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Visual Impairment and Blindness: A Resource Guide

Eleventh Edition 2007

Presented by:

**Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted
Seattle, Washington**

**Visual Impairment and Blindness: A Resource Guide
*Eleventh Edition 2007***

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Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted

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PREFACE

Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted, the Northwest's leading non-profit vision rehabilitation agency founded in 1965, works with individuals, families and the community to help restore, maintain and enhance the independence and well-being of people with impaired vision. To that end, we present the eleventh edition of *Visual Impairment and Blindness: A Resource Guide*.

Distributed widely throughout Washington State, this guide has become a highly valued source of information about programs, services, publications and products for people with impaired vision. In addition to basic contact information and brief descriptions, with this edition you'll also find E-mail and Website addresses for many organizations, making it easier than ever to tap into these resources.

While there are many more resources throughout the state and nationwide than we are able to list here, we have included a wide variety of entries reflecting the diversity in age, interests, and experience of people with impaired vision in Washington State. We have worked hard to ensure the accuracy of information published here, but changes are inevitable. Please use the form at the back of the guide or email us at csbps@csbps.com to revise your own entry or to suggest additional entries for the next edition. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

PART ONE - Service Providers in Washington

The primary work of the following service providers-- whether government agencies and services, nonprofit organizations, or private contractors; is to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to people who are blind or visually impaired. In addition, they can provide information and referral about a wide range of topics and issues, and direct you to other resources not listed in this guide. Some organizations also appear under various subject listings. Please refer back to this section for their addresses and other general information.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND SERVICES

WA State Department of Services for the Blind

Olympia Headquarters

Toll Free: (800) 552-7103

402 Legion Way SE, Ste 100, P O Box 40933

Olympia, WA 98504-0933

Main Phone: (360) 586-1224 (Olympia)

Fax: (360) 586-7627

Main Phone: (206) 721-4422 (Seattle)

Fax: (206) 721-4103

(TTY) 721-4059

Main Phone: (509) 456-4458 (Spokane)

Fax: (509) 625-5239

Main Phone: (360) 696-6238 (Vancouver)

Fax: (360) 690-4663

Main Phone: (509) 575-2014 (Yakima)

Fax: (509) 454-4125

Main Phone: (253) 597-4417 (Tacoma)

Fax: (253) 597-4432

Email: <mailto:information@dsb.wa.gov>

Website: <http://www.dsb.wa.gov>

Description: DSB offers a wide range of services to increase the independence, employment potential, and quality of life for persons who are blind or visually impaired throughout Washington. Services include a vocational rehabilitation program, employment services, a residential orientation and training center, the Independent Living program, Child and Family program, the Business Enterprise program, Assistive Technology Center, and employer relations service. DSB provides these services at no cost to participants or employers.

WA State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

PO Box 45340

Olympia, WA 98504-5340

Main Phone: (360) 438-8000 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 637-5627 (V/TTY)

Email: N/A

Website: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr>

Description: DVR assists people with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and retain employment. Vocational rehabilitation programs are custom designed for each individual. Services include medical evaluation, vocational assessment, counseling and guidance, restoration, job preparation, support services, job placement, follow-up, and post-employment services.

WA State School for the Blind

2214 E 13th Street

Vancouver, WA 98661-4120

Main Phone: (360) 696-6321
(360) 696-6321 Ext. 171 (TTY)

Fax: (360) 737-2120

E-mail: admin@wssb.wa.gov

Website: <http://www.wssb.org>

Description: The WA State School for the Blind provides specialized quality educational services to visually impaired/blind youth ages 0-21 who are residents of Washington through residential placement, day student programs, and outreach services throughout the state by itinerant vision teachers. The school serves as a statewide demonstration and resource center, and a technology support service for school districts.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted

9709 Third Avenue NE #100

Seattle, WA 98115-2027

Main Phone: (206) 525-5556 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 458-4888 (V/TTY)

Fax: (206) 525-0422

E-mail: csbps@csbps.com

Website(s): <http://www.csbps.com> (Agency)

<http://www.sightconnection.com> (Adaptive Aids Store)

<http://www.DonateCSB.org> (Online scheduling for household goods donations)

Service area: King, Snohomish, and Skagit Counties for home visits; people throughout Northwest use low vision service, specialty products store, and educational services. Low Vision Clinics in Seattle, Sedro Wooley and Bremerton.

