

Technology and Disability Policy Highlights

August 2017



Overview

August marks the annual Congressional recess, but work continued at regulatory agencies. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), for example, released a [*Notice of Inquiry in the Matter of Inquiry Concerning Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion*](https://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt%3DA0LEVijA_q5Z51YAsj8nnIlQ%3B_ylu%3DX3oDMTEyMDVtaGY3BGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMzBHZ0aWQDQjQ0MjlfMQRzZWMDc3I-/RV%3D2/RE%3D1504669505/RO%3D10/RU%3Dhttps%3A//transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db0808/FCC-17-109A1.pdf/RK%3D1/RS%3D0yWytunllVZ8m9dlnRo2tnZQU1w-) [**GN Docket No. 17-199**] requesting stakeholder input on a number of issues, not the least of which are considerations on how to evaluate and include mobile services and demographic characteristics of unserved areas in the *Inquiry*. The latter can assist in identifying and quantifying underserved populations whether in urban, suburban or rural communities. Initial comments are due on September 7, 2017, and reply comments on September 22, 2017. The FCC is also preparing for a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), scheduled to occur on September 27, 2017, at 2:20 P.M. EDT. The EAS test is used to assess the reliability of the national emergency communications system in the event of a disaster. Apropos, the test takes place during National Preparedness Month. This year’s theme is “Disasters Don’t Plan Ahead. You Can.” Now is a great time to prepare your home, school, and workplace to help limit your personal risk during an emergency. Use the wealth of information on [www.ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov/September%20) to help you get and stay ready. Finally, the FCC has a call out to all innovators, seeking participation in the Accessibility Innovations Expo to be held on Monday, October 23, 2017. The deadline forexhibitor applications is September 8, 2017. The Public Notice requesting exhibitors can be found at <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fccs-seeks-exhibitors-2017-accessibility-expo>.

In Wireless RERC News, our Online Newsroom has traditionally been an area on our website where we post the most up-to-date advances in our research.  To broaden the scope and reach of relevant content available on our Newsroom, we have begun to post information on commercially available assistive and accessible technology.  This information is being compiled from third-party sources and generally features cutting-edge content related to accessibility.  We are cross-posting the content to Medium, and our social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Check out  all of our postings at these links and to subscribe:

* [Wireless RERC Newsroom](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wirelessrerc.org%2Fnewsroom)
* [Wireless RERC Facebook page](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FWirelessRERC)
* [Wireless RERC Twitter feed](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FCACPGT_wRERC)
* [Wireless RERC LinkedIn Group page](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.linkedin.com%2Fgroups%2F1854667)
* [Wireless RERC on Medium](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fmedium.com%2F%40GT_CACP)

This issue also includes news about the 2017 Solar Eclipse in stereo, augmented and virtual realities, advances in speech recognition, wearable assistive technology, and more.

**Click the headings below to link directly to a particular section.**

[Regulatory Activities](#regulatoryactivities) [Wireless RERC Updates](#wirelessrercupdates)  [Publications](#_Publications) [Other Items of Interest](#otheritemsofinterest) [Upcoming Events](#Upcomingevents)

Regulatory Activities

**Calling all innovators! Exhibit at the Accessibility Innovations Expo**

Calling all innovators!  Do you have an innovative product, service or technology that has helped to enhance the lives of people with disabilities?  Innovation is one of the core drivers for advancement in accessibility for all individuals. The Federal Communications Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and Connect2HealthFCC Task Force seek exhibitors for the Accessibility Innovations Expo to be held on Monday, October 23, 2017, from 10:00 a.m.to 12:00 p.m., at the Pepco Edison Place Gallery at 702 8th St, N.W., Washington, D.C. Open to the public, the event is a unique showcase for pioneering technology solutions for improvedquality of daily living in general, and health outcomes***,*** specifically. The deadline forexhibitor applications is September 8, 2017. The Public Notice requesting exhibitors can be found at <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fccs-seeks-exhibitors-2017-accessibility-expo>.

