than 200% of federal poverty level How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients for as long as needed Funding Source: Surcharge assessed on all Georgia residential land-based phone lines

HAWAII Name of Program: Relay Hawaii Equipment Program (RHEP) Website: relayhawaii.com/rhep.html How Equipment Provided: Landline equipment loaned to recipients; wireless equipment owned by recipients. Funding Source: Program managed by Sprint under contract funded by Hawaii Public Utilities Commission Combined with Relay Services

IDAHO No program

ILLINOIS Name of Program: Telecommunications Access Corporation (ITAC) Website: itactty.org Eligibility Requirement: Application signed by physician or other authorized professional How Equipment Provided: (1) Voucher program for designated equipment. New vouchers may be issued every four (4) years. (2) Loan program for additional designated equipment. Recipient may keep as needed. Funding Source: Surcharge on all telephone lines Combined with Relay Services

INDIANA

Name of Program: Relay

Indiana Website: relayindiana.com/equipment Eligibility Requirement: Household income cannot exceed \$71,000 How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients Funding Source: Surcharge on each telephone line Combined with Relay Services

IOWA Name of Program: Telecommunication Iowa (TAI) Website: relayiowa.com/tai/ Eligibility Requirement: Maximum family income based on family size How Equipment Provided: Recipients can receive a voucher for approximately 95 percent of the average cost of specialized telephone equipment Funding Source: Telecommunication carriers in Iowa are subject to an assessment Combined with Relay Services

KANSAS Name of Program: Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Website: atk.ku.edu/ks-tap Eligibility Requirement: Income less than \$55,000 How Equipment Provided: Recipients are provided vouchers to acquire specialized equipment Funding Source: Telecommunications companies must contribute to the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF) a percentage of retail revenues earned within Kansas. The companies may pass on the assessment to consumers.

KENTUCKY Name of Program: Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Website: kcdhh.org/oea/tddprog.html Eligibility Requirement: Kentucky resident for at least one year How Equipment Provided: Owned by the recipient Funding Source: Surcharge on both wired and wireless lines Combined with Relay Services

LOUISIANA Name of Program: Louisiana School for the Deaf (LCD) Equipment Program Website: new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/318 How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients Funding Source: Surcharge on telephone bills

MASSACHUSETTS Name of Program: Equipment Distribution Program (MassEDP) Website: mass.gov/massedp Eligibility Requirement: Hearing loss certified by medial professional How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients Funding Source: Surcharge on all voice and data telephone lines

MAINE Name of Program: Maine Center on Deafness (MCD) Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (DBEDP) Website: drme.org/deaf-services.org Eligibility Requirement: Maximum family income based on family size How Equipment Provided: Either (1) loaned as long as necessary or (2) cost-shared under which recipient pays a portion of the cost of the equipment and is the owner Funding Source: Communication Equipment Fund established by state law which is funded by federal and state sources funds Note: Maine has established a program that provides qualified low income seniors with hearing aids at no cost

MARYLAND Name of Program: Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT) Website: doit.maryland.gov/mdrelay/Pages/equipment.aspx Eligibility Requirements: Self-certification of hearing loss; limited income (not quantified) How Equipment Provided: Permanent loan to

qualified recipients Funding Source: Surcharge on all bills for communications services (landline, VoIP and wireless) Combined with Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS)

MICHIGAN No program

MINNESOTA Name of Program: Telephone Equipment Distribution Program Website: mn.gov/dhs/ted-program Eligibility Requirement: Maximum family income based on family size How Equipment Provided: Loaned to qualified recipients as long as needed Funding Source: Surcharge on wired and wireless telephone lines Combined with Relay Outreach

MISSISSIPPI Name of Program: Relay Equipment Distribution Program (EDP) Website: staterelay.com/mississippi/MREDP_Application.pdf Eligibility Requirement: Hearing loss of 40dB or greater certified by physician or audiologist. How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients. For wireless devices, the loan period is two (2) years. Funding Source: The Public Service Commission may impose upon all local exchange telephone companies a monthly relay service fee Combined with Relay Services

MISSOURI Name of Program: Telecommunications Access Program (includes both telephones (TAP-T) and internet (TAP-I) Website: at.mo.gov/tap.html Eligibility Requirements: Hearing loss certified by health professional; maximum family income based on family size How Equipment Provided: Equipment owned by recipient, but certain items are loaned Funding Source: Relay surcharge on all telephone bills