Description: A private non-profit agency offering comprehensive rehabilitation services to people with impaired vision. CSBPS offers personal adjustment counseling and resource information; instruction in safe and independent travel; skills for independent living; low vision assessment and training; adaptive aids store, mail order

and on line catalogue; free CCTV demonstrations; assistive technology center; volunteer assistance; and educational services including information and referral, free large-print newsletter, and public speaking on issues relating to vision impairment.

Deaf-Blind Service Center

1620 18th Avenue, #200

Seattle, WA 98122

Main Phone: (206) 323-9178 (V/TTY only)

Fax: (206) 328-6871

E-mail: info@dbsc.org

Website: <http://www.seattledbsc.org>

Service area: Greater Seattle, Puget Sound

Description: The Deaf-Blind Service Center provides services to people who are 16 years old or over and who are both deaf and blind. The services provided are advocacy, community education, interpreters, mentorship project, referral, volunteer services, case management, and assistance accessing services.

Edith Bishel Center for the Blind

628 N Arthur St.

Kennewick, WA 99336-2128

Main Phone: (509) 735-0699

Toll Free: (800) 662-9226

Fax: (509)-735-4074

E-mail: info@edithbishelcenter.org

Website: <http://www.edithbishelcenter.org/>

Service area: Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Walla Walla and Yakima Counties, as well as Northeastern Oregon.

Description: Rehabilitation services, independent living skills, counseling and support groups, low vision clinic, computer classes, Braille instruction, social activities, and library resources. Low vision aids available for loan and sale.
Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday.

Lilac Blind Foundation

1212 N Howard St.

Spokane, WA 99201-2410

Main Phone: (509) 328-9116

Toll Free: (800) 422-7893

Fax: (509) 328-8965

E-mail: info@lilacblindfoundation.org

Website: <http://www.lilacblindfoundation.org>

Service area: Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman Counties. In Idaho: Kootenai.

Description: Services include rehabilitation teaching, orientation and mobility, communication skills, home teaching, aids and appliances, daily living skills training, Braille training, peer support, counseling, low vision services, recreational activities, library services in cooperation with the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library, volunteer services, and public education.

Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities (TACID)

6315 S 19th Street

Tacoma, WA 98466-6217

Main Phone: (253) 565-9000
(253) 565-5445 (TTY)

Fax: (253) 565-5578

E-mail: tacid@tacid.org

Website: <http://www.tacid.org>

Service area: Pierce County

Description: Services Include: Independent living skills training for blind/visually impaired adults including home and personal management, Braille instruction, activities of daily living, and orientation and mobility. ASL interpreter referrals and advocacy are provided for deaf/hard of hearing individuals. Also available are disability support groups, information and referral to community services, and volunteer services.

OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

Angel Jeremy Rehabilitation Services, Blind Program

Located in Vancouver, WA (makes visits to clients homes)

Main Phone: (360) 696-0520

Toll Free: (800) 552-7103 (messages)

E-mail: angeljeremy@MSN.com

Website: N/A

Service area: Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania and, Wahkiakum Counties.

Description: Independent living services for blind and visually impaired adults. No fee.

Seagull Low Vision Service

Marjorie Corier

3226 Wilderness Dr. SE

Olympia, WA 98501-4901

Main Phone: (360) 493-1372

Fax: N/A

E-mail: mtcorier@qwest.net

Website: N/A

Service area: Gray's Harbor, Lewis, Pacific and Thurston Counties.

Description: Independent living services for blind and visually impaired adults.
No fee.

Tri-County Low Vision Services

Miriam A. (Mimi) Freshley

3403 Bay Rd.

Ferndale, WA 98248

Main Phone: (360) 739-7923

E-mail: tcvrehab@earthlink.net

Website: N/A

Service area: Island, San Juan and Whatcom Counties

Description: Independent living services are provided for blind and visually impaired persons 55 years of age and older. No fee.

Peninsula Rehabilitation Services

2510 Snow Creek Road

Quilcene, WA 98376-9530

Main Phone: (360) 765-4239

Fax: (360) 765-5053

E-mail: carjar@olympen.com

Website: N/A

Service area: Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason Counties.

Description: Independent living services are provided for blind and visually impaired persons 55 years of age and older. No fee. You may leave a message with the WA State Department of Services for the Blind (800) 552-7103.

