



## **Phone for Visually and Hearing Challenged Now Available From Relay Utah**

SALT LAKE CITY – May 7, 2012 – Relay Utah, housed under the umbrella of the Utah Public Service Commission, is now offering a new [talking telephone](#) for Utahns with both hearing and vision loss.

The talking telephone is designed specifically for the hearing and visually challenged. This user-friendly phone has a big button, tactile keypad and has “talking” caller ID. The phone also vocalizes numbers, menu commands, the date and time. In addition, the phone offers adjustable volume control (up to 40dB), an extra loud hands free speakerphone with volume setting, and is hearing aid compatible.

Additional features of the phone include:

- Adjustable extra large LCD display, choose from white characters on black background or black characters on a white background
- Self-recordable talking phone book with the option of storing up to 50 contacts
- Extra loud ringer with a bright visual ring indicator

“Our services and equipment are available because there is a tremendous need for them in our state,” said Gary Widerburg, Public Service Commission secretary. “We have more than 270,000 deaf or hard of hearing individuals and 20,000 blind or vision impaired residents in our state. You can imagine the isolation and frustration these people feel when they are not able to communicate with loved ones or make simple doctor’s appointments over the phone. This new talking telephone technology empowers them and gives them back a lot of the independence that they had lost.”

Relay Utah provides phones free of charge to Utah residents who currently participate in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, Medicaid and other Department of Human Service or Public Assistance Programs. More information about qualifications can be found on the Relay Utah website at [www.relayutah.gov](http://www.relayutah.gov).

In addition to the equipment distribution program, the 7-1-1 “relay” translation service facilitates calls between deaf, hard of hearing and hearing individuals. This free service is available by dialing 7-1-1. A Relay Communications Assistant (CA) will “relay” communication between an individual using a hearing-assistive phone and a standard phone. Relay Utah is also offered in Spanish by calling 888-346-3162.

### **Press Contact:**

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