



WEST VIRGINIA

DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

Resource Guide for Blind & Visually Impaired

2019-2020

Introduction

- The purpose of the Blind & Visually Impaired (VI) Resource Guide is to provide a listing of programs and services, available nationally, as well as, within the State of WV, for individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired.
- Individuals who are newly diagnosed with vision loss or a visual disability will especially find the resources helpful in becoming acquainted with learning how to navigate a new visual diagnosis to becoming familiar with what programs and services are available to them.
- In addition, the guide will provide valuable information to Counselors and Teachers for the Blind & Visually Impaired in addition to parents, advocates, and medical service providers.
- The Guide is organized alphabetically and provides contact information, website and/or email addresses and a brief description as to what each listing offers.
- To effectively summarize the Blind and VI Resource Guide an “At A Glance” follows that outlines topic areas in an easy to read and compressed format.

At A Glance

TOPIC AREAS INCLUDE:
• Assistive Technology
• Braille Evaluation • Braille books and other materials
• Employment & Career Exploration
• Guide Dog Schools
• Home Modification
• Individual Education Plan (IEP) • Or Transition planning with Education
• Independent Living
• Information & Referral
• Loan Library
• Low Vision Clinics
• Medical Funds
• Orientation & Mobility Travel Training (O&M)
• Peer Counseling /Support
• Publications
• Support Services and Advocacy
• Vision Exams

*Topic Areas above are ***bold & italicized*** within the guide for quick reference.

American Council of the Blind, Inc.

1703 N Beauregard St, Suite 420

Alexandria, VA 22311

Phone 202-467-5081 or 1-800-424-8666

Fax: 703-465-5085

www.acb.org

- The American Council of the Blind strives to increase the independence, security, equality of opportunity, and quality of life for all blind and visually impaired people. ACB provides a variety of programs and services, including post-secondary scholarships, **advocacy**, lobbying/governmental affairs, *conventions* as well as ACB radio and the **Audio Description Project**.

American Foundation for the Blind

1401 South Clark Street, Suite 730

Arlington, VA 22202

info@afb.net

- The American Foundation for the Blind advocates for better policies that promote accessibility, equality, and opportunity for people who are blind or visually impaired. AFB provides many services, such as **consulting services**, research in public policy through peer reviewed Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness, advocacy & **support services**, national conferences/events including Helen Keller Achievement Awards as well as monthly **publication**, Access World Magazine.

AFB Center on Vision Loss

11030 Ables Lane

Dallas, TX 75229

Phone: 214-352-7222

Fax: 646-478-9260

- The AFB center on Vision Loss, provides comprehensive information to millions of individuals who are blind or visually impaired, as well as their families. The Center helps users to live more independently by connecting them to national and local services and agencies. The Center provides **support services** to families coping with vision loss by providing **resources**, educational materials, professional seminars and training, and information on products to consumers in environmental design and **assistive technologies**.

AFB Huntington

1108 Third Avenue, Suite 200

Huntington, WV 25701

Phone 304-523-8651

Fax: 646-478-9260

- The American Foundation for the Blind advocates for better policies that promote accessibility, equality, and opportunity for people who are blind or visually impaired. AFB of Huntington partners with a local hospital, Cabell Huntington Hospital Foundation to perform a study on service delivery to patients who are visually impaired. As well as providing an **employment** summit aimed at learning about workplace barriers and educating employers on hiring blind employees. The Huntington AFB houses a consulting lab working with the world's leading technology companies to help them make their **technology** more accessible.

Appalachian Center for Independent Living, Inc.

4710 Chimney Drive, Suite C

Charleston WV 25302

Phone: 304-965-0376

Toll Free Phone: 1-800-642-3003

Fax: 304-965-0377

paxacil@yahoo.com

- The Appalachian Center for Independent Living Inc. strive to promote the interdependence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with disabilities through empowerment, integration, and inclusion. Services include **advocacy** self-systems, **independent living skills training**, **peer counseling**, **information and referral** and **support groups**.

Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind

38 Washington AVE.

Huntington, WV 25701

Phone: 304-522-6991

Fax: 304-522-6924

cwabadm@cabellwayne.org

- The Cabell Wayne Association of the Blind is committed to promoting and advocating the economic, educational, and social welfare of the blind and visually impaired of all ages so that they can maintain a lifestyle comparable to other members of society. Services include fund raising, transportation services, **adaptive technology training**, in home services, **orientation & mobility services**, vision rehabilitation services, and recreational services.

Children's Vision Rehabilitation Program (CVRP)

WVU Eye Institute
PO Box 9193
1 Medical Center Drive
Morgantown, WV 26506

Rebecca Coakley, M.A., CLVT
Program Director
coakleyr@wvumedicine.org
Phone: 304-598-6970

Paula Lang, M.A., CLVT
Low Vision Education Specialist
langp@wvumedicine.org
Phone: 304-598-6965
Fax: 304-598-6928

- To provide comprehensive vision rehabilitation services to blind and visually impaired school aged children throughout the state of West Virginia regardless of their ability to pay. The goal of this program is to provide children with tools to become independent and employable by optimizing visual function both at home and school. CVRP's mission is to provide access to the visual environment for children with incurable vision loss through **medical eye care**, optical devices, **assistive technology**, **educational recommendations** and support to local school systems. In pursuit of these goals, a multi-disciplinary team of professionals trained in ophthalmology, optometry, orientation and mobility, occupational therapy and education execute a comprehensive evaluation, treatment plan and follow-up for each student. CVRP provides **low vision clinics** throughout the state as well as summer institute camps for transition students and operates a mentor program to train professionals in the field of vision.

Job Accommodation Network (JAN)

PO Box 6080
Morgantown, WV 26506
www.askjan.org
800-526-7234
jan@askjan.org

- The Job Accommodations Network (JAN) is the leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on **workplace accommodations and disability employment issues**.
- Job Accommodations Network provides free, confidential **technical assistance about job accommodations** and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- JAN represents the most comprehensive **job accommodation resources** available. From Fortune 500 companies to entrepreneurs, JAN has served customers across the United States and around the world for more than 35 years.

LS&S

Learning, Sight & Sound Made easier

145 River Rock Drive

Buffalo, NY 14207

1-800-468-4789

<https://www.lssproducts.com/>

LSSInfo@LSSproducts.com

- LS&S has served the needs of the visually impaired and hard of hearing for over 27 years. LS&S is a **resource company that provides products** for the visually impaired and hard of hearing. LS&S selects their products to provide independence, safety, and confidence
- LS&S **sells low-tech assistive technology devices** for the visually impaired including magnification devices, braille products, low vision lighting, electronics & CCTV's (Closed-Circuit television), canes, and talking clocks.

MaxiAids

42 Executive Blvd

Farmingdale, NY 11735

1-800-522-6294

<https://www.maxiaids.com/>

sales@maxiaids.com

- MaxiAids specializes in **low vision products and product solutions for the Blind and Visually Impaired**, those with Low Vision, the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Disabled, Seniors (Elderly), Children, and the Special Needs of those with medical conditions.
- MaxiAids provides **assistive technology products** such as handheld, stand and electronic magnifiers for those with low vision to talking watches for the blind, talking blood glucose monitors, and amplified phones and alerting systems

Mountain State Centers for Independent Living-Beckley and Huntington

Beckley office:

329 Prince Street

Beckley, WV 25801

Phone: 304-255-0122

mtstcil@mtstcil.org

Huntington office:

821 Fourth Avenue

Huntington, WV 25701

Phone: 304-525-3324

- Mountain State Centers for Independent Living (MTSTCIL) is a community-based organization providing advocacy, networking, and resources to people with disabilities and their families. The centers are a place where people with disabilities are free to meet, share, learn and plan lives of greater independence and self-reliance. Services include **independent living skills**, self-advocacy, **employment** services, **peer support**, and **information and referral services**.

Mountain State Council of the Blind

P.O. Box 4006

Morgantown, WV 26504

304-933-9540 (9:00AM – 9:00PM)

<https://www.msbcwv.org/>

- West Virginia's state affiliate of the American Council of the Blind seeks to improve the social, economic, and cultural status of people with vision loss in West Virginia. Services include **advocacy** in legislation and governmental affairs, **scholarships** for blind transition students, **assistive technology training** and fund raising.