PART TWO - Resources by Subject Listing

ADAPTIVE PRODUCTS

Hundreds of specialty products are available for blind and visually impaired people to use and enjoy. These products include talking clocks and watches, writing guides, telephone accessories, large-print address books, household and health aids, and many other items designed to make everyday life easier. Some of the following organizations offer "hands-on" demonstrations and sales of adaptive products, and some also sell products by mail order.

Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted SightConnection Adaptive Aids

9709 Third Ave N. E. #100

Seattle, WA 98115-2027

Main phone: (206) 525-5556 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 458-4888 (V/TTY)

Fax: (206) 525-0422

E-mail: csbstore@csbstore.com

Website: <http://www.sightconnection.com>

Description: Over 400 adaptive aid products (Walk-in "teaching store" with an assistive technology center). Hands-on product demonstrations and instruction in product use are available. Internet orders, mail orders, telephone orders and special orders welcome. Catalogs are available in large print, Braille, tape, and PC-compatible diskette. **Store hours: 9 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday.**

General Electric Answer Center

Toll Free: (800) 626-2000

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: N/A

Description: The center provides free Braille overlays and raised-notch knobs for visually impaired customers who have GE, Hotpoint, or post-1988 RCA major appliances such as microwaves and electric ranges. You will need to give the model and serial numbers of ranges. Not available for models with touch-pad indicators and the appliance knobs must have markings.

The Store @ HSDC Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center

1625 19th Avenue

Seattle, WA 98122-2848

Main Phone: (206) 323-5770 (V/TTY)

Fax: (206) 328-6871

E-mail: store@hsrc.org

Website: <http://www.hsrc.org>

Description: The Store @ HSDC is a retail store that sells a variety of assistive signaling and listening devices for people who are hard of hearing or deaf. It also offers product instruction, and technical support.

Lilac Blind Foundation

1212 N Howard St

Spokane, WA 99201-2410

Main Phone: (509) 328-9116

Toll Free: (800) 422-7893

Fax: (509) 328-8965

E-mail: info@lilacblindfoundation.org

Website: <http://www.lilacblindfoundation.org>

Description: A variety of adaptive products on display including writing guides, canes, playing cards, and games. Special orders welcome. Magnifiers are shown by appointment. Loaner program is available.

ADVOCACY AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE

A variety of advocacy programs and legal services are available to assist with discrimination complaints, housing problems, civil disputes, and other matters. You may wish to consult your city, county, or state department of human or civil rights, or sections of this guide on the "Americans with Disabilities Act". Your local bar association can refer you to legal services in your area, including legal clinics that offer free consultation with volunteer attorneys. Many communities also have dispute resolution centers. Your local service provider may be able to direct you to additional resources in your area.

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

2531 Rainier Avenue S

Seattle, WA 98144-5328

Main Phone: (206) 721-5999

(206) 721-6072 (TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 544-2121

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: N/A

Description: CAP is a statewide program that serves clients with disabilities who are applying for services through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Services for the Blind, Projects with Industry, and other independent living programs. Teaches clients about their rights; helps resolve client problems with vocational rehabilitation counselors; explains services. Sign language interpreters and information provided in Braille when necessary.

CLEAR & CLEAR SR

401 2nd Ave S.#407

Seattle, WA 98104-3811

Main Phone: (888) 201-1014 CLEAR
(888) 387-7111 CLEAR SR
(888) 201-9737 (TTY)

Fax: (206) 624-7501 Fax

E-mail: njp@nwjustice.org

Website: N/A

Description: CLEAR (Coordinated Legal Education Advice And Referral) is Northwest Justice Project's statewide toll-free telephone service for low-income people to obtain free legal assistance with civil (non-legal) problems including problems with welfare, SSI and other benefits programs. CLEAR SR is a similar project which serves people age 60 and over regardless of their financial situation.

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

2212 Sixth Street

Berkeley, CA 94710-2219

Main Phone: (510) 644-2555 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 466-4232 V/TTY (ADA hotline)

Fax: (510) 841-8645

E-mail: info@dredf.org

Website: <http://www.dredf.org>

Description: DREDF is a national law and policy center dedicated to furthering the civil rights of people with disabilities. Its goal is to promote the full integration of people with disabilities into the mainstream of society. Work includes the Children with Disabilities and Family Support program; education, training, and technical assistance; litigation; Supreme Court work; and law and policy reform.