#### Additional Information:

[Federal Communications Commission Public Notice](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-346119A1.pdf)

Word:  <https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-346119A1.docx>

PDF:  <https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-346119A1.pdf>

Text:  <https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-346119A1.txt>

**Upcoming Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System**

August 16, 2017 - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau released a public notice this week as a reminder of the upcoming 2017nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on September 27, 2017, at 2:20 P.M. EDT. The EAS test is used to assess the reliability of the national emergency communications system in the event of a disaster. The Public Notice [**PS Docket No. 15-94**] stated that the EAS test message should have a variety of audiovisual components, including an auditory attention signal, an audio announcement in English and Spanish, a text-crawl of the audio information, and an end of message marker. The test must also clearly state that it is only a test. For more information on the EAS test and ensuring compliance, please see the Public Notice using the following link:  <https://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db0814/DA-17-767A1.pdf>

#### Additional Information:

[FCC Public Notice on National EAS 2017 Test](https://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db0814/DA-17-767A1.pdf)

[<https://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db0814/DA-17-767A1.pdf>]

**Deployment of advanced telecommunications capability**

August 8, 2017 - The FCC released a [*Notice of Inquiry in the Matter of Inquiry Concerning Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion*](https://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt%3DA0LEVijA_q5Z51YAsj8nnIlQ%3B_ylu%3DX3oDMTEyMDVtaGY3BGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMzBHZ0aWQDQjQ0MjlfMQRzZWMDc3I-/RV%3D2/RE%3D1504669505/RO%3D10/RU%3Dhttps%3A//transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db0808/FCC-17-109A1.pdf/RK%3D1/RS%3D0yWytunllVZ8m9dlnRo2tnZQU1w-) [GN Docket No. 17-199] requesting stakeholder input on a number of issues, not the least of which are considerations on how to evaluate and include (a) deployment and use of mobile services, (b) the demographic characteristics of unserved areas, and (c) deployment based on demographic characteristics, independent of geographical location. The latter can assist in identifying and quantifying underserved populations whether in urban, suburban or rural communities. Other issues of interest to the *Inquiry* include how to factor in mobile content usage, broadband availability and needs in schools and classrooms, fixed and mobile prices, and fixed and mobile speed benchmarks. Initial comments are due on September 7, 2017, and reply comments on September 22, 2017.

#### Additional Information:

[Notice of Inquiry [GN Docket No. 17-199]](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db0808/FCC-17-109A1.pdf)

[http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\_Releases/Daily\_Business/2017/db0808/FCC-17-109A1.pdf]

Wireless RERC Updates

**Wireless RERC Newsroom Now Features News on Commercially Available and Up-And-Coming Assistive Tech**

The [Wireless RERC's Newsroom](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wirelessrerc.org%2Fnewsroom) has traditionally been an area on our website where we post the most up-to-date advances in our research.  To broaden the scope and reach of relevant content available on our Newsroom for readers with disabilities, we have begun to post information on commercially available assistive technology.  This information is being compiled from third-party sources and generally features cutting-edge content related to accessibility.  We are cross-posting this content to Medium, and our social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. You can Subscribe to our Newsroom and be assured you receive the latest news!  Check out  all of our postings at these links and to subscribe:

* [Wireless RERC Newsroom](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wirelessrerc.org%2Fnewsroom)
* [Wireless RERC Facebook page](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FWirelessRERC)
* [Wireless RERC Twitter feed](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FCACPGT_wRERC)
* [Wireless RERC LinkedIn Group page](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.linkedin.com%2Fgroups%2F1854667)
* [Wireless RERC on Medium](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fmedium.com%2F%40GT_CACP)

**Wireless RERC “How To” Videos Updated with Transcripts**

The [Wireless RERC's YouTube channel](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fuser%2FWIrelessRERC) was recently updated with new "How-To" videos for Android devices on Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) and how to turn on accessibility features in Android to maximize the accessibility to WEA.  We have added the video transcripts in two forms, as an accessible PDF (below) and as plain text found beneath the video on YouTube. Direct links are included below:

* [How to customize the Wireless Emergency Alert Settings (Android)](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DF0H1dqKYJZY)

[pdf\_transcript\_-\_optimizing\_wireless\_emergency\_alert.pdf](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/pdf_transcript_-_optimizing_wireless_emergency_alert.pdf)

* [How To Turn on The Pule Notification Light (Android)](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DCwJenAArNRw%26t%3D1s)

[pdf\_transcript\_-\_enabling\_the\_pulse\_notification\_light\_on\_your\_android\_device.pdf](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/pdf_transcript_-_enabling_the_pulse_notification_light_on_your_android_device.pdf)

* [How To Turn on TalkBack, Android's Screen Reader](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D7DF6MnydCyY)