Nation Federation of the Blind

200 East Wells Street

At Jernigan Place

Baltimore, MD 21230

410-659-9314

Fax: 410-685-5653

- The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. Services include **counseling services**, daily living skills, **free vision screenings**, **low vision clinics**, **peer support groups**, youth programs and an aids & appliances store that provides vision products, including talking watches, clock, and magnifiers.

National Federation of the Blind of WV

Sheri Koch, President
833 Chappell Road
Charleston, WV 25304
304-993-5103

- The WV Chapter of NFB provides a state annual convention, resources for parents of Blind children, **advocacy** and **support services**.

NFB Parents of Blind Children

National Organization of Parents of Blind Children
Carlton Walker, President
Phone: 717-658-9894
Email: nopbcpres@gmail.com
Website: <http://nopbc.org/>

- The National Federation of the Blind offers many programs, services, and resources for parents of blind children. Services include **information and referral services on resources**, fund raising for special events, and **support services**.

Northern WV Center for Independent Living, Inc.

601-E Brockway Ave Suite A and B
Morgantown, WV 26505
Willis McCollam
Wmccollam@nwvcil.org

- The Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living is an advocacy resource center for persons with disabilities and the communities in which they live, not a social service agency. What's the difference? We don't do **for** people; we do a lot with people. Core **services** include **advocacy, independent living skills training, peer support**, transition and **information and referral** services.

Seeing Hand Association Inc.

750 Main Street
Wheeling, WV 26003

304-232-4810

www.seeinghandsassociation.com

- The Seeing Hand Association offers an array of specialized services for the blind and visually impaired individuals. The services assist in meeting the identified needs of the individual while maintaining our core values of accountability, honesty, integrity, trust, teamwork, independence, personal and professional growth, dignity and self-esteem. Services include daily living skills training, **on the job training, adaptive training, orientation and mobility services**, personal adjustment counseling, **support group** services, cheerful bowlers league, chair caning, as well as **advocacy** and training services.

West Virginia Department of Education

Office of Special Programs

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Building 6 Room 304

Charleston, WV 25305

304-558-2696

1-800-642-8541

- The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is charged with the responsibility of enforcing requirements in state and federal regulations within the educational system with an emphasis on improving educational results for students with disabilities. This is provided through developing policies, procedures, **Individualized Educational Plans (IEP)** and through **researching data** and **public reporting**.

WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

315 E. Main Street

Romney, WV 26757

304-822-3521

- WVSDDB sets high expectations for learning in a positive climate where lifelong learning is nurtured by example. WVSDDB provides parent resources, student resources, summer camps for students regarding technology, **outreach services to families**, and student **support groups** and **transition services**.

West Virginia Library Commission-Special Services Libraries

Cultural Center

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Charleston, WV 25305-0620

304-558-4061

1-800-642-8674

Fax: 304-558-6016

talkbks@wvlc.lib.wv.us

donna.b.calvert@wv.gov

<http://www.librarycommission.wv.gov/services/specialservices/pages/default.aspx>

<https://librarycommission.wv.gov/special-services/Pages/default.aspx>

- The Special Services Division administers the regional library serving West Virginia for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a division of the Library of Congress. It provides direct library services to West Virginians who cannot utilize standard size print because of blindness, visual impairment, or disability. Services include talking books, **talking book players**, talking magazines, **large print materials**, **braille books**, descriptive videos, NFB Newslines and **assistive technology loan program/services**.

iCanConnect

Perkins School for the Blind

Marcia Brooks

marcia.brooks@perkins.org

617-972-7724

<http://www.icanconnect.org/how-to-apply/west-virginia>

- The iCanConnect Program provides people with combined vision and hearing loss with free equipment and training to ensure they can communicate long distance with family and friends. The program conducts assessments with eligible individuals to determine the appropriate technology needs of the consumer. Purchase of the **technology** and follow up training on equipment such as smart phones tablets, computers, **braille displays** and **screen readers**.