Lawyer Referral Service of King County Bar Association

1200 5th Ave #600

Seattle, WA 98101

Main Phone: (206) 623-2551
(206) 623-2766 (TTY)

Fax: (206) 382-1270

E-mail: LRS@KCBA.org

Website: <http://www.KCBA.org>

Description: A service offered to the public that can offer an attorney for most areas of law. Most referrals are regular fee-based but can be screened for limited, reduced fee or pro bono referrals.

Washington Protection and Advocacy System

315 Fifth Avenue South, Suite 850

Seattle, WA 98104

Main Phone: (206) 324-1521

Toll Free: (800) 562-2702

(800) 905-0209 (TTY)

Fax: (206) 957-0740

E-mail: wpas@wpas-rights.org

Website: <http://www.wpas-rights.org>

Description: WPAS is a private nonprofit organization that works statewide to promote, expand, and protect human and legal rights for people with disabilities through legal advocacy, training and publications, and systemic advocacy. Eligibility for WPAS services is determined by federal law. Services include technology-related assistance for persons with disabilities. Interpreters for any language are available.

WA State General Information

Toll Free: (800) 321-2808

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://access.wa.gov>

Description: Directory assistance for state government offices, including state agencies and legislators.

WA State Human Rights Commission

711 S. Capitol Way #402

Olympia, WA 98504-2490

Main phone: (360) 753-6770

Toll Free: (800) 233-3247

(800) 300-7525 (TTY)

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.hum.wa.gov/>

Description: Administers and enforces WA State law against discrimination (RCW 49.60). Has jurisdiction in five areas: employment, real estate transactions, and places of accommodation, credit, and insurance transactions. Complaints can be filed on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, and disability. Offices are located in Seattle, Olympia, Yakima, and Spokane.

WA State Legislative Hotline

Toll Free: (800) 562-6000

(800) 635-9993 (TTY)

Email: N/A

Website: N/A

Description: Provides information on legislation and legislative meeting times, takes opinion messages for your own legislators and the governor, and mails copies of bills on request. TTY callers may leave a message with their name and telephone number.

Consumer Protection Division

WA State Office of the Attorney General

1125 Washington St NE

P.O. Box 40100

Olympia, WA 98504-0100

Toll Free: (800) 551-4636

(800) 276-9883 (TTY)

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.atg.wa.gov>

Description: An informal mediation service that handles inquiries and written complaints from consumers regarding business transactions. Also provides automated information via the Consumers' Line.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), signed into law in 1990, is major civil rights legislation designed to integrate persons with disabilities into the mainstream of public life. The law covers employment, public transportation, public accommodation, and telecommunications. The following organizations offer consultation about issues of accessibility and accommodation, training, worksite evaluations, technical assistance, information, referral, and advocacy.

ADA Facilities Program

General Administration

206 General Administrations Bldg

Olympia, WA 98504-1012

Main Phone: (360) 902-7210

(360) 902-7195 (TTY)

Fax: (360) 753-2848

E-mail: cmaher@ga.wa.gov

Website: <http://www.ga.wa.gov/ada/ada.htm>

Description: Disability access information for accessing the programs, services and facilities of Washington State government is provided.

ADA Work

Toll Free: (800) 232-9675

E-mail: N/A

Website: N/A

Description: Comprehensive services that provide clarification and non-legal information about ADA compliance Connected with the Job Accommodation Network (see next page).

ADAptations Inc.

227 Bellevue Way NE, #694

Bellevue, WA 98004-5721

Main Phone: (206) 417-2227

Toll Free: (877) 887-2227

Fax: (206) 417-2229

E-mail: susan@adaptationsinc.com

Website: <http://www.adaptationsinc.com>

Description: ADAptations Inc. is an interior design firm specializing in designing residential and commercial environments that meet the accessibility needs of all people and promote independence, self-esteem, safety, and freedom of choice. Also specializes in ADA interpretation and compliance.

Alliance of People with disAbilities

4649 Sunnyside Avenue N #100

Seattle, WA 98103-6900

Main Phone: (206) 545-7055

(206) 632-3456 (TTY)

Toll Free: (866) 545-7055

Fax: (206) 545-7059

Email: info@disability.org

Website: <http://www.disabilitypride.org>

Description: Alliance of People with disAbilities provides consulting on the ADA, limited legal assistance, travel and self-advocacy training; information & referral, and independent living services to people with disabilities.