[pdf\_transcript\_-\_enabling\_the\_screenreader.pdf](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/pdf_transcript_-_enabling_the_screenreader.pdf)

* [How To Turn on Magnification Gestures (Android)](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DdA0_BCXyEUI%26t%3D1s)

[pdf\_transcript\_-\_enabling\_magnification\_gestures\_on\_your\_android\_device.pdf](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/pdf_transcript_-_enabling_magnification_gestures_on_your_android_device.pdf)

* [How to turn on Captioning (Android)](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D7-PDPPIjODs)

[pdf\_transcript\_-\_enabling\_captions\_on\_your\_android\_device.pdf](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/pdf_transcript_-_enabling_captions_on_your_android_device.pdf)

#### Additional Information:

[Wireless RERC's YouTube channel](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=p8qb7f8ab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fuser%2FWIrelessRERC)

[<https://www.youtube.com/user/WIrelessRERC/videos>]

Other Items of Interest

**September is National Preparedness Month**

“Disasters Don’t Plan Ahead. You Can.” Is the theme of September 2017’s National Preparedness Month. In light of recent natural disasters, it is vital to prepare your home, school, and workplace to help limit your personal risk during an emergency. Ready.gov has a wealth of information to help you prepare. You are the best person to assess what your needs are before, during, and after an emergency or disaster. Consider your family makeup (e.g., communicating kids’ school/daycare, extended family in the area), transportation needs in the event of an evacuation, power supply needs for medical equipment and mobile phones, medications, service animals, and pets, to name a few. Preparations you make today may help you and those in your community survive and minimize the stress during and after a potentially life changing event.  Ready.gov provides steps you can take now to prepare for disasters.  Below is an outline for September’s weekly foci, and the website has tips to start the conversation about being prepared.

* Week 1:  September 1 – 9, Make a Plan for Yourself, Family and Friends
* Week 2:  September 10 – 16, Plan to Help Your Neighbor and Community
* September 15 is National Prepareathon Day when people across the United States come together with their communities to take action to prepare for disasters.
* Week 3:  September 17 – 23, Practice and Build Out Your Plans
* Week 4:  September 24 – 30, Get Involved! Be a Part of Something Larger
* September 27th at 2:20 PM, FEMA has scheduled a national Emergency Alert System test.

Also, check out the hashtags, Emojis, videos and other resources at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).  Remember, you can prepare for disasters such as flooding, hurricanes, tornados, fire, or extreme heat conditions anytime during the year, don’t wait -- start now!

**Important Things to Consider When Creating an Emergency Preparedness Plan and Supply Kit:**

* Have enough food and water to last at least three days (per person). Non-perishable and can foods are best in case of a loss of electricity. An average person needs about 1 gallon of water per day. Don’t forget to have three days’ worth of food and water for your pets and service animals.
* Have enough prescription medication on hand to last a minimum of three days.
* Make sure you have necessities like a manual can opener, battery operated light sources, portable weather radio, a first aid kit and hygiene products.
* Keep cell phones and electronic devices charged (and have portable battery devices charged) in case there is a loss of electricity.
* Make a family plan that includes how to evacuate and/or reach/assist family members who may need additional assistance such as older family members or family members with disabilities/access and functional needs.
* Discuss and practice your family communication and evacuation plan with all of your family members (including children).
* If you have to evacuate, make sure to take your emergency supply kit with you and don’t forget to include flares, physical maps, jumper cables, extra cans of gas, and blankets.
* Keep all trees and shrubs well-trimmed to make them more wind-resistant.
* Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
* Know your area’s flood risk.
* Make sure your homeowner's insurance is up to date and includes the necessary protections, like flood insurance.
* Remember if there is a loss of electricity ATMs and debit/credit cards will not work. So if possible have an emergency cash fund that you can access during an emergency or before evacuating.
* Secure your windows/doors and know how to shut off the gas or power to your home if it becomes necessary.
* Stay on top of the latest news.

