



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Labor & Industry**  
**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation**

April 8, 2026

Matthew Homsher, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RE: **Docket Number M-2026-3059567**

- OVR Submission of 2026-2027 program budgets
- Telecommunication Devices Distribution Program (TDDP)
  - Print Media Access System Program (PMASP)

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Attached is the TDDP and PMASP 2026-2027 budget information. This information is a required annual submission to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca Gardner at rebgardner@pa.gov or 814.533.9052.

Sincerely,

Ryan Hyde, M.Ed., CRC  
Executive Director  
PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Attachments: Temple University TDDP Budget 2026-2027  
NFB Annual Newslines Report 2026-2027

Cc: Melissa Derr, PA PUC  
Derek Sharp, PA PUC  
Monique Chabot, Temple University TDDP  
Sandra McNally, Temple University TDDP  
Jack Mendez, NFB  
Karen Walsh-Emma, BBVS  
Jamie Pressman, BBVS  
Doug Rand, BCO  
Rebecca Gardner, BCO  
File

PA Department of Labor & Industry | Office of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Bureau of Central Operations | Contract & Grant Services Division  
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[www.dli.pa.gov/ovr](http://www.dli.pa.gov/ovr)

*Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.  
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program*

TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Budget Filing Information Requirement: File Items 1-3

Docket Number: M-2026-3059567

FILE ITEMS:

1-2 BUDGET ESTIMATE – JULY 1, 2026 TO JUNE 30, 2027 BREAKDOWN OF THE TYPES OF UNITS, THE PRICE OF EACH TYPE OF UNIT, AND THE NUMBER OF EACH TYPE OF UNIT PROJECTED TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN THE PROSPECTIVE BUDGET YEAR.

Telecommunication Device Name (Wireline and Wireless)	Projected Units	Unit Price	Projected Total
Clarity Alto, Corded Amplified Telephone	5	\$175.00	\$875.00
Clarity Alto Plus, Corded Amplified Telephone	15	\$210.00	\$3,150.00
Clarity JV35, Corded Amplified Telephone	15	\$135.00	\$2,025.00
Clarity JV35W, Corded Amplified Telephone	15	\$135.00	\$2,025.00
Serene Innovations HD-40P, Corded Amplified Phone Telephone	5	\$115.00	\$575.00
Clarity XLC8, Amplified/Cordless/Bluetooth/Ans Mach	35	\$190.00	\$6,650.00
CapTel 840 Plus, Captioned Telephone	15	\$91.25	\$1,368.75
CapTel 840i, IP Captioned Telephone	20	\$91.25	\$1,825.00
CapTel 880i, IP Captioned Telephone	20	\$91.25	\$1,825.00
CapTel 2400i, Touch Screen, IP Captioned Telephone w/Speakerphone	20	\$91.25	\$1,825.00
Ultratec SuperPrint 4425, TTY	5	\$480.00	\$2,400.00
Clarity XLC8-Google Live Transcribe (VCO)	10	\$579.00	\$5,790.00
Reizen, Big Button Speaker Phone	10	\$40.00	\$400.00
ClearSounds CR200, Loud Ring Signaler	15	\$45.00	\$675.00
Apple iPhone 16e, 128GB Smart Phone	215	\$1,050.00	\$225,750.00
Samsung Galaxy S24FE 5G, 128GB Smart Phone	60	\$999.00	\$59,940.00
Google Pixel 9, 128GB Smart Phone	20	\$1,145.00	\$22,900.00
MiniVision2+ Mobile Phone	30	\$519.00	\$15,570.00
BlindShell Classic 3 Mobile Phone	50	\$690.00	\$34,500.00
SmartVision3-Omni Package-Hybrid Mobile/Smart Phone	30	\$769.00	\$23,070.00
Apple iPad 5G 11 <sup>th</sup> gen. 128GB Tablet	75	\$829.00	\$62,175.00
Samsung Galaxy Tab S10FE 5G 128GB Tablet	15	\$900.00	\$13,500.00
Serene Innovations SA-40 HearAll Bluetooth Cell Phone Amplifier	10	\$135.00	\$1,350.00
Serene Innovations RF-200, Ringer Flasher Alerting Device	25	\$89.00	\$2,225.00
Bellman & Symfon Vibio Bed Shaker	25	\$110.00	\$2,750.00
Equipment approved through exceptional equipment process (est.)			\$30,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>760</b>		<b>\$525,138.75</b>

## 1. – 2. BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR CONSUMER EDUCATION: JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2027

TDDP Equipment (Wireline & Wireless)	\$525,138.75
TDDP Consumer Education and Outreach	\$373,275.50
<b>Total of Budget Estimate (2026-2027)</b>	<b>\$898,414.25</b>

### FILE ITEMS:

## 3. OVERVIEW OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

### 1. ELIGIBILITY

- Resident of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Certification of a qualified disability
- Financial eligibility – annual gross income must be at or below 200% of poverty, based on the US Department of Health and Human Services Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Phone service in home for wireline device
- Acknowledgement that they have, or will have access to wireless services for wireless device
- Age of person (six or older)
- Ability to use or learn how to use telecommunication device