DBTAC Northwest, Washington State Affiliate

6912 220th St SW, #240

Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Main Phone: (800) 949-4232 (V/TTY)

Fax: (425) 774-9303

E-mail: conrad.kuehn@wwu.edu

Website: <http://www.dbtacnorthwest.org/>

Description: DBTAC NW, provides information, technical assistance, referrals, and training to those who have responsibilities and rights under the ADA. Services extend to all provisions of ADA.

Job Accommodation Network

PO Box 6080

Morgantown, WV 26506-6080

Toll Free: (800) 526-7234

(877) 781-9403 TTY

Fax: (304) 293-5407

E-mail: jan@jan.wvu.edu

Website: <http://www.jan.wvu.edu>

Description: Provides information to help companies comply with the ADA, and to help people with functional disabilities return to work or perform more easily and productively. Produces information in English, Spanish, and French, as well as in Braille, large print, tape, or disk.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Audio description and descriptive video services make theater, films, and television programs accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired. Audio description provides recorded information and live narrations of dramatic performances via headsets. Descriptive video services describe key visual and action elements of a film or television program without interfering with the action or dialogue.

Arts and Visually Impaired Audiences

212 Harvard Ave E, #402

Seattle, WA 98102

Main Phone: (206) 323-7190

(206) 528-2085 (Access Arts Line)

Fax: 206-528-2085

E-mail: aviaboss@artsavia.org

Website: <http://www.artsvia.org>

Description: AVIA provides arts access services for blind and visually impaired people including audio description in Seattle theaters, the Access Arts Line, the Package subscription service and audio production projects for blind and visually impaired youth.

Descriptive Video Service (DVS) Home Video

P O Box 55742

Indianapolis, IN 46205

Main Phone: (617) 492-2777 ext. 3490

(317) 579-0439 (orders)

Toll Free: (800) 333-1203

E-mail: N/A

Website: N/A

Description: Descriptive videos are available for purchase through Descriptive Video Service (DVS). In addition to describing movies on video, DVS adds description to a

number of PBS programs and to some cable programming on Turner Classic Movies. Cable subscribers can call a toll free information line for information on movie titles and times for select Turner Classic Movies. Catalogs are available in large print or Braille.

Evergreen Radio Reading Service

Washington Talking Book and Braille Library
2021 9th Ave
Seattle, WA 98121-2783

Main Phone: (206) 615-0400 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 542-0866

Fax: (206) 615-0437

E-mail: wtbbl@wtbbl.org

Website: <http://www.spl.org/wtbbl/wtbbl.html>

Description: ERRS is a 24-hour broadcasting service of current newspapers, books, magazines, and other information for people who cannot read regular print. The service is available throughout Western Washington and most areas of Eastern Washington. Depending upon geographical area, access to ERRS is possible by using special radio receivers provided free of charge by the library.

KCTS Descriptive Video Service

KCTS TV - Channel 9
401 Mercer Street
Seattle, WA 98109-4640

Main Phone: (206) 443-6677

(206) 443-4215 (current DVS program information line)

E-mail: start@kcts.org

Fax: N/A

Website: <http://www.kcts.org>

Description: Visually impaired viewers who live in areas that receive the signal of public television station KCTS (Channel 9) can gain access to the DVS by activating the Second Audio Program (SAP) channel. Most stereo televisions and VCRs now have a special switch or button for this feature. Programs currently available on DVS include *Mystery! Nature, Nova, Masterpiece Theatre* and *American Experience*. Some children's programming is also available such as *Between the Lions, Liberty's Kids*, and some episodes of *Zoom* and *Mr. Rodgers Neighborhood*.

Large Print Music

Stephens Development Company

3542 Fair Oaks Lane
Longboat Key, FL 34228-4106

Main Phone: (888)-714-4419

Fax: (941) 383-5759

E-mail: stevepub@comcast.net

Website: <http://stephensmusicpub.com/>

Description: "Large Print Music" is a series of classical, popular, religious, and traditional songs produced two and a half times larger than traditional music. Both

collections and sheet music are available from sheet music stores in the U.S. and Canada.

MakeMusic! Inc.

