

## **2018 Vision Loss and Hearing Loss Resources from BSVI**

**This document, updated annually, has been developed as an information and referral resource. While OOD does not warranty or endorse any particular resource listed, we hope you are able to connect with the information and resources you are seeking. To report out-of-date information or a broken link, or to suggest additional information resources, feel free to e-mail [elizabeth.sammons@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:elizabeth.sammons@ood.ohio.gov)**

### General Resources

#### Support Systems

Browse this webpage of “quick links” to easily access information and resources visitors are most often seeking.

<https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/disability.htm>

Regardless of your situation, many people share things in common with your life circumstances. Browse this A to Z listing of over 500 e-communities of people facing similar life challenges, medical conditions, and mental health issues, with the goal of information sharing and support.

<https://www.dailystrength.org/groups?all=true>

This guide, "Friends: Connecting People with Disabilities and Community Members", includes specific activities in creating a plan to connect people and build relationships. It is designed for

agency staff, but can be used by parents, support coordinators, teachers, people with disabilities, and others. See [http://ici.umn.edu/index.php?products/view\\_part/579/](http://ici.umn.edu/index.php?products/view_part/579/)

Millions of Americans provide care and support for a loved one with a disability, from parents of children with special needs to adult children caring for their aging parents. See resources families can turn to for support resources. [www.caregiver.org](http://www.caregiver.org) )

## Technology

Apple has updated its Accessible Apps Collection <<http://www.appstore.com/accessibility>>, a collection of iOS apps in the areas of Vision, Hearing, Speech, Learning and Literacy, Physical Motor, and Accessible Home with Siri.

"\*Fixed\* is a smart, funny film that introduces us to both disabled and nondisabled people who use technology to make their lives work better, well, maybe. This Award-winning PBS film on disability, technology, bioethics & normalcy, is now available on Kanopy (<https://www.kanopystreaming.com/>)

This inventory for Technology is a website to match the skills, activities and needs of someone with disabilities to what current technology may best fit a specific situation. <http://sifts.ocali.org/>

This website from OSU's assistive technology team features a plethora of great practices. Examples: American standards for disability compliance (legal information), information on Media Accessibility, (captioning content, describing graphics, creating accessible PDFs and WORD documents, HTML5 and web design best practices with accessibility and eBook production advice) and Assistive Technology (demos and information on text to speech, speech to text, and much more. <http://go.osu.edu/act-wiki>

Apple has unveiled its latest lineup of MacBook Pros and other new offerings with a [video](#) showcasing the unique ways that people with disabilities use their products. Apple used the event to debut a new accessibility [website](#) highlighting various built-in options and how people are applying these features in their lives.

Investigate the FCC's Accessibility Clearinghouse, a web repository of information about accessible communications products and services including: accessibility features of mobile phones, accessibility contacts at telecommunications and advanced communications services companies, free assistive apps for various computing platforms, and organizations implementing the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP). [www.fcc.gov/accessibilityclearinghouse](http://www.fcc.gov/accessibilityclearinghouse)

Microsoft has started a free program for people with disabilities through which technicians access computers in need of repair and fix what they can remotely. The service number is 800-936-5900, with video phone/ASL support at (503) 427-1234. For more information, such as calling hours, see <http://support.microsoft.com/gp/contact-microsoft-accessibility>

Nicknamed the "MacGyver of assistive technology," an occupational therapist is sharing her tricks for creating tools for people with disabilities on a budget of \$5 or less. [http://enewsletters.disabilityscoop.com/c/23405015/42739/PT1oThJ/mrw8d06zhi?redirect\\_to=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.disabilityscoop.com%2F2015%2F03%2F03%2Feveryday-assistive-technology%2F20101%2F](http://enewsletters.disabilityscoop.com/c/23405015/42739/PT1oThJ/mrw8d06zhi?redirect_to=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.disabilityscoop.com%2F2015%2F03%2F03%2Feveryday-assistive-technology%2F20101%2F)>

A.T. Ohio's mission is to help Ohioans with disabilities learn about or acquire assistive technology. Learn details of AT activities, how you can help or benefit here:

<https://atohio.engineering.osu.edu/#main-content>

## Health Care and Emergencies

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers emergency and disability resources. These include We Prepare Everyday videos featuring people with disabilities preparing themselves and their families for emergencies, articles on preparedness geared toward different audiences, and guides and training for providers on inclusive shelter and support services. See also a web-based, interactive course on integrating people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs in disaster operations. <https://www.fema.gov/disability>

Nobody wants to go to the hospital, but reading these 9 preparation steps might make it a bit easier on everyone. (Note: this information is from a specific company, but widely applicable.) <https://pages.unitedhealthcare-hmhb.com/page.aspx?q=330c754b5e92df742dd92f115e80bdf51dc1d123661c33704134f5d1d6bf4f4aaf9814cb4d6c99661f13f942fb3e51d08d7b281ba41b6988a8b80dbe3d79308b1a3dfd7cef41eae062cbfe103c287dda339c111e6d840b69a8d51ae6134bf6d4>

The American Civil Liberties Union and the actress Marlee Matlin, who is Deaf and married to a police officer, teamed up to produce this video on how to handle a traffic stop. It has useful advice both for those with and without hearing loss. Matlin uses American Sign Language in the video, which is also captioned and includes voicing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAviewviVwjY>

The Just in Time Disaster Training Library includes training videos for an array of emergency situations ranging from wildfires, to winter weather. The library includes videos in 18 different spoken

languages and American and Australian sign language. The videos target audiences including people with disabilities, first responders, and community planners. They detail disaster-related mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery training.

<http://www.drc-group.com/project/jitt.html>

An ABLÉ Account allows you to save up to \$14,000 per year of your own earnings from work, or with the help of contributions from family, friends, or an employer. Savings up to \$100,000 do not affect public benefits at all. If you're interested in criteria and how to open an ABLÉ Account, see this useful blog:

<https://choosework.ssa.gov/blog/2017-10-23-mm-tips-for-opening-your-able-account>

Many people have questions about keeping their Medicaid coverage when returning to work, so Social Security is sharing how Section 1619(b) of the Social Security Act could help you keep your healthcare coverage as you transition to the workplace. The blog post specifically discusses: \*what is Medicaid while working; \*Threshold amounts; \*Ways to keep Medicaid coverage; and \*1619(b) and other Work Incentives.