### 2. SCOPE OF PROGRAM

Pre-approved equipment available:

- Clarity Alto, Corded Amplified Telephone
- Clarity Alto Plus, Corded Amplified Telephone
- Clarity JV35, Corded Amplified Telephone
- Clarity JV35W, Corded Amplified Telephone
- Serene Innovations HD-40P, Corded Amplified Photo Telephone
- Clarity XLC8, Amplified/Cordless/Bluetooth/Ans. Machine
- CapTel 840 Plus, Captioned Telephone
- CapTel 840i, IP Captioned Telephone
- CapTel 880i, IP Captioned Telephone
- CapTel 2400i, Touch Screen, IP Captioned Telephone w/Speakerphone
- UltraTec SuperPrint 4425, TTY
- Clarity XLC8-Google Live Transcribe (VCO)
- Reizen, Big Button Speaker Phone
- ClearSounds CR200, Loud Ring Signaler
- Apple iPhone 16e, 128GB Smart Phone
- Samsung Galaxy S24FE 5G, 128GB Smart Phone
- Google Pixel 9, 128GB Smart Phone
- MiniVision2+ Mobile Phone
- BlindShell Classic 3 Mobile Phone
- SmartVision3-Omni, Hybrid Mobile/Smart Phone
- Apple iPad 5G, 128GB Tablet
- Samsung Galaxy Tab S10FE 5G, 128GB Tablet
- Serene Innovations SA-40 HearAll Bluetooth Cell Phone Amplifier
- Serene Innovations RF-200, Ringer Flasher Alerting Device

- Bellman & Symfon Vibio Bed Shaker

### **Exceptions to pre-approved equipment list**

- Limited to equipment serving the same purposes as equipment on the pre-approved list. Exceptions process must be followed.

### **Ownership / Maintenance:**

- Customer owns equipment, which includes a one-year manufacturer defect warranty; customer is responsible for maintenance.

### **Delivery Method:**

- Equipment is sent directly to customer from manufacturer/vendor.

### **Equipment Limits:**

- Based on certification of the individual's need.
- One item from each "category" (e.g., no more than one telephone although individual may ALSO receive one signaler), unless approved through the Exceptions Process.
- Eligible applicant may receive both wireline and wireless equipment from TDDP.

## **3. ACTIVITIES ACCOMPLISHED**

### Activity report for the period of **1/1/25 through 12/31/25:**

- Total number of eligible wireline and wireless applications: **388**
- Total number of equipment devices issued: **381**
- Total number of device recipients: **355 unduplicated recipients (13 recipients received both wireline and wireless devices)**
- Total dollar value of devices issued: **\$336,971.60**
- Total number of program inquiry responses: **1,252**

### Age categories of device recipients for the period of **1/1/25-12/31/25:**

- Under 65: **140 unduplicated (39%)**
- 65 and over: **215 unduplicated (61%)**

### Race categories of applicants for the period of **1/1/25-12/31/25:**

- African American: **128**
- American Indian: **3**
- Asian: **9**
- Caucasian: **291**
- More Than One Race: **4**
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: **1**
- Unreported: **51**

### Ethnicity of applicants for the period of **1/1/25-12/31/25:**

- Hispanic: **31**
- Non-Hispanic: **448**
- Unreported: **8**

**(52 / 67) Counties (78% of the Commonwealth) of device recipients for the period of 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025**

County	Recipients	County	Recipients
Adams	1	Lackawanna	9
Allegheny	58	Lancaster	9
Armstrong	0	Lawrence	7
Beaver	8	Lebanon	2
Bedford	3	Lehigh	13
Berks	16	Luzerne	8
Blair	5	Lycoming	6
Bradford	1	McKean	3
Bucks	10	Mercer	2
Butler	5	Mifflin	2
Cambria	2	Monroe	0
Cameron	0	Montgomery	12
Carbon	3	Montour	0
Centre	3	Northampton	5
Chester	2	Northumberland	2
Clarion	1	Perry	1
Clearfield	11	Philadelphia	51
Clinton	0	Pike	1
Columbia	2	Potter	0
Crawford	3	Schuylkill	10
Cumberland	2	Snyder	0
Dauphin	4	Somerset	0
Delaware	10	Sullivan	0
Elk	1	Susquehanna	1
Erie	14	Tioga	0
Fayette	3	Union	0
Forest	0	Venango	2
Franklin	3	Warren	2
Fulton	1	Washington	5
Greene	0	Wayne	2
Huntingdon	6	Westmoreland	6
Indiana	2	Wyoming	3
Jefferson	0	York	11
Juniata	0		

**Budget Filing Information Requirements: File Items 4 – 19**  
**Docket Number # M-2026-3059567**  
**FILE ITEMS:**

**4. Actual Number of Units Distributed & the Actual Cost of Units Distributed:**

During the period of January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, **381** pieces of equipment were distributed. (See Attachment A for itemized listing of equipment.)