For emergency preparedness and planning tips for individuals with disabilities/access and functional needs, please visit: <http://ready.ga.gov/make-a-plan/georgians-with-access-functional-needs/>

For customized Emergency Preparedness supply checklists for families, pet owners, seniors, individuals with disabilities and businesses, please visit Federal Emergency Management Agency’s web page at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/resources-documents/collections/344?page=1>

#### Additional Information:

[National Preparedness Month Website with Resources](https://www.ready.gov/september)

[[https://www.ready.gov/September](https://www.ready.gov/September%20)]

**2017 CSUN Conference Call for Papers**

August 2017 - The *33rd CSUN Assistive Technology Conference* call for papers opened in late August, so ready your keyboards and prime your research engines. The CSUN conference, held in San Diego, California is the largest international conference addressing topics regarding people with disabilities and assistive and accessible technologies. Conference topics typically pertain to the domains of education, employment and workplace, entertainment, independent living, law and policy, and transportation.  [Scientific/Research Journal track submissions](http://www.csun.edu/cod/journal-call-papers) can be submitted August 24, 2017, through September 12, 2017, and [General Sessions track](http://www.csun.edu/cod/general-call-papers), September 14, 2017, through October 3, 2017. To receive future CSUN announcements, subscribe to the Center for Disabilities mailing list at this link: <http://www.csun.edu/cod/conference/>.

#### Additional Information:

[Conference Web Page](http://www.csun.edu/cod/conference)

[<http://www.csun.edu/cod/conference>]

**2017 Georgia Assistive Technology in Education (GATE) Seminar Call for Presentations**

August 2017 – The GATE seminar hosted by the Metro Atlanta Assistive Technology Consortium, is accepting presentation submissions between now and Friday, October 27, 2017.  This year the seminar will convene on December 8, 2017, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Submission topics include the following:

* Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) - Low to high tech support of communication for individuals,
* Education/ Learning – The use of assistive technology in educational programs, from birth to grade 12,
* Sensory Impairment – Including Blind/Low Vision, Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Deaf/Blind use of assistive technology to support educational tasks, and
* Accessibility – Design and development of accessible technology as it relates to hardware, software, mobile applications, content, and documents.

The seminar is geared towards educators, parents, community stakeholders, and therapist who want to learn about assistive technology to help achieve success in the classroom for students of all abilities.  Seminar sessions will include the above areas and focus on best practices, classroom implementation, product demonstrations, and strategies that will support students. In addition to presentations, there will also be an opportunity to meet with vendors for an up-close look at various types of assistive technologies and services.

#### Additional Information:

[2017 GATE Call for Papers](http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki/index.php?title=2017_GATE_Call_for_Papers)

[[http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki/index.php?title=2017\_GATE\_Call\_for\_Paper]](http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki/index.php?title=2017_GATE_Call_for_Paper%5d)

**Augmented and Virtual Reality App for People with Low Vision**

August 21, 2017 – This week Samsung Electronics announced Relúmĭno, a new app that uses virtual and augmented reality to complement and enhance images for users with low vision. Samsung’s in-house augmented and virtual reality (VR) initiative, named C-Lab (short for Creative Lab), consists of a team of 350 engineers who were given time off and encouraged to develop their own ideas. Their newest venture, Relúmĭno, is a Samsung Gear VR app that pairs the headset with the user’s smartphone cameras to make images more accessible through magnification, color contrast adjustment, outlining objects, and screen filtering. Comprised of the VR headset and the user’s smartphone, the team hopes Relúmĭno may help users supplement their eyesight without the need for more costly and specialized equipment. Future work may include streamlined Relúmĭno hardware by developing more socially acceptable, less conspicuous smart glasses so that people with low vision would be more inclined to use the device and software in their daily lives, at school and work, and in the community. Source: Global Accessibility News

#### Additional Information:

[Samsung launches ‘Relúmĭno’ visual aid application](http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2017/08/21/samsung-launches-relumino-visual-aid-application/)

[<http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2017/08/21/samsung-launches-relumino-visual-aid-application/>]

**Microsoft’s Speech Recognition Software Reaches New Milestone**

August 20, 2017 – For over two decades Microsoft has workedto advance speech recognition and speech-to-text transcription to human levels of accuracy. A team of researchers at the company’s Speech & Dialogue group claim to have achieved just that: a speech recognition system that is on par with human ability with an average error rate of 5.1%. The team strengthened the system’s language model using neural, acoustic and language models, coupled with more powerful software tools and cloud-computing infrastructure to reduce the error rate 12% from last year. This software has already seen implementation into various Microsoft products and services, such as the Speech Translator app, PowerPoint translations, and its own AI assistant, Cortana.