MONTANA Name of Program: Montana Telecommunications Access Program (MTAP) Website: dphhs.mt.gov/detd/mtap Eligibility Requirement: Maximum family income based on family size MTAP oversees the relay and provides an equipment distribution program for Montanans who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, speech or mobility disabled How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients for as long as needed Funding Source: Surcharge on all telephone lines

NEBRASKA Name of Program: Assistive Devices Loan Program Website: ncdhh.nebraska.gov/services/assistive-devices-loan Eligibility: Call 402.471.3593 or 800.545.6244 How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients for a period of three (3) months Funding Source: Funding for recipients is provided by numerous programs. The guidelines for and eligibility requirements of these programs vary widely. The Assistive Technology Partnership's Resource Specialist will research the various programs across the state to determine a person's eligibility for funding assistance.

NEVADA Name of Program: Equipment Distribution Program (EDP) Website: dcnv.org/programs.html Eligibility: Contact Deaf Centers of Nevada through website or email, info@dcnv.org How Equipment Provided: Loaned for as long as needed Funding Source: Surcharge on wired and wireless phones

NEW HAMPSHIRE Name of Program: Telecommunications Distribution Program Website: ndhhs.org/services/NHTEDP.html Eligibility: Contact by email info@ndhhs.org or by phone 603.224.1850 How Equipment Provided: (1) Lending Program: Long-term loan for recipients with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level; (2) Cost Sharing Program: All other recipients are reimbursement 50% of the purchase

NEW JERSEY Name of Program: Equipment Distribution Program Website: nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/equipment Eligibility Requirements: Hearing loss verified by physician or audiologist; household income less than \$45,000 How Equipment Provided: Equipment is owned by recipients Funding Source: Funds are provided as part of the state budget

NEW MEXICO Name of Program: Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Website: cdhh.state.nm.us/TEDP.aspx Eligibility Requirement: Proof of hearing loss shown by audiogram How Equipment Provided: Equipment loaned for a period of three (3) years Funding Source: Surcharge on landline and wireless phone service

NEW YORK No program

NORTH CAROLINA Name of Program: Telecommunications Access and Equipment Website: ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh/services/telecommunications.htm Eligibility Requirement: Certificate of disability; income up to 250% of federal poverty level How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients Funding Source: Surcharge per telephone access lines

NORTH DAKOTA Name of Program: Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) Website: ndipat.org/services/telecommunications-equipment-distribution-service Eligibility Requirement: Maximum family income based on family size How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients Funding Source: Telephone access line surcharge

OHIO No Statewide Program. The Deaf Modification Program, which covers all persons with hearing loss, provides specialized equipment for owner-occupied residential properties and rental units located only within the corporate limits of Columbus, Ohio. Website: staterelay.com/ohio/Ohio-Relay-Booklet.pdf

OKLAHOMA Name of Program: Equipment Distribution Program at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf Website: oklahomarelay.com/tedp.html Eligibility Requirements: Hearing loss verified by audiogram; maximum family income based on family size How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients Funding Source: Surcharge on telephone lines

OREGON Name of Program: Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP) Website: rspf.org Eligibility Requirement: Hearing loss certified; (no income restrictions) How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients Funding Source: Fee charged to all telephone customers (Residential Service Protection Fee (RSPF) Combined with Relay Services

PENNSYLVANIA Name of Program: Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (TDDP)
Website: disabilities.temple.edu/tddp Eligibility Requirement: Income not to exceed 200% of federal poverty level
How Equipment Provided: Owned by recipient
Funding Source: The TDDP is implemented by Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT), a program of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University. Supported in part by federal funding under the Assistive Technology Act of 2004. Also funded by a Telecommunications Relay Service Program surcharge.