Actual cost of equipment distributed: **\$336,971.60**

**5. Designated Administrator:**

Temple University's College of Education and Human Development  
Institute of Disabilities: TechOWL  
1301 Cecil B. Moore Avenue  
Ritter Annex, RA430  
Philadelphia, PA 19122  
(800) 204-7428 (voice)  
711 (TTY)  
(215) 204-6336 (fax)  
[TDDP@temple.edu](mailto:TDDP@temple.edu) (email)  
<https://techowlpa.org/tddp>

Contact Person: Laura M. Grassia, Program Manager or Sandra McNally, Assistant Director of Assistive Technology Programs

**6. Distributors:**

The following companies have been selected through Temple University's non-competitive bidding process to supply equipment to the TDDP:

Teltex, Inc.  
1081 West Innovation Drive, Kearney, MO 64060  
(888) 515-8120 (Voice/TTY); (816) 635-4043 (Fax)

Weitbrecht Communications Incorporated (WCI)  
2801 Ocean Park Boulevard, #413, Santa Monica, CA 90405  
(800) 233-9130 (Voice/TTY); (310) 450-9918 (Fax)

Raz Mobility  
1934 Old Gallows Road, Suite 350, Tysons Corner, VA 22182  
(800) 729-0083 (Voice/Text)

Distributors for equipment approved through the exceptional equipment process are selected in accordance with Temple University's procurement policies and procedures.

**7. Description: (See Attachment B: TDDP Application)**

- Residency: Applicant will provide proof of residency by attaching one of the following to the application: a current driver's license, non- driver photo I.D., utility receipts, dated Social Security correspondence, local, state, or Federal tax returns with preprinted name and address, etc.
- Person with a Disability: A licensed physician, licensed audiologist, licensed speech pathologist or other recognized state agency (e.g. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Department of Public Welfare or Social Security Administration Case Worker,

Department of Aging, Department of Education, Department of Health, Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) must certify on the application that the applicant has a disability and is capable of learning how to use the telecommunication device selected. We interpret that a “representative of a qualified state agency” includes relevant Pennsylvania-licensed professionals, employees of a Center for Independent Living, or credentialed Assistive Technology Professionals (ATP).

- Telephone Service: Applicants for wireline equipment must attach a copy of their phone bill.
- Wireless Carrier Service: Applicants for wireless equipment acknowledge that they have, or will have, access to wireless services.
- Six Years of Age or Older: The age of the applicant is part of the application.
- Income: Applicant must indicate their gross current income and attach evidence to verify that amount.
- Additional documentation is required for eligible applicants seeking alternate equipment through the exceptions process, in accordance with the exceptions policy.

**8. Applicant Tracking:**

Applicants are tracked by name and a unique application number assigned by the administrators at the time of application.

**9. Delivery of Equipment:**

The vendor(s) directly ship the equipment to the applicant’s residence.

**10. Ownership of Equipment:**

The recipient owns the equipment and agrees that they may not sell the equipment they receive from TDDP.

**11. Maintenance of Equipment:**

Recipient is responsible for maintaining equipment. Vendors will repair or replace equipment under the manufacturer’s warranty, if applicable.

**12. Insurance of Equipment:**

Recipient is responsible for insuring the equipment.

**13. More Than One Eligible Person in a Household:**

There are no household restrictions; eligibility is based on an individual’s qualification.

**14. Use of Equipment at Job Site:**

The recipient owns the equipment and can use it anywhere he or she wishes. The law did not address this issue.

**15. Useful Life of Equipment:**

Vendors have agreed to provide a one year or manufacturer’s warranty, whichever is longer. If equipment breaks after expiration of the warranty, the recipient is responsible for repair or replacement. The useful life varies for each device, but industry representatives report the equipment should last 3-6 years and possibly longer.

## **16. Replacement Equipment:**

Recipients may re-apply for replacement equipment after three years if the device is no longer working. A new application must be filed, and the eligibility criteria in effect at the time of re-application must be met. If a recipient's disability changes and the original equipment no longer addresses the recipient's needs, the recipient may file a new application for different equipment at any time (e.g., even sooner than three years). The replacement policy also allows replacement in the event of theft or loss due to fire and other disaster. Eligible applicants may receive both wireline and wireless equipment, if needed.

## **17. Any Procedural Changes or Updates:**

The 2026 Poverty Guidelines were published in the Federal Register on January 15, 2026, and posted on the HHS website: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>. The TDDP application was revised to reflect this change, and beginning January 15, 2026, these guidelines are used to determine TDDP financial eligibility.

## **18. A Copy of Any Audit:**

There aren't any audits in process at the time.

## **19. Any Additional Pertinent Information or Comments:**

### **Work Items to be addressed through June 30, 2026:**

- Continue to provide program updates and other relevant information to the Information Centers through e-mail.
- Continue outreach activities, including statewide events and underserved populations.
- Revise and distribute updated applications, reflecting current federal poverty guidelines and changes to the equipment list.
- Update website to reflect current financial eligibility, new equipment, and listing of Information Centers.
- Continue consumer education activities, including but not limited to provision of support to device recipients who need additional assistance to use their equipment.
- Continue to recruit Information Centers.

