

Following up to the October workshop on broadband access for people with disabilities with FCC staff:

1. Exchanging information on innovations and practices: It would be great for universities, government officials and consumers to get together for a conference to share innovations and best practices as well as consumer needs. Recommendations and a plan of action need to be developed so people can follow through.
- 4: Companies making products accessible for people with disabilities: much will depend on the demand for accessible products and the number of people needing them. The deaf-blind community has some very specific needs, but not all are addressed because developing some products are very expensive and there isn't enough people to make selling the products worth the cost to develop it. The Telebraille (a Braille TTY used back in the 1980s) was such a device. IT was wonderful for deaf-blind people but now is no longer available because it was expensive to make it and newer technology does not accommodate it.
5. The government can subsidize research and development, and to some extent, distributing new technology. The Deaf-Blind Communicator was subsidized through the government through a partnership between the Washington Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Humanware. This is a perfect example how government support can be very useful in getting technology into deaf-blind people's hands.
5. Encouraging new innovations: The government can subsidize new designs and research, as mentioned before. It can also encourage universal design so that everyone can use technology and products.
6. Development and distribution of new technology is often funded (For deaf-blind people) through state and local technology programs, or government agencies such as vocational rehabilitation. Or deaf-blind people end up buying products themselves from companies, if they can afford it.
7. How to get info about international developments: again, have a conference where everyone can get together and share information, or contact your counterparts in other countries to find out what they are doing and how you can do the same thing.
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