According to Microsoft, this achievement represents a major milestone for software speech recognition. The team will continue to refine the technology while tackling not only how computers and technology transcribe words, but also understandand interpret them, leading to new pathways for helping users with multi-lingual speech requirements.

#### Additional Information:

[Microsoft researchers achieve new conversational speech recognition milestone](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/blog/microsoft-researchers-achieve-new-conversational-speech-recognition-milestone/?ranMID=24542&ranEAID=TnL5HPStwNw&ranSiteID=TnL5HPStwNw-w2a6x9GjLjJkLE1N0NP14g&tduid)

[<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/blog/microsoft-researchers-achieve-new-conversational-speech-recognition-milestone/?ranMID=24542&ranEAID=TnL5HPStwNw&ranSiteID=TnL5HPStwNw-w2a6x9GjLjJkLE1N0NP14g&tduid>]

**Georgia Tech’s Sonification Lab Produces Cosmic Eclipse Melody for People with Visual Impairments**

August 18, 2017 - To commemorate a once in a century eclipse, a group of researchers at the Georgia Tech’s Sonification Lab developed an audio experience for people with visual impairments to experience the eclipse. The cosmic melody was created in real-time based on data that occurred during the event, including the moon crossing the sun and the air temperature drops as the eclipse neared totality. The team of two graduate students was led by Professor Bruce Walker, and echoes their previous work in creating auditory experiences from visual information, including “sonifying” the movements of fish at the Georgia Aquarium, and the movements of the planets.

Avrosh Juman, a recent Georgia Tech graduate in music technology and a member of the team, stated, “There are so many things during an eclipse that you can attempt to translate through audio. Our main motive was to use music and sound to demonstrate what’s going on in the sky. At the same time, we wanted to create a pleasing, dramatic composition ... Listening to music is also an emotional experience. It makes sense to combine both for Monday’s once-in-a-lifetime event.” Please follow this link to hear their out-of-this world composition: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/arckqi78grmudrt/Eclipse_sonification_2-with-text-v4.mp4?dl=0>

#### Additional Information:

[Researchers Use Eclipse Data to Create Musical Composition](http://www.news.gatech.edu/2017/08/18/researchers-use-eclipse-data-create-musical-composition)

[<http://www.news.gatech.edu/2017/08/18/researchers-use-eclipse-data-create-musical-composition>]

**Internet Essential's Program Aims to Close the Digital Divide**

August 15, 2017 – In 2011 Comcast launched the Internet Essentials program in an effort to close the digital dividebetweenpopulations of people with low-incomes‘ access to the Internet and the access achieved by populations with more financial resources. David Cohen, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity Office in Community Investment, detailed some of the project’s successes and plans in a recent blog post. These include connecting four million low-income families and expanding eligibility since the program’s inception, made possible by partnering with over 9,000 community-based organizations, schools, businesses, and policy-makers. Recognizing internet access as essential to education and school resources, healthcare and information, the Internet Essential's program reaffirms Comcast’s commitment to improving digital literacy, increasing access to computer equipment, and affordable internet options. Our own home state of Georgia has had over 61,000 households connected through the Internet Essentials program. Reflecting on the program’s sixth year, Mr. Cohen and his team will continue working towards closing the digital divide and ensuring internet equality to all.

####  Additional Information:

[Comcast Announces New Internet Essentials Program Milestones and Enhancements](http://corporate.comcast.com/comcast-voices/comcast-announces-new-internet-essentials-program-milestones-and-enhancements)

[<http://corporate.comcast.com/comcast-voices/comcast-announces-new-internet-essentials-program-milestones-and-enhancements>]

**DO-IT Receives National Mentoring Recognition**

August 11, 2017 - The DO-IT (Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology) Center is a global leader in advancing students with disabilities in STEM education and careers.  The program is at the University of Washington in Seattle.  DO-IT was inducted into the Susan M. Daniels Disability Mentoring Hall of Fame. Stated in the introductory paragraph from DisMentors Coalition, “DO-IT is dedicated to empowering people with disabilities through technology and education. It promotes awareness and accessibility — in both the classroom and the workplace — to maximize the potential of individuals with disabilities and make our communities more vibrant, diverse, and inclusive.”  DO-IT supports students with disabilities through many programs and resources and has served over 2,000 students over their 25-year history. Their mentoring program is a great example of how to support students with disabilities.