<https://www.choosework.net/blog/2017-06-28-wiw-medicaid-while-working>

According to the American Diabetes Association, 9 out of 10 Americans most at risk for diabetes may not know it. Diabetes is one of the leading causes of chronic kidney disease. Educational resources, toolkits, and technology can help people with disabilities understand and manage risks. We shared a selection of these resources, as well as research in this area here:

<https://naricspotlight.wordpress.com/2017/03/20/what-is-diabetes/>

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) covers private-sector employers with 50 or more employees, providing up to 12 workweeks of unpaid, job-protected leave in a 12-month period

for specified family and medical reasons. This page provides more information about how the FMLA applies in such situations. <http://www.askearn.org/topics/laws-regulations/family-and-medical-leave-act/#genesis-content>

See videos from the Bending the Arc of Exercise Technology toward People with Disabilities: RERC RecTech Third State of the Science Conference Presentations group into three themes: (1) Persuasive Exercise Technologies (2) Health Information Technologies for Monitoring Exercise (HIT-ME), and (3) Technologies Enabling Community Health (TECH). On YouTube <[http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=93195286&msgid=828958&act=1OQJ&c=654309&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fplaylist%3Flist%3DPLIvNhPbF6R\\_zNHP42lhGy6YK\\_q\\_4oZgxs](http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=93195286&msgid=828958&act=1OQJ&c=654309&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fplaylist%3Flist%3DPLIvNhPbF6R_zNHP42lhGy6YK_q_4oZgxs)>.

## Work, School and College

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities offers support for students 14 and older and job seekers of any disability, including those who are deaf, blind or deaf-blind. Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation <http://www.ood.ohio.gov/Core-Services/BVR> provides rehabilitation counselors for the deaf who know American Sign Language and deaf culture. Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired <http://www.ood.ohio.gov/Core-Services/BSVI> mirrors BVR services, with the addition of the Business Enterprise Program <http://www.ood.ohio.gov/Programs/Business-Enterprise> for those specifically interested in running a food or vending business, and for Ohioans 55 and older with vision loss not seeking a job but trying to remain as independent as possible, the Older Blind

program: <http://www.ood.ohio.gov/Programs/Independent-Living/Independent-Living-Services-for-ILOB>.

Apply and find out more by going to [www.oodworks.com](http://www.oodworks.com)

See - Tips for Applying for DOT Jobs Non-Competitively as a Person with a significant Disability • Sample Letters • Writing a Federal Resume • Navigating USA JOBS (OPM Video) and more at <http://www.dot.gov/drc/employment-people-disabilities>

This accessible site offers listings of Ohio job fairs & workshops; basic computer skills; resume writing; money management and much more.

<https://ohiomeansjobs.com/omj/workshoplister.do?selectId=0>

This blog offers some practical advice, reasoning and resources on requesting reasonable accommodations during the job interview process. <https://www.choosework.net/blog/2017-07-13-making-interviews-accessible-for-you>

Sometimes it's just a matter of clear thinking and low tech to make one's business accessible, as this article illustrates.

<http://rudermanfoundation.org/open-the-door-and-take-my-money/>

The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) has released two online training modules: The Value Proposition for Engaging People with Disabilities and Disability Awareness to Increase Your Comfort, Confidence and Competence. Fully accessible, these curricula provide organizations an easy way to demonstrate commitment to a disability-friendly workplace –ensuring all employees understand their responsibilities. Access the training modules here: <http://askjan.org/training/library.htm#content>

The Office of Disability Employment Policy has created a free tool that helps employers and H.R. professionals making online job applications and recruitment tools accessible for jobseekers with disabilities. Created by ODEP's Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT,) "TalentWorks" offers tip sheets on making online applications, digital interviews, pre-employment tests and upload programs accessible. Top accessibility issues include websites with complex navigation, timeout restrictions, lack of video captioning, and applications not navigable with keystrokes. Details here:

<http://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20160323#main-content>

See - [Disability Disclosure and Employment](#). Additional information and resources related to disability disclosure are at [AskJAN.org](#) in the [A-Z section](#), under the topic of Disclosure.

While most businesses are aware of the importance of physical accessibility in the workplace, it is important to ensure an accessible virtual environment as well. Many resources can help employers implement fully accessible information and communication technology, from computer products, to the company website, to online recruiting and job applications. Read more about workplace accessibility here:

<http://www.askearn.org/StepsToSuccess/small-businesses/accessibility/>

The Department of Justice runs an Accessible Technology section on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), to clarify how the ADA applies to certain technologies, such as Web sites, electronic book readers, online courses, and point-of-sale devices. Covered entities have obligations to make their programs, goods, services, and activities accessible—including those they provide online. The new Web pages compile in one place technical assistance

and guidance about accessible technology, as well as information about accessible technology enforcement efforts, regulation development, and other federal accessible technology resources and initiatives. Details here: <http://www.ada.gov/access-technology/index.html>

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the U.S. Department of Education have launched a website entitled "IDEAs that Work." The website connects teachers and families with resources to assist in supporting the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students as they become college and career ready. >> [Learn more.](#)

Visit this college resource guide to help students with various disabilities learn about their legal rights, where to find assistance on campus, and an extensive list of web sites, apps and software resources designed for specific needs. It is also searchable by college, degree, etc. [www.bestcolleges.com/resources/disabled-students/](http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/disabled-students/)

Here's a friendly reminder that once each week DREAM and the National Center for College Students with Disabilities puts out an email with news about disability and higher education. You can subscribe here: <http://ahead-listserve.org/mailman/listinfo/dream> [ahead-listserve.org](http://ahead-listserve.org)

For college students with disabilities, this settling-in period may include meeting with the disability services office, arranging access to buildings or transportation, managing personal care assistants, and figuring out new technology options for access to coursework. Here are some resources to help students with disabilities get "back to school!"

<<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=93195286&msgid=837037&act=1OQJ&c=654309&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fnaricsp>

[otlight.wordpress.com/2016/08/22/off-to-college/](http://otlight.wordpress.com/2016/08/22/off-to-college/)>

Though slightly dated, this Auxiliary Aids and Services for Postsecondary Students with Disabilities website provides valuable information both to college students wondering what their rights and responsibilities are with disability services, and for college administrators making plans for students with disabilities.

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/auxaids.html#skipnav2>

This website leads to several dozen scholarships including those for students with disabilities and children of those with disabilities.

<https://www.lookingglass.org/scholarships/51-additional-scholarship-resources>

This website provides a wide-ranging, alphabetical list of disability-related scholarships, most containing amounts, deadlines and basic criteria.

<https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/disability-scholarships/>

## Family and Children

For information about the Ohio Parent Mentor program, or to locate a parent mentor in your school district, please go to [www.ocecd.org](http://www.ocecd.org), scroll down and click ~~on the right side~~ at the bottom – Parent Mentors of Ohio. This site contains far more valuable information for families with disability, as well.