### **Items accomplished by TechOWL, Institute on Disabilities from July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025:**

- Contracted with 8 Assistive Technology Resource Centers, responsible for the provision of outreach, consumer education, and consumer support in their respective regions.
- Promoted TDDP at a total of **41** in person or virtual outreach events, reaching approximately **3,874** people including **1** underserved community and **2** statewide events.
- Sent mailings and published articles in newsletters containing TDDP information to organizations and professionals, including but not limited to state legislators, senior centers, veterans' organizations, community organizations, and churches. These mailings and newsletters reached approximately **6,521** people. Press releases containing TDDP information reached an estimated **22,000** people. Social media posts reached **6,772** people.
- **Twenty-one (21)** TDDP consumers requested and received assistance with equipment they received from the program totaling **29.25** hours.
- Prepared and submitted annual report to OVR, for submission to the General Assembly.

- Attended Assistive Technology Advisory Committee meeting, Telecommunication Relay Service Advisory Board meetings and the Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Programs Association's annual virtual meeting. Staff also participated in the Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Programs Association Monthly Board of Directors' meetings. The Program Manager continues her role as the Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program Association Board of Directors Treasurer.

Attachment A  
TDDP Equipment Distributed

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Traditional Wireline Device Name	Unit Price	Quantity Ordered	Value of Equipment Ordered
Clarity Alto, Amplified Telephone	\$98.95	1	\$ 98.95
*Clarity Alto, Amplified Telephone	\$175.00	1	\$ 175.00
Clarity AltoPlus, Amplified Telephone	\$104.95	2	\$ 209.90
*Clarity AltoPlus, Amplified Telephone	\$210.00	6	\$ 1,260.00
**Clarity HA-40, In-Line Handset Amplifier	\$20.95	0	\$ -
Clarity JV35, Talking Amplified Telephone	\$92.95	5	\$ 464.75
*Clarity JV35, Talking Amplified Telephone	\$135.00	3	\$ 405.00
Clarity JV35W, Talking Amplified Telephone	\$92.95	2	\$ 185.90
*Clarity JV35W, Talking Amplified Telephone	\$135.00	1	\$ 135.00
Serene Innovations HD-40P, Amplified Photo Telephone	\$62.95	1	\$ 62.95
*Serene Innovations HD-40P, Amplified Photo Telephone	\$115.00	0	\$ -
**Clarity XLC2+, Amplified Cordless Telephone	\$93.95	0	\$ -
**Clarity BT914, Amplified/Cordless/Bluetooth/Ans.Mach	\$100.00	4	\$ 400.00
Clarity XLC8, Amplified/Cordless/Bluetooth/Ans.Mach	\$134.95	11	\$ 1,484.45
*Clarity XLC8, Amplified/Cordless/Bluetooth/Ans.Mach	\$190.00	9	\$ 1,710.00
CapTel 2400i, (Touch Screen) Captioned Telephone	\$90.25	3	\$ 270.75
*CapTel 2400i, (Touch Screen) Captioned Telephone	\$91.25	0	\$ -
CapTel 840 Plus, Captioned Telephone	\$90.25	0	\$ -
*CapTel 840 Plus, Captioned Telephone	\$91.25	0	\$ -
CapTel 840i, Captioned Telephone	\$90.25	0	\$ -
*CapTel 840i, Captioned Telephone	\$91.25	0	\$ -
CapTel 880i, Captioned Telephone	\$90.25	1	\$ 90.25
*CapTel 880i, Captioned Telephone	\$91.25	0	\$ -
Ultratec Superprint 4425A with ASCII, TTY	\$380.00	0	\$ -
*Ultratec Superprint 4425, TTY	\$480.00	0	\$ -
Clarity XLC8-Google Live Transcribe (VCO)	\$375.00	0	\$ -
*Clarity XLC8-Google Live Transcribe (VCO)	\$579.00	0	\$ -
Reizen, Big Button Speakerphone	\$28.00	0	\$ -
*Reizen, Big Button Speakerphone	\$40.00	1	\$ 40.00
Clearsounds CR2000, Loud Ring Signaler	\$41.95	4	\$ 167.80
*Clearsounds CR2000, Loud Ring Signaler	\$45.00	3	\$ 135.00
<b>WIRELINE DEVICE TOTALS</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>\$ 7,295.70</b>