WV Assistive Technology System (WVATS)

West Virginia University-Center for Excellence in Disabilities

Morgantown, WV

800-841-8436

wvats@hsc.wvu.edu

<http://wvats.cedwvu.org/>

- The West Virginia Assistive Technology System (WVATS) is the designated lead agency that works to enhance the lives of all West Virginia residents with disabilities, including older West Virginians and the families of people with disabilities. By providing access to and help with the acquisition of assistive

technology devices and services. These services include: a virtual loan library and exchange system, factsheets, **low cost-low tech devices**, AT resources, **education and training**, recommendations for **home modifications**, newsletter/blog, and houses durable medical goods providers/vendors and repair lists.

WV Lions Club

409 Midland Trail
Hurricane, WV. 25526
(C)304-951-9022
Charlions29o@yahoo.com
<http://wvlions.org/>

- Each year, the West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation funds surgery cases to WV individuals who are unable to afford the services. The WV Lions Club provides fact sheets on prediabetes, summer camps for children, **leadership opportunities**, operates a peace poster contest, and the Pilot Dogs Inc program, school-based life skills programs to avoid drugs, and **research and outreach services**.

Computers for the Blind

1201 S Sherman St, Suite 206
Richardson, Texas 75081
214-340-6328
www.computersfortheblind.org
help@computersfortheblind.org

- Computers for the Blind (CFTB) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization devoted to providing computers to persons who are blind or visually impaired. It is our hope that each person who is visually impaired may experience the information age in a positive and productive manner. We believe **technology** opens new worlds and creates opportunity for greater personal freedom.

Hadley

700 Elm Street
Winnetka, Illinois 60093
800-323-4238
www.hadley.edu

- Hadley offers education free of charge to anyone with a visual impairment, as well as families and professionals serving them. Today, Hadley serves nearly 150,000 individuals each year, from all 50 states and in 100 countries. Hadley is also the largest educator of **braille** worldwide.

Pathways to the FUTURE

<http://www.pathwayswv.org>

<http://www.pathwayswv.org/resources-blind-visually-impaired.php>

This site is a collection of **resources, tools** and people to help students with disabilities, transition through the journey from youth to adulthood. The **website** houses information to **explore careers**, education and training programs, **independent living skills** and other state programs and partners.

Dr. Nathaniel Stevens-Low Vision Specialist

907 6th Avenue

St. Albans, WV 25177

304-727-5237

<http://stevensyecare.com>

- Dr. Stevens provides comprehensive **vision exams** and **eye function testing evaluations**.

West Virginia Division of Rehab Services

107 Capital Street

Charleston, WV 25301

1-800-642-8207

- The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is a state agency that serves West Virginians with disabilities. The mission of DRS is: **Together, we enable and empower individuals with disabilities to work and live independently by providing individualized services to consumers and employers.**

WVDRS-District Offices

District I
Charleston, WV
304-356-2371

District II
Clarksburg, WV
304-625-6044

District III
Wheeling, WV
304-238-1092

District IV
Beckley, WV
304-256-6900

District V
Huntington, WV
304-528-5585

District VI
Martinsburg, WV
304-267-0005

WVDRS-Blind & Visually Impaired Field Services

Kevin Maynus-Program Specialist
800 New River Town Center, Beckley WV 25801
304-256-6900
kevin.l.maynus@wv.gov

- Specially trained DRS rehabilitation counselors serve each district to meet the needs of West Virginia workers with significant vision impairments. Services for people with vision impairments cover a wide range of individual needs, from basic **mobility training** to **assistive technology**. In addition, the agency provides specially trained Employment Specialists to assist individuals with vision loss in obtaining **employment**.

WVDRS-Blind & Visually Impaired Services Unit

10 McJunkin Road
Nitro, WV 25143
800-642-3021
<http://wvdrs.org/index.cfm>

- The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) helps people with disabilities establish and reach their vocational goals. Available services for blind & visually impaired clients at the Nitro, WV unit include **travel training**, **assistive technology** training, **braille instruction**, adaptive homemaking strategies, computer literacy and access technology, **Randolph Sheppard Program**, as well as bioptic driving training.