Parent training and information centers (sometimes called Community Parent Resource Centers), offer assistance with understanding special education law and policy. They are in every state. Find your Parent Training Center here:

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/>

Find dozens of free video-on-demand children's television programs for students who are blind, visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing. These feature closed captioning and descriptions through the Education Department's Accessible Television Portal project. Among the shows: "Ocean Mysteries," "Magic School Bus," "Bill Nye the Science Guy," "Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood," "Expedition Wild" and "Peg + Cat". "The portal is part of the Department-funded Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP).

Disabled Parenting Project (DPP) is an online, interactive community for sharing experiences, advice and conversations among disabled parents and potential parents. While there are other websites that address certain aspects of parenting with a disability, the DPP is the first and only online community to be developed by and for the entire cross-disability parenting community. See it here: <http://www.disabledparenting.com/#genesis-nav-primary>

From the Dept. Of Education, here's more on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA.) The new website is organized into sections for law and policy, reports, grants and funding, and resources by audience and topic. The resources sections include Department-funded centers, programs, and information of interest for parents and families, educators and service providers, and

grantees. The site also includes information about the history of IDEA and related laws.

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/>

Heading back to school? Whether you're a special-needs reader or not, Bookshare has made back to school even easier with our handy resource guide. The guide contains videos, how-to tips, and more, to make it a breeze. <http://mkto-sj160076.com/E030C0kPL1h0K06R0r05A00>

## Elder Resources

The Eldercare Locator, a service of the U.S. Administration on Aging, helps seniors and families identify local resources for financial assistance, health care, home modifications, and more. See [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov) or call 1-800-677-1116 weekdays 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

This blog lists many good resources valuable for the senior community both with and without disabilities as more and more people plan to Age in Place  
[http://www.afb.org/aq.asp?Website=VA\\_AWARE&Freq=DAILY&QID=658&Type=BLOG](http://www.afb.org/aq.asp?Website=VA_AWARE&Freq=DAILY&QID=658&Type=BLOG) .

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) has released an improved version of its BenefitsCheckUp tool to help older adults and caregivers screen over 2,000 private and public benefit programs. The questionnaire directs visitors to local and national benefit and assistance programs, and visitors can search for specific types of benefits such as employment, housing, transportation, healthcare, and food assistance. Check it out here: <https://www.benefitscheckup.org/#/>

Though appearing on a low-vision website, this resource lists a wealth of elder and other care resources useful for any family related to someone with special needs.

<http://www.visionaware.org/info/emotional-support/for-family-and-friends/guidance-for-caregivers-of-individuals-who-are-blind-or-visually-impaired/resource-list-for-caregivers-of-individuals-with-vision-loss-/1235>

Owned and operated by the Ohio School of the Deaf Alumni Association, Columbus Colony Skilled Nursing and Rehab (located in Westerville) prides itself on its specialized services and level of care for deaf, blind, and deaf-blind residents.

<http://www.columbuscolony.org/>

## **Miscellaneous Resources**

Writing about disability and not finding the words? This style guide from the National Center on Disability and Journalism can help with appropriate and accurate language to use. You will find general terms on physical disabilities, hearing and visual impairments, mental and cognitive disabilities and seizure disorders. Entries are listed in alphabetical order.

<http://ncdj.org/style-guide/>

Find hundreds of the latest accessible federal tax forms and publications, plus assistance for tax filers with disabilities here:

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/IRS.gov-Accessibility>

CouponChief.com has released “Retail Savings Guide for People with Disabilities,” offering a detailed walkthrough of discounts and special offers. This guide offers much information on different discount programs available. Check it out at

[https://www.couponchief.com/guides/savings\\_guide\\_for\\_those\\_with\\_disability](https://www.couponchief.com/guides/savings_guide_for_those_with_disability) .

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) promotes the availability and accessibility of transportation options for older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and communities. The website offers publications, news, webinars, training events, and resources on community grant opportunities. <http://seniortransportation.net/>

This state website gives legal and technical details on various forms of public transportation and funding from around Ohio. <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Planning/Transit/Pages/Programs.aspx>

If you are interested in Uber or Lyft taxi service but don't have a smart phone or feel uncomfortable using one, this source can dispatch rides for you at a nominal fee. <https://gogograndparent.com/>

## **Deaf-Blind Resources**

### **Advocacy Groups**

The American Association of the Deaf-Blind is a national consumer organization of, by, and for deaf-blind Americans and their supporters. Resources they provide include an information clearinghouse, listservs, national conferences, publications and advocacy projects. <http://www.aadb.org/> \*\* See also Ohio Association of the Deaf-Blind (OADB) for local activities and statewide quarterly events at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/341930782504997/1633013826730013/>

The National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB) works to improve the quality of life for children who are **deaf-blind**, their families, and teachers. Note in particular the Family Brochure and other resources on this webpage including Spanish. <https://nationaldb.org/>

Usher Syndrome is the largest cause of deaf-blindness, a genetic condition affecting vision, hearing and balance. The Usher Syndrome Coalition offers cutting-edge information on medical advances, plus many additional resources. <http://www.usher-syndrome.org/>

The Helen Keller National Center is a clearinghouse on deaf-blind issues; its mission: To enable anyone who is deaf-blind to live, work and thrive in their community of choice. Details and resources here: [www.hknc.org](http://www.hknc.org)

The National Family Association for Deaf-Blind is a nonprofit advocacy group that offers trainings, courses, dialogue and other resources for children and families. <http://nfadb.org/>

Ohio's new Outreach Center for Deafness and Blindness offers free services for Ohioans up to age 22 to who are learners in any school and who are deaf, blind or deaf-blind. It provides a lending library, advice on assistive technology and accessible materials such as braille or large print. Find more about this center, its parent group OCALI, and additional details at <https://deafandblindoutreach.org/>

Ohio Center for Deafblind Education works with Ohioans from birth to age 21 who are deaf-blind including provision of technical assistance to families, educators and service providers through trainings and information sharing. <https://ohiodeafblind.org/>

## **Resources and Communication Practices**

People with partial or complete loss of vision and hearing may be eligible for free equipment and training on how to use it for easier communications. [www.icanconnect.org](http://www.icanconnect.org)

This article demonstrates various means of deaf communication, including pro-tactile, a communications system becoming popular with many people who are deaf/blind.