\*New pricing effective 7/18/2025

\*\*Discontinued

Attachment A  
TDDP Equipment Distributed

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Wireless Device Name	Unit Price	Quantity Ordered	Value of Equipment Ordered
**Apple iPhone SE 128GB	\$ 734.00	1	\$ 734.00
**Apple iPhone 14 128GB	\$ 1,239.00	26	\$ 32,214.00
Apple iPhone 16e 128GB	\$ 1,239.00	74	\$ 91,686.00
*Apple iPhone 16e 128GB	\$ 1,050.00	102	\$ 107,100.00
**Samsung Galaxy S23FE 128GB 5G Smart Phone	\$ 949.00	1	\$ 949.00
Samsung Galaxy S24FE 128GB 5G Smart Phone	\$ 949.00	19	\$ 18,031.00
*Samsung Galaxy S24FE 128GB 5G Smart Phone	\$ 999.00	17	\$ 16,983.00
**Google Pixel 8 128GB Smart Phone	\$ 1,089.00	2	\$ 2,178.00
Google Pixel 9 128GB Smart Phone	\$ 1,145.00	3	\$ 3,435.00
MiniVision2+ Mobile Phone	\$ 489.00	1	\$ 489.00
*MiniVision2+ Mobile Phone	\$ 519.00	2	\$ 1,038.00
**BlindShell Classic 2 Mobile Phone	\$ 559.00	7	\$ 3,913.00
BlindShell Classic 3 Mobile Phone	\$ 690.00	9	\$ 6,210.00
SmartVision3-Omni Package	\$ 768.00	1	\$ 768.00
*SmartVision3-Omni Package	\$ 769.00	2	\$ 1,538.00
**Apple iPad 4G 10th generation 64GB	\$ 889.00	11	\$ 9,779.00
**Apple iPad 5G 11th generation 128GB	\$ 889.00	17	\$ 15,113.00
*Apple iPad 5G 11th generation 128GB	\$ 829.00	13	\$ 10,777.00
Samsung Galaxy S9FE 64GB Tablet	\$ 1,058.00	0	\$ -
Samsung Galaxy Tab S10FE 5G 128GB Tablet	\$ 900.00	0	\$ -
Serene Innovations SA-40 HearAll Cellphone Amplifier	\$ 74.95	0	\$ -
*Serene Innovations SA-40 HearAll Cellphone Amplifier	\$ 135.00	0	\$ -
Smart Signaler: Serene Innovations RF200 Alerting Device	\$ 51.95	2	\$ 103.90
*Smart Signaler: Serene Innovations RF200 Alerting Device	\$ 89.00	3	\$ 267.00
Smart Signaler: Bellman & Symfon Vibio BT Bed Shaker	\$ 68.00	3	\$ 204.00
*Smart Signaler: Bellman & Symfon Vibio BT Bed Shaker	\$ 110.00	1	\$ 110.00
Exceptional Equipment: Memory Cell Phone with Wireless Charging Stand	\$ 559.00	2	\$ 1,118.00
Exceptional Equipment: iPhone 16e 128GB, ModularHose.com Phone Holder w/ Mini Clamp 14-inch Arm	\$ 1,314.00	2	\$ 2,628.00
Exceptional Equipment: iPhone 16e 128GB, ModularHose.com Phone Holder w/ Mini Clamp 14-inch Arm	\$ 1,125.00	1	\$ 1,125.00

\*New pricing effective 7/18/2025

\*\*Discontinued

Attachment A  
TDDP Equipment Distributed

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Wireless Device Name	Unit Price	Quantity Ordered	Value of Equipment Ordered
Exceptional Equipment: iPhone 16e 128 GB, Bluetooth Headphones with Mic, RAM Mounts Quick-Grip XL Phone Holder with Ball, RAM Mounts RAM-B-316-1U Pod I Vehicle Mount with 18' Rod and Socket Arm	\$ 1,185.00	1	\$ 1,185.00
<b>WIRELESS DEVICE TOTALS</b>		<b>323</b>	<b>\$ 329,675.90</b>
<b>FINAL TOTAL</b>		<b>381</b>	<b>\$ 336,971.60</b>

\*New pricing effective 7/18/2025

\*\*Discontinued



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## **Application for Free Special Phones from TechOWL**

**Return completed application to:**

**TechOWL Free Special Phone Program  
Institute on Disabilities at Temple University  
Ritter Annex 4, Room 430  
1301 Cecil B. Moore Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19122**

**Email: [TDDP@temple.edu](mailto:TDDP@temple.edu)**

**Fax: 215-204-6336**

**Tel: 800-204-7428**

**TTY: 711**

**Please keep this page in case you need to contact us.  
Tell us if you change your phone number, email, or address  
after you send your application.**

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### **What will happen after you send in your completed application:**

- We look at your application.
- We send you a letter saying your application is eligible, incomplete or not eligible.
- The letter comes from Temple University. It is NOT a bill or junk mail.
- Please be patient with us.

The Free Special Phone Program (Pennsylvania's Telecommunication Device Distribution Program) is implemented by TechOWL, a program of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, in conjunction with the PA Public Utility Commission (PUC). (Application revised January 2025)

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## Checklist

**Before you send in your application, read this list and check the boxes to make sure your application is complete. Failure to submit all the items will result in a delay. Keep a copy of your entire completed application for your records.**

- Completed application** with all questions answered and all blanks filled in.
- Completed Disability Certification** (filled out by a certifying professional listed on the form).
- Completed Equipment Selection Sheet** with one piece of equipment and/or one signaler that will work for you.