7615 Golden Triangle Drive, Suite M
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-3848

Main Phone: (800) 843-2066 ext. 3659

Fax: (952) 937-9760

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.makemusic.com>

Description: Want to learn how to play the guitar? MakeMusic! Continues to improve their cutting edge software line called "Finale" that transcribes musical notes onto your computer (Mac or PC-compatible) for printing in large fonts.

**National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Music Section**

The Library of Congress
1291 Taylor Street NW, Mail Stop 4960
Washington, DC 20542-4960

Main Phone: (202) 707-5100

Toll Free: (800) 424-8567

Fax: (206) 707-0712

E-mail: nlsm@loc.gov

Website: <http://www.loc.gov/nls/music>

Description: Selects and produces music scores in Braille and large-print formats, and distributes music books and magazines in large print, Braille, and on tape. Materials are sent postage free directly from NLS in Washington, DC for a three-month renewable loan period. They are available to anyone unable to see or hold a standard book or turn its pages.

Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound

9936 N. E. 197th Street
Bothell, WA 98011-2374

Main Phone: N/A

Fax: N/A

E-mail: repsclub@aol.com

Website: <http://www.repsonline.org>

Description: A club dedicated to the preservation and protection of radio programs from the Golden Age of radio (1930-1955). Large cassette lending library, newsletter, monthly meetings, and annual convention with stars from radio's early days.

VSA Arts of Washington

305 Harrison Street #303
Seattle, WA 98109-4623

Main Phone: (206) 443-1843
Fax: (206) 448-9585
E-mail: info@vsaaw.org
Website: <http://www.vsaaw.org/>

Description: VSAAW is a cultural and educational organization dedicated to providing arts opportunities by, for, and with persons with disabilities. It is an accredited program of Very Special Arts, an educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive Technology (or AT), in general, is any thing (service or device) that can help you to be independent in spite of the loss of your physical abilities.

From computer software that read your screen to Braille tools; from toll-free phone number newspaper reading services to Websites that have downloadable books and magazines, AT is an exciting and ever-growing field that will help you remain self-sufficient despite your vision impairment!

The following agencies, organizations, and programs can provide information and referral. Many also offer hands-on demonstrations, product sales, worksite evaluations, and instruction.

Assistive Technology Services

Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted

9709 Third Ave. NE, Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98115-2027
Main Phone: (206) 525-5556 (V/TTY)
Toll Free: (800) 458-4888 (V/TTY)

Fax: (206) 525-0422
E-mail: Ingyuen@csbps.com
Website: <http://www.csbps.com>

Description: Our center provides information and referral about the wide range of AT services and assistive aids for blind and visually impaired persons, hands-on demonstrations of selective products, individual tutorials.

Access Ingenuity

3635 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-5212
Toll Free: (877) 579-4380
Fax: (707) 579-4273
E-mail: customerservice@accessingenuity.com
Website: <http://www.accessingenuity.com>

Description: Access Ingenuity offers a full range of computer access products for the visually impaired and blind, including Screen Magnifiers, Screen Readers, Braille Translation Software, Scan & Read Software, and Large Print Keyboards.

Microsoft Accessibility Technology for Everyone Website

Main Phone: (425) 882-8080

Email: N/A

Website: <http://www.microsoft.com/enable>

Description: This Website features a variety of information about a wide range of accessibility products and resources from Microsoft, such as, tips on how to use the accessibility features within Windows XP, Windows 2000 and earlier versions of the operating systems, as well as Internet Explorer and other related Internet products. Site also provides step-by-step tutorials, corporate case studies and technical support.

National Technology Program

American Foundation for the Blind (Midwest)

949 Third Avenue, Suite 200

Huntington, WV 25701

Main Phone: (304) 523-8651

Fax: (304) 523-8656

E-mail: afbtech@afb.net

Website: <http://www.afb.org>

Description: The AFB conducts product evaluations of assistive technology, including closed circuit television viewers, screen enlargement programs, Braille technology, optical character readers, and speech synthesizers. These evaluations are published in AccessWorld. AFB operates the recently launched site, CareerConnect, a network of more than 1,900 people with impaired vision. CareerConnect enables professionals to contact one another, students to find career mentors, and computer users to share information about assistive technology.

Center on Disabilities

California State University, Northridge

18111 Nordhoff Street

Northridge CA, 91330-8264

Main Phone: (818) 677-2684 (V/TTY/Message)

Fax: (818) 677-4932

E-mail: codss@csun.edu

Website: <http://www.csun.edu/cod>

Description: The center sponsors the annual "Technology and Persons with Disabilities" National Conference. Conference proceedings and other publications are available.