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fquartznews%2Fvideos%2F1325731264127239%2F&data=01%7C01%7CElizabeth.Sammons%40O.D.OHIO.GOV%7C4d3b6456102849932c7208d401160632%7C50f8fcc494d84f0784eb36ed57c7c8a2%7C0&sdata=oQdC3M3Wpg5hrg8T%2FLqCyEyoEJV6i5xd3MXvhTJwMnA%3D&reserved=0>

Helen Keller National Center shares several resources and methods for using touch signals when communicating with people who are deaf-blind. <https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc/publications>

This ten-minute video shows a variety of mainstream and assistive technology and how members of the deaf/blind community use it. Simple, clear language and ASL interpreting included. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0L\\_CNzDtLgU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0L_CNzDtLgU)

“RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND” is a collection of stories highlighting leisure pursuits, along with an invitation to contribute. To read the collected essays, visit American Printing House for the Blind here:

<http://www.aph.org/pe/stories/>

## **Deafness Resources**

### **General Information**

OOD provides partial funding to eight partners around the state so that Ohioans with hearing loss, potential employers, and communities have information to allow people with hearing loss to fully integrate into employment and other activities.

<http://www.ood.ohio.gov/Community-Centers-for-the-Deaf>

This site posts a number of major national Deafness events of interest to interpreters, advocates and Deaf community members. <http://deafdigest.net/upcoming-national-deaf-events>

Did you know that American Sign Language (ASL) has regional accents? Or that people may sign in their sleep? A new brief video can help employers and employees better understand sign language and Deaf culture, as well as learn a few basic signs. Titled "A Few Things to Know about ASL," the video was produced by National Public Radio with assistance from Gallaudet University. Access the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wa0nxppMJ-Q>

How much do you actually know about hearing loss and treatment? Test yourself with this 12-question true-false discussion, followed by useful explanations.

<http://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2016/hearing-loss-myths-information-kb.html>>

Enjoy this impactful article recommending places and travel tips on top spots for hearing-loss/deaf-friendly vacations.

<http://www.healthyhearing.com/report/52249-Five-great-hearing-friendly-destinations>

Though designed in Pennsylvania and containing some local links for that state, this page also offers numerous wider-usage information and contact resources for the Deafness community nationwide. [http://healthbridges.info/?page\\_id=494](http://healthbridges.info/?page_id=494)

The National Institute of Health offers information on various kinds of hearing loss, along with many additional useful deafness resources.

<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/Pages/Default.aspx>

A variety of community agencies have collaborated to create a You Tube video about effective communications between emergency responders and people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSKZHZdflmc> )

## Advocacy Groups

## **Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)**

HLAA is a national non-profit deafness advocacy organization primarily targeting those with partial or progressive hearing loss and the technology, socialization and coping strategies needed. The group provides an extensive set of resources touching all spheres of living with hearing loss. Find local chapters here:

[http://www.hearingloss.org/support\\_resources/find-local-hlaa-chapter](http://www.hearingloss.org/support_resources/find-local-hlaa-chapter)

## **Ohio Association of the Deaf (OAD)**

OAD is a state chapter of National Association of the Deaf,

<https://nad.org/>

A national nonprofit deafness advocacy organization whose mission is improving educational opportunities, and preserving, promoting and enhancing the interests and privileges of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind citizens as a minority group and the pursuit of their economic security. OAD has a particular focus on American Sign Language. <http://www.oad-deaf.org/index.html>

Hands and Voices is an Ohio comprehensive nonprofit offering information and support to parents of deaf/hard-of-hearing children and to young people.

[www.handsandvoices.org](http://www.handsandvoices.org)

Welcome to the new National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes (NDC)! You can download the resources you know and love, gain insight from [research](#) and learn more about the available [online learning opportunities](#). Please explore our site to learn more about [who we are](#), where you can [meet us](#) and how to [sign up for our listserv](#). If you have questions or would like to get more information, please do so [here](#). The staff at NDC look forward to interacting with you in the upcoming months as we grow and develop our website based on input from you. <http://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/>

Hearing Aid Assistance and health care:

The Ohio Department of Health offers The Ohio Hearing Aid Assistance Program (OHAAP) that provides assistance to families with children under twenty-one years of age with permanent hearing impairments. Families with incomes at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible. Families should contact participating OHAAP providers for information about the program. Details here:

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/cmh/hearaidasst/Hearing%20Aid%20Assistance%20Program.aspx>

With hearing aid technology constantly changing, here are some handy dandy facts: Read more about types of hearing aids:

<http://www.hear-it.org/Different-types-of-hearing-aids>

Components in a hearing aid: <http://www.hear-it.org/The-components-in-a-hearing-aid>

Hearing aid technology: <http://www.hear-it.org/when-you-want-more-your-hearing-aids>

And types of hearing aids: <http://www.hear-it.org/different-types-of-hearing-aids>

The Starkey Hearing Foundation has a program called Hear Now to provide hearing aids to those who need them but have no other way to acquire them. Hear now works with local hearing healthcare providers who volunteer their time and service to test, fit and follow up on patients and their adjustment to the hearing aids. The hearing aids provided are Behind the Ear models and are new. Custom hearing aids are not provided by Hear Now. To learn more about the program, or request materials, call 800-328-8602 and ask for Hear Now or email us at [hearnow@starkey.com](mailto:hearnow@starkey.com). Check also [www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org](http://www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org).

See this humorous and highly informational article for 5 common fears of using hearing aids

<http://www.healthyhearing.com/report/52529-Five-common-fears-of-wearing-hearing-aids>. Included are resources for purchasing refurbished hearing aids  
<<http://www.healthyhearing.com/help/hearing-aids/used>

The Washington Post offers a little-known way to save money on hearing aids. See thoughts on obtaining used hearing aids and financial resources to assist.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/a-little-known-way-to-save-money-on-hearing-aids-can-be-a-big-help/2014/04/14/c1347708-a2e9-11e3-8466-d34c451760b9\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/a-little-known-way-to-save-money-on-hearing-aids-can-be-a-big-help/2014/04/14/c1347708-a2e9-11e3-8466-d34c451760b9_story.html)

Copies of Hearing Health Care for Adults: Priorities for Improving Access and Affordability are available from the National Academies Press on the Internet at <http://www.nap.edu>  
<<http://www.nap.edu/>>  
Or by calling 202-334-3313 or 1-800-624-6242.