### **Submit photocopies of documents with the following information:**

- Proof of PA residency** with the applicant's name and current street address—this includes one of the following:
  - current driver's license *or*
  - non-driver ID *or*
  - utility bill *or*
  - dated Social Security correspondence *or*
  - copies of W-2s *or*
  - school report card *or*
  - other documentation pre-printed with applicant's name and current street address.
- Proof of applicant's income** (Examples of proof of income include W-2's, 1099s or award letters from retirement and/or Social Security income. If you need a copy of your Social Security income statement, please call 1-800-772-1213). Your most **recent information** is required. We cannot accept bank statements or the 1040 tax form.
- For a free home phone only: Proof of most recent telephone service bill** (e.g. If you sign your application in May, include the April bill.) Send the entire bill. We must know what type of services you have in your home to make sure the requested device will work for you.
- For free wireless devices only. Proof of wireless service**—this includes one of the following:
  - a receipt of activation from your cell phone plan *or*
  - a copy of current monthly cell phone bill *or*
  - receipt from a data plan card purchase *or*
  - redacted bank statement with the monthly charge noted *or*
  - annual renewal letter or email for a government phone plan *or*
  - screen shot from your cell phone plan's mobile app

If you currently do not have a cell phone plan, you will be required to submit one type of cell phone plan proof from the above list. You will have 30 days to submit proof of a cell phone plan after you receive your cell phone or tablet. This applies to both cell phones or tablets.

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# Application for Free Special Phones from TechOWL

**We highly recommend a device demonstration or loan since there is a no exchange policy. Call 800-204-7428 to schedule.**

- I will call to schedule an equipment demonstration or loan before sending my application.
- I do not want an equipment demonstration or loan. I understand there are no exchanges after I receive my device.

**Do you already own equipment like what you are requesting from TechOWL (i.e. smartphone, tablet, captioned or amplified phone)?**       Yes       No

**If yes, what?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If yes, please check one answer below:**

**My equipment is:**

- is broken or only works sometimes
- is borrowed
- does not work for me because \_\_\_\_\_

**I will use this device at: (check one):**

- Home
- School
- Work

**I want to be contacted by:**

- mail
- email

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## **Applicant Information—to be completed by applicant (PLEASE PRINT)**

Name (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (MI) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (P.O Box not accepted) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code/Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Person assisting you with application, if any**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code/Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent or guardian for applicants under 18 years old**

Name (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (MI) \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code/Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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## Applicant Annual Income and Family Members

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You must attach the **applicant's** most current proof of income. Examples of proof of income include W-2's, 1099s or award letters from retirement and/or Social Security income. If you need a copy of your Social Security income statement, please call 1-800-772-1213. We cannot accept bank statements or the 1040 tax form.

**Number of people living at this (applicant's) address including applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

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### Other Applicant Information (required)

#### Reason for using the Free Special Phone Program

- I cannot afford equipment
- This equipment is only available through the Free Special Phone Program
- I could use other programs, but the system is too complex and/or the wait is too long

#### How did you hear about us?

- friend/relative
- support person
- web
- brochure/flyer
- presentation/exhibit by \_\_\_\_\_
- other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

#### If applying for a cell phone or tablet, please complete the following questions:

**Do you currently have a cell phone plan?**  Yes  No

**If you checked "yes", what is the company's name?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you get a bill?**  Yes  No

(Attach a copy of your current cell phone bill, receipt for data card purchase or other proof of service)

**If you checked "no", are you able to get a cell phone plan?**  Yes  No

Have you ever used a cell phone or tablet?  Yes  No

**Do you currently use any of the following types of technology? (Check all that apply):**

- Hearing aid
- Cochlear implant
- Speech generating device
- Relay (IP, VRS, TTY, STS, VCO, HCO, Captioned telephone)
- Other (List) \_\_\_\_\_
- Not applicable

**Please note: You must get and keep a cell phone plan with a cell phone company if you are applying for a free cell phone or tablet.**

## OPTIONAL



### Race:

- Black or African American
- Asian or Asian-American
- White or Caucasian
- American-Indian or Alaska Native
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

### Ethnicity:

- Hispanic
- Non-Hispanic

### Gender:

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

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## REQUIRED: Applicant's Statement and Signature

**IMPORTANT: Submit application no later than 30 days after you have signed and dated it.**

- I certify that all information provided on this application and supporting documents is true, complete and correct.
- I understand that if I purposely provide false information, I may be subject to legal action and application denial.
- Program officials have my permission to verify the information provided.
- I certify that I have read, understand and accept all conditions set forth in this application and have the ability to learn to use the equipment selected.
- I understand that I may not sell, give, or lend to another person any equipment provided to me by the program.
- **For free cell phones or tablets only: This program gives only the equipment. I will be responsible for all services related to the equipment**, including activation fee, monthly service plan, software and app updates, and will use the device to access phone and telecommunications-related services, such as video relay, email and texting. **I will activate the device on a cell phone plan within 30 days of receipt.** If I fail to submit proof of a cell phone plan, I may not be able to access services from TechOWL in the future.