#### Additional Information:

[**DO-IT Receives National Mentoring Recognition**](https://medium.com/disabilitymentors/do-it-receives-national-mentoring-recognition-10584947812d)

[<https://medium.com/disabilitymentors/do-it-receives-national-mentoring-recognition-10584947812d>]

**Enhanced Vision’s Wearable Jordy Device Helps Users with Low-Vision**

August 9, 2017 – Enhanced Vision, a developer of low-vision assistive technology, announced a new version of Jordy, a wearable device to help people with low vision read, write and participate fully in their daily activities. Weighing eight ounces, Jordy has five levels of brightness controls, a built-in battery with a four or eight-hour lifespan, and allows the user to adjust magnification as necessary. The device can also connect to a monitor with many accessibility features, including an intuitive tactile interface and different contrast and viewing modes. One user of Jordy, Mr. Ed Parker, said, “it not only helps me do the things I need to do like read my mail and pay my bills, it also allows me to see my grandkids, watch TV, play cards and enjoy so many other things I thought were lost to me. It is simply amazing.” Jordy is one of many assistive technology devices designed to help individuals with visual impairments to interact with the people and things in their environment independently. Source: Global Accessibility News.

#### Additional Information:

[Enhanced Vision Introduces New Wearable Low-Vision Technology at an Affordable Price](http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2017/08/09/enhanced-vision-introduces-new-wearable-low-vision-technology-at-an-affordable-price/)

[http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2017/08/09/enhanced-vision-introduces-new-wearable-low-vision-technology-at-an-affordable-price/]

Upcoming Events

**GSMA Mobile World Congress Americas**

Mobile World Congress will convene from September 12 to September 14, 2017, in San Francisco, California. The conference sessions will address core mobile technologies, consumer and industrial applications in the Internet of Things and the intersection of mobile with entertainment, content, and media.

#### Additional Information:

[Conference Registration](https://www.mwcamericas.com/register-plan/register/)

[<https://www.mwcamericas.com/>]

**October 2017 National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

The contributions and achievements of people with disabilities are recognized and celebrated during October, National Disability Employment Awareness (NDEAM).  The Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) announced the 2017 theme for NDEAM, “Inclusion Drives Innovation.” U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta stated, “Americans of all abilities must have access to good, safe jobs…Smart employers know that including different perspectives in problem-solving situations leads to better solutions. Hiring employees with diverse abilities strengthens their business, increases competition, and drives innovation.” Look for the release of the 2017 NDEAM poster.

#### Additional Information:

[Read the news release](https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20170802)

[<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20170802>]

[You can learn more about NDEAM history, obtain planning tools, and get materials at the link below.](https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/)

[<https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/>]

**Accessibility Innovations Expo**

The FCC’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and Connect2HealthFCC Task Force will convene the Accessibility Innovations Expo on Monday, October 23, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Pepco Edison Place Gallery at 702 8th St, N.W., Washington, D.C. Open to the public, the event is a unique showcase for pioneering technology solutions for improved quality of daily living in general, and health outcomes, specifically.

#### Additional Information:

[FCC Public Notice Regarding the Expo](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-346119A1.txt)

[<https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-346119A1.txt>]

**Technology and Disability Policy Highlights,** August 2017



The Technology and Disability Policy Highlights (TDPH) is a monthly newsletter that reports on national public policy events and tracks emerging issues of interest to individuals with disabilities, researchers, policymakers, industry, and advocacy professionals. The Wireless RERC is a research center that promotes universal access to wireless technologies and explores their innovative applications in addressing the needs of people with disabilities. For more information on the Wireless RERC, please visit our website at [<http://www.wirelessrerc.org>]. For further information on items summarized in this report, or if you have items of interest that you would like included in future editions, please contact this edition’s editors Synge Tyson [[synge@cacp.gatech.edu](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csalimah%5COneDrive%20-%20Georgia%20Institute%20of%20Technology%5CwiRERC_2016%20-%202021%5CTDPH%5CApril%202017%5Csynge%40cacp.gatech.edu)], Kenneth Goughnour [kenneth@cacp.gatech.edu], or Salimah LaForce [[salimah@cacp.gatech.edu](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csalimah%5COneDrive%20-%20Georgia%20Institute%20of%20Technology%5CwiRERC_2016%20-%202021%5CTDPH%5CApril%202017%5Csalimah%40cacp.gatech.edu)].

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