## Communications Access

Sometimes you can get help starting with smart devices. With phone apps that amplify sound, you can rely on your phone's built-in microphone to pick up sound, using a set of earbuds to deliver it to your ears. Or you can pair an app with a plug-in directional microphone, which might do a better job of pulling in sound from a person seated across the table. Here are a few apps for starters.  
<http://ksaudiology.com/5-apps-that-can-help-with-hearing-loss/>

This website allows geographic and timeframe searches for movies playing that are captioned.  
<http://www.captionfish.com/>

Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) and Deaf Services Center (DSC) have released 18 new videos, interpreting many of DRO's most requested resources into American Sign Language (ASL). The videos address a variety of topics, from requesting accommodations at work to negotiating with your child's IEP team for

special education services. The collection offers more than 3.5 hours of information, signed by a native ASL signer. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfO9kO8g8QJsAHDdruOIWC5vcy8XKlqEu>

Facebook is bringing closed captioning to Facebook Live to make some videos streamed live on the social network accessible to people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

<http://www.adasoutheast.org/news/articles.php?id=8478>

This factsheet from AbleData, "Find the Right Channel: Communication Aids for People who are or Hard of Hearing," describes communication challenges people who are Deaf or hard of hearing may face and the array of assistive technology products designed to help effective communication. <http://abledata.com/publications/find-right-channel-communication-aids-people-who-are-deaf-or-hard-hearing>

If you're concerned about communications needs, now you can print your own personalized card to use when you visit your doctor or any health care office. Make your own free card to state your communication and language needs. Click on the "Create Card" button when you have filled in the blanks. Then just print the card. [http://www.healthbridges.info/?page\\_id=36](http://www.healthbridges.info/?page_id=36)

CART (Communication Access Real Time Translation) is word-for-word transcription equivalent to speaking 225 words per minute. It allows those with hearing loss to read the exact words that others hear. Most people with hearing loss including students are not aware of this accommodation. To learn more about this system, visit: [captioningmatters.org](http://captioningmatters.org)

<https://captioningmatters.wordpress.com/>

See this database registry listing 911 Call Centers now ready to receive text-to-911 messages. This Registry is also available to provide notice to wireless telecommunications service providers and text messaging service providers of when the PSAP is ready to receive text-to-911 messages. Each PSAP is identifiable by ID #, name, county, primary point of contact and other information. See at: <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/psap-text-911-readiness->

and-certification See Also: Text-to-911 Informational Video at:  
<http://www.fcc.gov/text-to-911>

These are leading sales sources for deaf-friendly equipment and products around the home. (Remember, OOD does not warranty or endorse any particular resource listed.)

<http://www.sorenson.com/> and <http://www.harriscomm.com/>

### Learning Resources:

Deadlines various: These websites list numerous scholarships available primarily for students with deafness or hearing loss. <http://www.agbell.org/Document.aspx?id=286>  
And <http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/deaf.htm>

Ohio offers various education opportunities for children with hearing impairments or who are deaf. Ohio School for the Deaf (Columbus) serves not only as a school with staff fluent in American Sign Language, but also as a repository for information and experts to assist students in districts around Ohio. Find details at: <http://www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org/> St. Rita's School for the Deaf, (Cincinnati area) is a faith-based school open to any student with hearing impairments/deafness seeking specialized education. <http://www.srsdeaf.org/>

National Technical Institute for the Deaf is the world's largest technical college for deaf students. The website contains many educational opportunities, but also many deafness coping skills such as those involving job hunting or personal life.

<http://www.ntid.rit.edu/>

Gallaudet University, the world's only deaf-specific institution of higher education, offers online resources including journals, deafness-related literature, sign language studies, and much more. <http://gupress.gallaudet.edu/>

Interested in learning American Sign Language but don't have the opportunity to go to classes? Visit the ASL University designed for starting to get the hang of talk. <http://asluniversity.com/>

Learn Emergency Medical Words & Sentences in ASL. This 2-DVD set provides over 600 medical terms, along with open captions and audio for easy learning and beneficial for fire departments, hospital staff, EMTs, ASL students and interpreters. DVD404 \$29.95. Find out more here: [http://bit.ly/HarrisComm\\_DDG110815](http://bit.ly/HarrisComm_DDG110815) or contact: <mailto:info@harriscomm.com>

### **Miscellaneous Resources:**

VR4HearingLoss is a free website to help orient vocational rehabilitation professionals to the range of needs and possible services for persons who are hard of hearing or late deafened. These services lead to enhanced workplace success and improved quality of life. <http://vr4hearingloss.net/>

Since 1996, Deafdigest has provided a free daily run-down of deafness-related news, incidents, sports figures, job opportunities and humor from around the world. <http://deafdigest.net/>

In this article, learn some details of how career and social obstacles have to be navigated in a strategic way from the perspective of hearing loss. <http://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2015/hearing-loss-adventures.html>

This 7-minute YouTube presents best practice in hospitals serving the signing Deaf community from personal points of view. <http://healthbridges.info/?p=427>

This Job Accommodations Network with links to information on accommodations for employees with hearing impairment, vertigo, and ringing in the ears may be a good place to start when exploring accommodation ideas for employees with those symptoms.

- \*<MIP: //0abe2a28/PicExportError>      Hard of Hearing  
<<http://soar.askjan.org/Limitation/20>>
- \*<MIP: //0abe2a28/PicExportError>      Deafness (One Ear  
<<http://soar.askjan.org/Limitation/17>> and Total  
<<http://soar.askjan.org/Limitation/16>>)
- \*<MIP: //0abe2a28/PicExportError>      Dizziness  
<<http://soar.askjan.org/Limitation/103>>
- \*<MIP: //0abe2a28/PicExportError>      Ringing in the Ears  
<<http://soar.askjan.org/Limitation/24>>

## Blindness Resources

### General Resources

This Perkins School for the Blind “Scout” will guide you through a range of topics, including general information on blindness, help for families, and resources for educators and other professionals.  
<http://www.perkinselearning.org/scout>

VisionConnect is a free, accessible iOS app, providing a directory of services and training available in the USA and Canada for children and adults who are blind or visually impaired. Services include: computer and technology training, daily living skills training, braille and reading instruction, dog guide training, employment services, low vision services, and more.

VisionConnect provides information on products, technology, and employment. Users can also have home survey checklists and medication management tips e-mailed to them. To download the app, visit [afb.org/apps](http://afb.org/apps) AFB.org, (American Foundation for the Blind) you can find an overview of specialized services as well as specific documents on education services, employment services, and services for adults with age-related vision loss. These documents are also available as accessible PDFs that can easily be printed and shared.

#### An Overview of Specialized Services:

<http://www.afb.org/section.aspx?FolderID=3&SectionID=3&TopicID=553>

#### Education Services:

<http://www.afb.org/section.aspx?FolderID=3&SectionID=3&TopicID=553&DocumentID=6490>

#### Employment Services:

<http://www.afb.org/section.aspx?FolderID=3&SectionID=3&TopicID=553&DocumentID=6499>

#### Services for Adults with Age-Related Vision Loss:

<http://www.afb.org/section.aspx?FolderID=3&SectionID=3&TopicID=553&DocumentID=6500>

Additional extensive resources for vision loss, vision-impairment, blindness, low vision aids and low vision rehabilitation services can be found at: <http://www.lowvision.org/>

"Eyes on Success" is a weekly, half hour radio show and podcast that covers a wide variety of topics of interest to people with visual impairments and other print disabilities. The show is aired by many radio reading services internationally, streamed by several internet streaming services, and also available as a download from [www.EyesOnSuccess.net](http://www.EyesOnSuccess.net) .