Applicant signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For applicant is under 18

Parent/legal guardian/signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: If you are having trouble making a decision about which equipment might work for you, please contact or visit one of the Assistive Technology Regional Centers (ATRCs). You can also request a device to try out from our Lending Library. *\*We cannot lend cell phones.*

# Certification of Disability

Please print legibly or type. All information must be completed by a professional.  
(Return to TDDP- email: TDDP@temple.edu OR fax: 215-204-6336)

## Applicant Name

(Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (MI) \_\_\_\_\_

### Please check one. I am a(n):

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Audiologist                         | <input type="radio"/> Optometrist   |
| <input type="radio"/> Physician                           | <input type="radio"/> Ophthalmologist   |
| <input type="radio"/> Speech-Language Pathologist         | <input type="radio"/> Service Professional (public or private agency that serves deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind, Center for Independent Living employee, credentialed Assistive Technology Professional) |
| <input type="radio"/> Physician's Assistant               |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Registered Nurse Practitioner       |   |

### Please check the disability(ies) being certified:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> cognitive* | <input type="checkbox"/> low vision      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deaf       | <input type="checkbox"/> hard of hearing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> blind      | <input type="checkbox"/> physical*       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deafblind  | <input type="checkbox"/> speech          |

\*If you marked cognitive or physical disability, please explain why the applicant needs a specialized phone and/or wireless device and /or identify accessibility features that can be helpful (i.e. voice access for limited dexterity, photo labeled memory buttons for impaired cognition) \_\_\_\_\_

## Certifying Professional

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Agency \_\_\_\_\_

PA Professional License Number, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code/Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that the applicant named above has the disability indicated, and that they require this technology to independently access telecommunication services.**

Signature of Certifier \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Free Special Phones Equipment Selection Sheet

## Eligibility Criteria

### Person with a disability

- This disability prevents a person from making or receiving telephone calls independently. A qualified professional must complete the certification of disability.

### Income limits

- We only use the applicant's proof of income. This does not include family/ household income.

## FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA GUIDELINES

(as of January 15, 2026):

size of family unit	GROSS INCOME (200% of federal poverty guidelines)
1	\$31,920
2	\$42,280
3	\$54,640
4	\$66,000
5	\$77,360
6	\$88,720
7	\$100,080
8	\$111,440

### Age

- Six (6) years or older.

### Residence

- Resident of Pennsylvania.

### Resources

- Must have an existing landline telephone service
- Must certify to obtain a wireless service agreement to use with the wireless device
- Must be able to learn how to use requested equipment.

### Equipment ownership and responsibility

- Your selection is FINAL and CANNOT BE EXCHANGED. It is your property and responsibility. A durable, protective case and/or screen protector for your wireless device is NOT included with your equipment. It is highly recommended that you purchase one. Your device comes with a one-year manufacturer's warranty. Please consider extending that warranty through either the manufacturer or your cell phone service company.

- Information will be kept confidential except as required by law.
- All equipment is covered by a limited manufacturer defect warranty. If it is defective or stops working, the recipient contacts the vendor for repairs. Repairs for damages due to abuse or neglect are not covered.
- Stolen equipment can be replaced only when a police report of theft is provided.

\*\*If you need help completing this application, or need it in an alternate form, please contact us: \*\*

tel: 800-204-7428 / TTY: 711

email: [TDDP@temple.edu](mailto:TDDP@temple.edu)

web: [TechOWLpa.org](http://TechOWLpa.org)

The Free Special Phone Program (Pennsylvania's Telecommunication Device Distribution Program) is implemented by TechOWL, a program of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, in conjunction with the PA Public Utility Commission (PUC).

## Free Special Phone Equipment Selection

You must submit your equipment selection with your application.

**Category A: Select only ONE device from any row below that best fits your needs.**

### AMPLIFIED



Clarity Alto  
Pearl White



Clarity  
Alto Plus



Clarity JV35  
 Clarity JV35W  
(white buttons)



Serene  
Innovations  
HD-40P

### AMPLIFIED CORDLESS



Clarity XLC8

### CAPTIONED, TTYS AND OTHER PHONES



CapTel 840 PLUS  
(analog or DSL service  
compatible)



CapTel 840i



CapTel 880i



CapTel 2400iSP  
(touchscreen  
display)



Ultratec SuperPrint  
4425 TTY



Clarity XLC8-GLT  
(VCO)



Reizen Big Button  
Speakerphone

### Category B: Select a signaler, if needed.



ClearSounds  
Loud Ring  
Signaler

NONE (No device  
from Category B  
needed.)

For details go to TDDP webpage (<https://techowlpa.org/tddp>)  
List revised July2025. If none of the listed equipment will meet your  
needs, please contact TechOWL.