Washington Assistive Technology Act Program

University of Washington

Box 357920

Seattle, WA 98195-7920

Main Phone: (800) 214-8731 Hotline

Toll Free: (866) 866-0162 (TTY)

Fax: (206) 543-4779

E-mail: uwat@u.washington.edu

Website: <http://www.wata.org/>

Description: WATAP—the Washington Assistive Technology Act Program—serves Washington residents of all ages with disabilities of all types, their families, employers and employment service providers, educators, health care and social service providers, and others seeking information about assistive technology (AT) and accessible information technology. WATAP is located within the UW Center on Technology & Disability Studies and is guided by a consumer-majority advisory council.

International Braille and Research Center for the Blind

National Federation of the Blind

1800 Johnson St.

Baltimore, MD 21230-4914

Main Phone: (410) 659-9314

Fax: (410) 685-5653

Email: N/A

Website: http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Technology_Center.asp

Description: Evaluation and demonstration center of all types of assistive technology. Offers telephone consultation about assistive technology, maintains a comprehensive technology resource list, and publishes reviews of hardware and software.

Assistive Technology Program

WA State Dept of Services for the Blind

3411 S Alaska Street

Seattle, WA 98118-1631

Main Phone: (206) 721-4422

(206) 721-4056 (TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 552-7103

Fax: (206) 721-4103

E-Mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.dsb.wa.gov/>

Description: DSB provides technical support and product information to persons who use computer screen access devices. Tour Day exposes the public to assistive technology equipment. On Vendor Day, vendors are available to demonstrate the latest equipment.

TECHNOLOGY PUBLICATIONS

AccessWorld: Technology and People with Visual Impairments

AFB Press

P.O. Box 1020

Sewickley, PA 15143-1020

Main Phone: (412) 741-1398

Toll Free: (800) 232-3044

Fax: (412) 741-0609

E-Mail: jaylev@afb.net

Website: <http://www.afb.org/aw/main.asp>

Description: A bi-monthly magazine providing in-depth evaluations of screen magnification, speech and Braille technology used by people who are blind or visually impaired. AccessWorld also includes on-the-job profiles of people in a variety of careers using assistive technology, interviews with leaders in the field, articles on key issues including accessible ATMs, voting machines and blood glucose meters, and the latest news. AccessWorld is available online with a password, in large print and Braille, on ASCII disk and audiocassette.

Closing the Gap

PO Box 68

Henderson, MN 56044-0068

Main Phone: (507) 248-3294

Fax: (507) 248-3810

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.closingthegap.com>

Description: Closing the Gap publishes a bi-monthly newspaper that describes hardware and software products appropriate for persons with disabilities, and explains in everyday language how microcomputer technology is being successfully implemented in education, rehabilitation, and vocational settings.

AUDIO TAPING SERVICES

Producing audio tapes of printed materials is a common way of making them accessible to blind and visually impaired persons. The following organizations provide a variety of taping services for individuals and groups.

Olympic Recording

Main Phone: (360) 895-0305

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: N/A

Description: Daily tapes are available of the "Bremerton Sun" newspaper.

State Audio Services

Central Washington University

400 E. 8th St.

Ellensburg, WA 98926-7431

Main Phone: (509) 963-2171

(509) 963-2143 (TTY)

Fax: (509) 963-3235

E-mail: wilsonp@cwu.edu

Website: <http://www.ga.wa.gov/ada/audiosvc.htm>

Description: State Audio Services provides fee-for-service audio transcription and cassette duplication to state and local agencies, institutions, and private industry in support of statewide efforts to make information more accessible to people with disabilities related to reading standard print. For additional information call the ADA Compliance Office at Central Washington University.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

Many books, newspapers, magazines, and other publications are now available for purchase or subscription in a variety of formats: large print, Braille, cassette tape, and computer disk. In addition, there are publishers who specialize in producing materials for people who are blind or visually impaired. If you would like to obtain "talking books" or Braille materials through a lending library, please consult the "Libraries" section of this guide.