## Health Care and Vision Loss

Health care is confusing, but possibly eye care is even tougher. Thanks to Prevent Blindness Ohio, you can find easy-to-understand resources here for both children and adults in Ohio.  
<http://ohio.preventblindness.org/insuring-your-eyes>

Prevent Blindness Ohio offers this new, online Directory, a list of contact information for organizations and services that provide financial assistance for vision care. . Download the Directory here in English:

[http://www.preventblindness.org/sites/default/files/national/documents/fact\\_sheets/Financial\\_Assistance\\_IC03%28updated11-14%29\\_0.pdf](http://www.preventblindness.org/sites/default/files/national/documents/fact_sheets/Financial_Assistance_IC03%28updated11-14%29_0.pdf)>

And here in Spanish

<[http://www.preventblindness.org/sites/default/files/national/documents/fact\\_sheets/SPANISH%20Financial\\_Assistance\\_IC03%28updated11-14%29.pdf](http://www.preventblindness.org/sites/default/files/national/documents/fact_sheets/SPANISH%20Financial_Assistance_IC03%28updated11-14%29.pdf)>

Prevent Blindness Ohio offers a program *for those qualifying for an eye exam and eyeglasses*. [Vision Care Outreach Program Fact Sheet - Prevent](#)

This 10-minute YouTube from National Eye Institute describing low-tech solutions in real low-vision settings, plus the emotional impact of vision loss across life, may be a valuable asset to share with those facing this situation. Both English and Spanish versions are available.

<https://www.nei.nih.gov/lowvision/content/living>

What Is a Low Vision Examination?

<http://www.afb.org/section.aspx?SectionID=63&TopicID=290&DocumentID=3210&rewrite=0>

Learn more on Low-Vision and Legal Blindness Terms and Descriptions at: <http://www.afb.org/info/blindness-statistics/key-definitions-of-statistical-terms/25>

The National Eye Institute provides booklets, videos and other resources for people with low vision, including rehabilitation resources. [www.nei.nih.gov/lowvision](http://www.nei.nih.gov/lowvision)

The National Eye Institute at the National Institutes of Health have posted a five-part video series featuring people with low vision and vision professionals. Videos cover how low vision is diagnosed, technologies and modifications people can make to support independence, and reaching out to the community and to family for support. Each video is less than two minutes long. The series is available in English and Spanish.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNoI8zIT\\_P1DRPjJRCdpOEdzSDeoT4ITG](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNoI8zIT_P1DRPjJRCdpOEdzSDeoT4ITG)

The Veterans Administration offers an easy referral form if you know of a blind or visually impaired veteran (not necessarily service related) in need of assistance. Just email for a Field Service Officer to contact.

<mailto:bva@bva.org?subject=Blind%20Veteran%20in%20Need%20of%20Help>

The National Council on Disability has issued an advisory brochure on best practices for making prescription drug container labels accessible to people with vision impairments. The brochure outlines voluntary methods pharmacists can use to provide access to drug labeling. These include braille and large print, as well as newer technologies such as digital voice or text-to-speech recorders, radio frequency identification tags, and smart devices and computers. The brochure also provides best practices to follow, such as maintaining patient privacy and selecting containers that best support the accessible label. Details

here:

<[http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTYwNjE3LjYwNDM5MTkxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDYxNy42MDQzOTE5MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MDg3NTgzJmVtYWlsYWQ9Z3VpbmVzc0B1aWMuZWR1JnVzZXJpZD1ndWluZXNzQH VpYy5lZHUwZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&100&&&http://www.ncd.gov/sites/default/files/ADLP\\_508.pdf](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTYwNjE3LjYwNDM5MTkxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDYxNy42MDQzOTE5MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MDg3NTgzJmVtYWlsYWQ9Z3VpbmVzc0B1aWMuZWR1JnVzZXJpZD1ndWluZXNzQH VpYy5lZHUwZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&100&&&http://www.ncd.gov/sites/default/files/ADLP_508.pdf)

## Advocacy Groups

The [American Council of the Blind of Ohio](#) (ACB)

ACB is a state chapter of a national non-profit blindness advocacy organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for persons who are blind or visually impaired. ACB directs efforts toward education, information, quality of life and other activities designed to enhance the life styles of people who are blind or visually impaired. <http://www.acbohio.org/>

The ACB Braille Forum is ACB's monthly national magazine, available on the ACB website in braille, audio cassette, large print, and by e-mail. It contains information of interest to ACB members and the blindness community. <http://www.acb.org/bf>

National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Ohio

NFB of Ohio is the state chapter of a national non-profit blindness advocacy organization working towards integrating blind people into society as equal and productive members. People can outgrow their many misconceptions about blindness and change the laws affecting the blind/visually impaired community. [www.nfbohio.org/](http://www.nfbohio.org/)

NFB's Monthly national publication is The Braille Monitor and is available online, in braille, on cassette tape or via e-mail. It covers the events and activities of the NFB and addresses many blindness issues and concerns. <https://nfb.org/braille-monitor>

National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute serves as an international clearinghouse of information on Braille literacy, education programs (particularly math/sciences,) a historic non-medical blindness information library, low-vision aids shopping and cutting-edge technology. <https://nfb.org/jernigan-institute#main-content>

### Information Access to Federal Resources

Follow this link to download an accessible PDF about Social Security Benefits for people who are blind/have low vision.  
<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10052.pdf>

The link below leads to many of Social Security's publications in audio format. If the publication is not available in audio, a request can be made for large print, cassette tape, or Braille.  
<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/alt-pubs.html>

The U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing is providing free Currency Readers to identify bills for individuals who are blind and Visually Impaired. Read details here:  
<http://www.bep.gov/uscurrencyreaderpgm.html>

### Independent living made easier:

This article reviews various kitchen and household appliances for accessibility and ease of use for nonvisual clients seeking to

remain independent in their homes. Included are details of manufacturer, price and convenience ratings.

<http://www.afb.org/afbpress/pub.asp?DocID=aw170205>

Prevent Blindness America has launched a new online resource: Living Well with Low Vision. The information on the site conveys the message that seniors experiencing vision loss are not alone, that others have come through with their independence and quality of life intact, and that adapting to vision loss is not an impossible task. Included are cutting-edge reports on medical progress and other break-throughs.