**Free Wireless Devices and Equipment Selection**  
You must submit your equipment selection with your application.

**Category A: Select only ONE device from any row below that best fits your needs.**

**PHONES**



**Apple iPhone 16e 128GB**



**Samsung Galaxy S24 FE 5G 128GB**



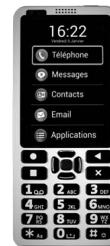
**Google Pixel 9 128GB**



**Mini Vision 2+ 4G Mobile Phone**



**BlindShell Classic 3 Mobile Phone**



**Smart Vision 3 Smart Phone**

**TABLET**



**Apple iPad 5G 128GB**



**Samsung Galaxy Tab S10 FE 5G**  
 Verizon  T-Mobile  AT&T

**CELL PHONE AMPLIFIER**



**Serene Innovations SA-40 HearAll Cellphone Amplifier**

**Category B: Select only ONE signaler**



**Serene Innovations Ringer Flasher RF200 Alerting Device**



**Smart Signaler: Bellman & Symfon Vibio Bed Shaker**

**NONE (No device from Category B needed.)**

For details go to [TDDP webpage \(https://techowlpa.org/tddp\)](https://techowlpa.org/tddp)

List revised July 2025.

If none of the listed equipment will meet your needs, please contact TechOWL.

# NFB-NEWSLINE® PENNSYLVANIA BUDGET

UPDATED: 02/05/26 **DOCKET #M-2026-3059567**

## I. INTRODUCTION

This Agreement provides for the activation, operation, and maintenance of an automated, interactive audio-information news services known as NFB-NEWSLINE, which supplies text-to-speech newspapers, periodicals, and various other information sources to blind, visually impaired, and other individuals with print disabilities. NFB-NEWSLINE subscribers have access to national newspapers, breaking news sources, international newspapers, magazines, state newspapers, emergency weather alerts, and seven-day forecasts localized to the subscriber's zip code or GPS location, job listings, TV listings localized to the subscriber's zip code and provider, and retail ads.

Anyone who cannot read printed publications due to vision loss or a print disability is eligible to receive NFB-NEWSLINE free of charge.

Once signed up for NFB-NEWSLINE, a subscriber may access the service using a touchtone telephone; the Amazon Alexa; an iOS or Android mobile app; a secure, text-only website; email; National Library Service Digital Talking Book player; and the Victor Reader Stream portable player.

## II. TERM

This Agreement has a one-year term and will commence on **July 1, 2026** ("EFFECTIVE DATE"), and terminate at 11:59 p.m. on **June 30, 2027** ("EXPIRATION DATE").

## III. FEES

### A. Compensation

This is a fixed price contract. As consideration for the services set forth in this Agreement, the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will compensate the NFB in accordance with the fee schedule below. Any modification to this fee schedule must be in writing, signed by both parties, and include an effective date.

The fees for the NFB-NEWSLINE service consist of the following:

- (1) an annual service fee in the amount of \$44,000.00, payable in quarterly installments of \$11,000.00.

The eleven Newspapers included with the annual service fee are:

1. *Centre Daily Times*
2. *Hanover Evening Sun*
3. *Intelligencer*

4. *Lebanon Daily News*
5. *LNP Lancaster Always Online*
6. *Patriot News*
7. *Philadelphia Daily News*
8. *Philadelphia Inquirer*
9. *Sharon Herald*
10. *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*
11. *York Dispatch*

(2) Each one of the nineteen publications listed below will incur a charge of \$5,000 each per year, (\$95,000.00 annually) for maintenance and distribution, payable in quarterly installments of \$23,750.00.

- 1) Allentown Morning Call
- 2) Altoona Mirror
- 3) Bedford Gazette
- 4) Beaver County Times
- 5) Bucks County Courier Times
- 6) Butler Eagle
- 7) Citizens Voice
- 8) Daily American
- 9) Erie Times News
- 10) Gettysburg Times
- 11) Harrisburg Magazine
- 12) Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
- 13) Pittsburgh Tribune Review
- 14) Pocono Record
- 15) Reading Eagle
- 16) Republican Herald
- 17) Standard Speaker
- 18) Times Tribune
- 19) Williamsport Sun Gazette

(3) an annual telecommunications fee in the amount of \$4,000.00 to provide unlimited, nationwide Direct Inward Dial access to NFB-NEWSLINE, payable in quarterly installments of \$1,000.00.

(4) an annual marketing and outreach fee in the amount of \$50,000.00, payable in quarterly installments of \$12,500.

Marketing and Outreach tasks will consist of the following: subscriber registration and follow-up, including the distribution of materials needed for instruction for new subscribers in print, Braille, or audio format; distribution of brochures and other promotional materials at community events and exhibits; and the staffing of a help desk to answer calls from subscribers and those requesting NFB-NEWSLINE® information and materials. Additionally, administration of the state specific channel for Pennsylvania and posting of items of interest to the blindness community in the commonwealth will be included in this fee.

**B. Additional Publications**

If during the Agreement, Sponsor requests that an Additional Paper be carried on NFB-NEWSLINE, the fees for each Additional Publication will be:

a one-time, initial \$5,000.00 setup fee;

an annual \$5,000.00 fee for the maintenance and distribution of the additional publication.

**TOTAL BUDGET: \$193,000.00 (7.1.2026-6.30.2027)**