WVDRS- VISIONS

Vision Impaired Seniors in Home Outreach and Networking Services

800-642-3021

<http://wvdrs.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.displaystory&groupID=84&itemid=37>

- VISIONS is an ***independent living*** program for seniors with vision loss. Visions can help with daily living skills training, teaching alternative home organization techniques, help you safely and effectively manage your medications, refer you to services such as Talking Books, provide ***low tech adaptive aids*** and help you connect with other community activities and others with similar vision loss.

Guide Dog Schools Resource List

California:

Guide Dogs for the Blind, Incorporated

Post Office Box 151200

San Rafael, California 94915-1200

(800) 295-4050

information@guidedogs.com

<http://www.guidedogs.com/>

Guide Dogs of America

13445 Glenoaks Boulevard

Sylmar, California 91342

(818) 362-5834

Fax: (818) 362-6820

mail@guidedogsofamerica.org

<http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org>

Guide Dogs of the Desert

Post Office Box 1692

Palm Springs, California 92263-1692

(888) 883-0022

(760) 329-6257

Fax: (760) 329-2866

info@gddca.org
<http://www.guidedogsofthedesert.org/>

Connecticut:

The Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, Inc.

Contact:

info@fidelco.org
103 Vision Way
Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002
(860) 243-5200
info@fidelco.org
<http://www.fidelco.org/>

Florida:

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Incorporated

4210 77th Street East
Palmetto, Florida 34221-9270
(800) 944-3647
(941) 729-5665
Fax: (941) 729-6646
info@guidedogs.org
<http://www.guidedogs.org/>

Hawaii:

Eye of the Pacific Guide Dogs and Mobility Services, Incorporated

747 Amana Street, Suite 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
(808) 941-1088
Fax: (808) 944-9368
info@eyeofthepacific.org
<http://www.eyeofthepacific.org/>

Kansas:

Kansas Specialty Dog Service, Incorporated

124 West 7th

Washington, Kansas 66968-2222

or

Post Office Box 216

Washington, Kansas 66968-0216

(785) 325-2256

Fax: (785) 325-2258

ksds@washingtonks.net

www.gdui.org

Michigan:

Leader Dogs for the Blind

1039 Rochester Road

Rochester Hills, Michigan 48307-3115

(248) 651-9011

Fax: (248) 651-5812

leaderdog@leaderdog.org

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

New Jersey:

The Seeing Eye, Incorporated

Post Office Box 375

Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0375

(973) 539-4425

Fax: (973) 539-0922

semaster@seeingeeye.org

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

New York:

Freedom Guide Dogs for the Blind

1210 Hardscrabble Road
Cassville, New York 13318-1304
(315) 822-5132
info@freedomdogs.org
<http://www.freedomguidedogs.org/>

Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Incorporated

371 East Jericho Turnpike
Smithtown, New York 11787-2906
(866) 282-8047
Fax: (631) 930-9009
info@guidedog.org
<http://www.guidedog.org/>

Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Incorporated

611 Granite Springs Road
Yorktown Heights, New York 10598-3411
(914) 245-4024
Fax: (914) 245-1609
<http://www.guiding-eyes.org/>

Ohio:**Pilot Dogs, Incorporated**

625 West Town Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4444
(614) 221-6367
www.pilotdogs.org

Oregon:**Guide Dogs for the Blind, Incorporated**

32901 Southeast Kelso Road
Boring, Oregon 97009-9058
(503) 668-2100
information@guidedogs.com

<http://www.guidedogs.com/>

Texas:

Guide Dogs of Texas

11825 West Avenue, Suite 104
San Antonio, Texas 78216-2557
(210) 366-4081
www.guidedogsoftexas.org

Wisconsin:

Custom Canines Service Dog Academy

6610 Fieldwood Road
Madison, WI 53718
(608) 444-9555
Fax: (608) 834-1700
info@customcanines.org
www.customcanines.org

OccuPaws Guide Dog Association

P.O. Box 45857
Madison, WI 53744
(608) 772-3787
Fax: (866) 854-3291
info@occupaws.org
www.occupaws.org