With the right information, people with vision loss can face the future with confidence. The VisionAware™ "Getting Started" kit is here to provide hope and help to handle the challenges, and to connect you and your family members with specialized services and products available to assist with everyday life. This information is available in audio format and in Spanish in all formats as well. Details here:

<http://www.visionaware.org/info/emotional-support/handling-the-news/getting-started-kit-for-people-new-to-vision-loss/123>

If you enjoy gardening or if you have a farm, this impressive array of fact sheets from AbrAbility will provide you with lots of safety and best practice tips.

<http://agrability.osu.edu/resources/factsheets#main-content>

Related, this website categorizes resources for home assistive technology and disability work tools in the outdoors.

<http://disabilityworktools.com/>

This article focuses on accessibility considerations when purchasing an appliance

<http://www.apf.org/research/accessible-appliances-ge-firstbuild-and-an-inventive-young-man/>. He also highlights the exciting

work of General Electric, FirstBuild, and a young inventor who has created a way to make digital appliances accessible.

This new website posts a directory of all known existing Braille trails and sensory gardens, listing them by state and by country. You'll see 140 of them in 17 countries, including 89 in 30 different U.S. states. The website also provides information and links for schools and summer camps for blind youth and adults, plus other educational resources, plus organizations for blind sports.  
[www.naturefortheblind.com](http://www.naturefortheblind.com)

### Media and Communications Access:

If you've been wanting to increase your reading and you have a visual, reading or motor disability making reading difficult, it's worth your time to call Ohio's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to see if you're eligible for services at 800.362.1262. You can also check the National Library Service website to learn about Braille, print, audio and other materials, eligibility and services at: <http://www.loc.gov/nls/>

NFB Newsline is a 24/7, constantly-updated computer-generated audio service to listen to nearly 400 daily newspapers, plus other periodicals from around the world. It is available free to anyone whose disability makes print reading or physical manipulation difficult.

To register for NFB-NEWSLINE visit <http://www.nfbnewsline.org> or if you need help, call 1-866-504-7300.

The phone number 408. 752. 8052 allows free and immediate access to options including business searches, driving directions step by step, movies, sports, top news, and much more. The menu is completely audio driven and requires no pushing of buttons once the number is programmed or dialed.

Amazon is the latest company to launch a help desk for disabled customers, at (888) 283-1678. It's open from 6 AM - 1 AM Eastern Time, 7 days a week. In addition to the usual technical questions one may ask about using the website or Amazon's services, agents are able to describe product pictures or assist in the shopping process. Note: representatives are not allowed to actually place an order.

The Learning Ally website enables its members to receive access to the nation's largest human-voiced audiobook library of textbooks and literature titles. It is particularly focused on students seeking text books. <http://www.learningally.org/>

Over 50,000 free eBooks are now available using Capti Narrator through a partnership with Project Gutenberg  
<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2016/05/prweb13391110.htm>  
Users can listen any pace, any time, switch between devices, and continue from where they left off. Details here:  
<https://www.captivoice.com/capti-site/>

Bookshare offers accessible learning materials and entertainment reading to anyone whose disability makes print reading or physical manipulation difficult. It is free to students, \$50 yearly for unlimited downloads for others. Learn more at [www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org)

Apple has launched a new room in iTunes dedicated to highlighting audio-described movies for blind and low vision users. Among the hundreds of titles available are The Force Awakens, The Martian, The Big Short, The Revenant, Spectre, and The Peanuts Movie. Check back regularly for new additions. The room, available at <http://www.iTunes.com/AudioDescription>,

for the first time makes available a listing of all audio-described movies on iTunes in one central location.

MoPix – Motion Picture Access lists archived films and lists theaters equipped with the technology and current films that have descriptive narration <http://ncam.wgbh.org/mopix/>

This updated page posts new places to get audio description on demand on the web, including Netflix:  
<http://netflixproject.wordpress.com/audio-description-on-demand/>

Many movies are now available with audio description assisting nonvisual viewers, especially from the online streaming services. But who has what movies? This list can be browsed by letter or by provider.

<http://acb.org/adp/masterad.html#pagebody>

Audio Description has arrived on Amazon Video. The feature is available on Fire TV, Fire Tablets, iOS devices, and Android devices. View titles with audio descriptions by going to <http://www.amazon.com/video/audiodescription> . The selection of titles will be updated continuously as we expand. To play a title with audio descriptions, customers can select the “English- audio description” audio option from the “Subtitles and Audio” menu during playback. Additional details here:

<http://www.adasoutheast.org/news/articles.php?id=8490>

Bloggers test new apps and let users know if they are compatible with VoiceOver. The list of apps developed for blind and low-vision users is available at [www.applevis.com/apps/ios-apps-for-blind-and-vision-impaired](http://www.applevis.com/apps/ios-apps-for-blind-and-vision-impaired)

American Printing House for the Blind is a national clearinghouse for Braille embossing and large-print formats, primarily for school books, but also available at low cost to the general public. Many

games and other learning materials are also available here. See details at [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org) . Additionally, APH offers a selected list of product manuals available for free download ([www.aph.org/manuals/](http://www.aph.org/manuals/)).

National Library Services has renovated its website as a gateway to the network of services for people who are blind, have low vision, or have physical disabilities. The new website has been includes tools to adjust the layout for a range of visual needs. In a recent blog post, NLS Director Karen Keninger also detailed four new programs currently being piloted at NLS network libraries: duplication on demand, wireless download, synthetic speech, and Braille e-readers. Find details here:

<https://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2017/07/a-new-website-and-more-expanding-our-services-for-the-blind-and-physically-handicapped/>

### Spotlight Gateway

<<http://www.lighthouseguild.org/spotlightgateway>> is designed to put an iPad into the hands of any student with a qualifying vision impairment at no cost. The student can sign up for free with Bookshare <<http://www.afb.org/directory/profile/bookshare/12>> to download books and receive an iPad with the Spotlight Gateway app installed. An ophthalmologist must sign off on the proof of vision impairment, and then can register the student on the Spotlight Gateway website

This free Online Electronic Braille Library from “Unity” features several hundred Christian and other spiritual titles available for download and embossing for any interested Braille reader.