RHODE ISLAND Name of Program: Telephone Equipment Loan Program (ATEL) Website: atel.ri.gov/
Eligibility Requirement: Maximum family income based on family size.
How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients
Funding Source: Surcharge on telephone bills

SOUTH CAROLINA Name of Program: Equipment Distribution Program Website: scedp.org
Eligibility Requirement: Hearing loss certified by health professional
How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients
Funding Source: Surcharge on all residential and business telephone lines

SOUTH DAKOTA Name of Program: Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP) Website: relaysd.com/outreach/equipment-distribution-program/
Eligibility Requirement: Certified hearing loss
How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipient
Funding Source: Access fee on each local exchange service line, each cellular phone, and each radio pager unit
Combined with Relay Services

TENNESSEE Name of Program: Telecommunication Device Access Program (TDAP) Website: tennrelay.com/tdap
Eligibility Requirement: Hearing loss verified by physician
How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients
Funding Source: Telecommunications service providers with intrastate gross receipts greater than \$5 million make proportionate contributions to the TDAP fund. The contribution factor for each provider is determined annually. Providers are prohibited from itemizing prorata contributions on consumers' telephone bills.

TEXAS Name of program: Specialized Telecommunications assistance Program (STAP) Website: hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/deaf-hard-hearing/specialized-telecommunicationsassistance-program-stap
Eligibility Requirement: Hearing loss certified by hearing health professional
How Equipment Provided: Vouchers, with a maximum dollar amount and printed with a general classification of device (ipad, amplified telephone, voice activated answering phone, etc.) are provided to recipients. The vouchers are exchanged with a registered vendor for the specific device selected by the recipient who takes ownership of the device.
Funding Source: Each telecommunications provider is required to pay a uniform amount into the "Telecommunications Assistance and Universal Service Fund." Telecommunications providers are authorized to recover their assessments through a surcharge added to customers' bills.

TippyTalk is one option for people with a speech disability to use. More information can be found at <https://www.razmobility.com/tippytalk/texas/>

UTAH Name of Program: Equipment Distribution Program Website: relayutah.gov/equipment.html Eligibility Requirements: Hearing loss certified by hearing health professional; maximum family income based on family size. How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients for as long as needed Funding Source: Surcharge on all landlines which is deposited into the Restricted Hearing Impaired Fund Combined with Relay Services

VERMONT Name of Program: Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) Website: vtedp.org Eligibility Requirements: Hearing loss verified by physician or audiologist; income below federal poverty guidelines How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients. After receiving equipment, applicants must wait four years to apply again unless there are special circumstances to waive the waiting period. Funding Source: Surcharge on all landline, cellular, and internet-based telephone bills.

VIRGINIA Name of Program: Technical Assistance Program (TAP) Website: vddhh.org/equipment.htm Eligibility Requirement: Maximum family income based on family size. How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients for trial period of 30 days to allow recipients to decide whether to keep, exchange, or return the equipment. If the equipment is kept for more than 30 days, the recipient retains ownership. However, equipment with an acquisition cost greater than \$5000 is permanently loaned to the recipients. Funding Source: State government appropriates funds on a biennial basis, but the amount can be adjusted annually through additional appropriations. The state also collects a Communications Tax from telecommunications providers of landline, wireless, satellite, cable, and internet-based services. Combined with Relay Services

WASHINGTON Name of Program: Telecommunications Equipment Distribution (TED) Program Website: dshs.wa.gov/altsa/odhh/telecommunication-equipment-distribution Eligibility Requirements: Hearing loss certified by specified health professional; no income restriction but cost to consumer determined by family financial status. How Equipment Provided: Owned by recipients. Equipment is transferred to recipients for free or after payment of a designated amount depending upon family size and income. Funding Source: Excise tax paid by landline telephone customers

WEST VIRGINIA Name of Program: Telephonic Communication Device Loan Program Website: wvcdhh.org./wvcdhh/loan/tty_loan.htm Eligibility Requirements: Hearing loss verified by audiogram; maximum family income based on family size. How Equipment Provided: Loaned to recipients Funding Source: State general revenue appropriations

WISCONSIN Name of Program: Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP) Website: psc.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/TEPP.aspx How Equipment Provided: Owned by recipients after purchase using vouchers Funding Source: The TEPP is one of several programs

paid for by the state Universal Service Fund (USF). Money is collected from telephone service providers for the USF.

WYOMING Name of Program: Telecom Relay Equipment Website: wyomingrelay.com
Eligibility Requirement: maximum family income based on family size How Equipment Provided:
Owned by recipients Funding Source: Surcharge on all telephone lines Combined with Relay
Services