<http://www.unity.org/resources/message-hope/document-library#main-content>

### Technology Training and Other Learning Resources

Hadley Institute offers people fourteen and up from around the world who are legally blind free courses on DTB, online, in large print, or in Braille. For more information: <http://www.hadley.edu>  
Catch up with Seminars @ Hadley Institute. There are over 200 seminars ranging from gardening, to self-help, to technology in the archive: <http://www.hadley.edu/pastseminars.asp>

Interested in earning credits or more about a range of topics related to the education of students with visual impairments or combined low vision and hearing? Perkins School for the Blind offers lots of online classes, including many that are self-paced. All are captioned, too. Watch the latest videos or sign up for an upcoming webinar! Find out more here:  
[www.perkinselearning.org/professional-development](http://www.perkinselearning.org/professional-development)

Here's a great article addressing low-Cost Computing for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired from AFB's Vision Aware.  
<http://www.visionaware.org/info/everyday-living/helpful-products/using-a-computer/low-cost-computing/1245>

The American Foundation for the Blind recently launched Learn Tech, an access initiative that features free online tutorials to help people who are blind or visually impaired improve computer and technology skills. The newest examples; tutorials on Google Docs and Google Drive. [www.afb.org/learntech](http://www.afb.org/learntech)

For those desiring keyboard shortcuts for windows, stop by Sharon's Shortcuts. Based in Ireland, Sharon has collected an impressive repository of keyboard shortcuts or "IT Training without the Mouse," as she describes it. This is a noncommercial site free of sales pitch. <http://sharons-shortcuts.ie/>

E.A.R.S. for Eyes is a nonprofit that provides free of charge, audio cassette lesson tapes that teach adaptive daily living skills to people with vision impairments and caregivers. One example: Eating without Embarrassment. Call 1-800-843-6816 or visit <http://www.earsforeyes.info/>

VFO produces video magnifiers, scanners, braille displays, screen magnification software, and JAWS, a powerful screen reading program. For demonstrations and free tutorials of these products, see <http://www.freedomscientific.com/> and go from there.

National Library Services offers a comprehensive reference guide: Braille Literacy: Resources for Learning and Reading. Among other features, the site includes videos, activities, correspondence learning and opportunities for teachers and students, both children and adults.

<http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/guides/brailleliteracy.html#top>

National Federation of the Blind offers a new assistive technology resource list grouping technology by topic and including details on features and pricing. <https://nfb.org/technology-resource-list>

### **Dog Licks and Cane Tips:**

National White Cane Day is October 15, but guesses what per cent of blind or low-vision Americans use a cane? To find out, read this humorous and informative article on not only the cane, but living as a blind person in America overall.

[http://www.union-bulletin.com/local\\_columnists/a\\_different\\_view/oct-a-red-letter-day-for-white-canes/article\\_3d0a5c9a-7915-11e6-8274-bf1953411369.html](http://www.union-bulletin.com/local_columnists/a_different_view/oct-a-red-letter-day-for-white-canes/article_3d0a5c9a-7915-11e6-8274-bf1953411369.html)

Wikipedia has a great series of articles on the history of the white cane

The American Council of the Blind has put together a [List of White Cane Laws in all 50 States](#)

Marc Maurer, former president of the National Federation of the Blind, wrote an article called [White Cane Safety Day: A Symbol of Independence](#) which talks about the white cane and what it means to blind people.

And for more about guide dogs, their history and organizations around the world promoting their use and service see resources from the International Guide Dog Federation:  
<http://www.igdf.org.uk/>

Interested in getting a guide dog or learning more about your rights with travel, in the workplace, for housing etc. when you have a dog? This site answers many questions.  
<http://www.seeingeye.org/knowledge-center/rights--legal-information/>

Find out what's important to successful service dog partnerships in the workplace here: <http://www.seeingeye.org/knowledge-center/rights--legal-information/guide-dogs-in-the-workplace.html> )

### Miscellaneous Resources:

Sighted Guide Ohio is a quarterly that features Ohio's visually impaired and blind communities. Founded by the mother of a blind child, the quarterly lists resources, regional services, the latest technology information, news, and stories about people who are blind and visually impaired. The magazine is always open to

suggestions and guest writers. Visit the website here:  
<http://www.sightedguideohio.org> .

This Transportation Guide for people who are blind or have low vision contains helpful information about finding and using transportation options. Available in two formats: *Word* and *PDF*

International Academy of Low Vision Specialists offers a new website for caregivers and people with vision impairment from macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and other eye conditions. <http://www.ialvs.com>

International Low-Vision Support Group (ILVSG) TeleSupport allows monthly group support sessions by phone. It is designed for low vision seniors anywhere in the world who have no access to the Internet or cannot attend a live support group. A session typically includes a brief update on recent research and developments, plus listening to and discussing the current month's recorded ILVSG presentation. See the Schedule of Presentations. Each session will include the moderator.  
<http://www.mdsupport.org/support/telesupport/>

BrightFocus Chats is a free monthly telephone discussion on macular degeneration and low vision. Registrants will receive a phone call on the day and time of the phone discussion. Alternate -- simply call a toll-free number. Registration and information page: [www.brightfocus.org/telephone-presentation-registration.html](http://www.brightfocus.org/telephone-presentation-registration.html)

Computers for the Blind offers a variety of free or low-cost technology and software to those who qualify from the visually-

impaired community. See details here:

<http://www.computersfortheblind.net/weprovide.html>

Enjoy reading Career Advantage for VIPs: An Employment Preparation Primer for Individuals who are blind or Visually Impaired. Career Advantage is designed for those transitioning from high school, college, or training program into the workforce. The self-paced modules take users step-by-step through self-assessment, career exploration, developing resumes, learning effective job-search techniques, and talking to employers about vision loss and accommodations.

<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=93195286&msgid=826264&act=1OQJ&c=654309&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fblind.mssate.edu%2Four-products%2Fonline-employment-preparation%2F>

Clicking on this link takes you to a resource entitled College Guide for Students with Visual Impairments.

<http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/college-planning-with-visual-impairments/>

This resource for teachers introduces many creative ideas on adapting books for learners with visual and other impairments.

<http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/search/node/modifying%20books>

Are you curious to know what products people who are blind and visually impaired used in the past? Get a glimpse into the history of blindness, American Printing House for the Blind and sometimes history in general with Throwback Thursday objects from our Museum! We preview each object on Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter, and the full article appears on our “Fred’s Head from APH” blog. Some of our recent #TBT objects include the Morrison “Perfection” Wire Stitching Machine, the APH

Variable Speech Control Module, a tactile puzzle from England, and Morrison Heady's "Talking Glove." Take a virtual journey back in time each week through these fun artifacts.

American Printing House for the Blind produced this Braille history timeline, starting with finger reading from the 1786 production of raised-letter books, ending with the 2017 release of the Orbit Reader, a low-cost alternative to traditional Braille displays.

<http://www.aph.org/news/>