GENERAL INTEREST

Bookshare.org

The Benetech Initiative

480 California Avenue, Suite 201

Palo Alto, CA 94306-1609

Main Phone: N/A

Fax: (650) 475-1066

E-mail: support@bookshare.org

Website: <http://www.bookshare.org>

Description: Bookshare.org is an online community that enables people with visual and other print disabilities to share scanned books. Bookshare.org acts as a clearinghouse where readers can legally share their scanned books, and download from a collection of accessible books. Membership is \$25 to join, with a \$50 annual fee.

Books on Tape, A Division of Random House, Inc.

Attn: Customer Service

400 Hahn

Westminster, MD 21157

Main Phone: N/A

Toll Free: (800) 626-3333

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.booksontape.com>

Description: Large, diverse selection of unabridged two-track cassette, CDs, and MP3-CD audio books including family selections, classics, fiction, mystery, humor, and biography. 30-day rentals are available and purchase of printed catalogues. Mention that you have a visual impairment when you call and a designated customer service representative will assist you.

Choice Magazine Listening

85 Channel Drive

Port Washington, NY 11050-2216

Main Phone: (516) 883-8280

Toll Free: (888)-724-6423

Fax: (516) 944-6849

E-mail: choicemag@aol.com

Website: <http://www.choicemagazinelistening.org>

Description: Free audio anthology available six times yearly to visually impaired, blind, or physically disabled persons nationwide. Each issue features eight hours of unabridged magazine articles, short stories, poetry, and media selections from over 100 sources. The four-track tapes, for college level and older, are playable on National Library Service or other four-track cassette playback equipment.

Classic Books on Cassettes

Audio Book Contractors, Inc.

PO Box 40115

Washington, DC 20016-0115

Main Phone: (202) 363-3429

Fax: (202) 363-3429

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.Audiobookcontractors.com>

Description: Over 900 unabridged classic books on cassette! Visually impaired persons may be eligible for discount off purchase price. Rentals are also available.

The New York Times Large Type Weekly

PO Box 232

Northvale, NJ 07647-0070

Main Phone: N/A

Toll free: (800) 631-2580

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.NYtimes.com>

Description: A specially edited publication containing news stories, editorials, articles on health and medicine, a full-page crossword puzzle, and other highlights of the previous week's *New York Times*. The weekly is available in the extra large, 16-point type and small page size for easy handling. Subscriptions can be either six-month or one-year. They are mailed every Monday from Florida.

Reader's Digest Large Print Publications

PO Box 8177

Red Oak, IA 51591-1177

Main Phone: N/A

Toll free: (800) 807-2780

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.rd.com>

Description: Large-type publications include the monthly *Reader's Digest*, quarterly *Great*, and *Condensed Books*. Go to website, click on magazines, and order on line.

Recorded Periodicals

Associated Services for the Blind

919 Walnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19107-5237

Main Phone: (215) 627-0600 ext. 3206

Fax: (215) 922-0692

E-mail: jcorrign@asb.org

Website: <http://www.asb.org/services/recording.htm>

Description: Subscription service providing 25 recorded magazines including *Smithsonian*, *Scientific American*, *Fortune*, *Forbes*, *The New Yorker* as a monthly, *Harvard Men's and Women's Health Newsletters*, *Taste of Home Cooking Magazine*, and *Oprah* to name a few. The magazines are recorded onto four-track cassettes, and require a modified cassette player similar to National Library Service equipment. Free list of magazines, in large print or cassette, sent on request. Customers may request Braille labels on the cassettes.

Talking Magazines

American Printing House for the Blind

PO Box 6085

Louisville, KY 40206-0085

Main Phone: (502) 895-2405

Toll free: (800) 223-1839

Fax: (502) 899-2274

E-mail: info@aph.org

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

Description: *Newsweek* and *Reader's Digest* are available free on four-track cassettes.

Transaction Publishers

390 Campus Drive

Somerset, NJ 08873-1102

Main Phone: (732) 445-1245

Toll Free: (888) 999-6778

Fax: (732) 748-9801

E-mail: orders@transactionpub.com

Website: <http://www.transactionpub.com/transaction-books>

Description: Publisher of large-print books for the partially sighted. Large-print catalogs are available upon request.

SPECIAL INTEREST – VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.

PO Box 6085

Louisville, KY 40206-0085

Main Phone: (502) 895-2405

Toll Free: (800) 223-1839

Fax: (502) 899-2274

E-mail: info@aph.org

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

Description: APH manufactures books and magazines in Braille, large type and recorded form, as well as a wide range of educational and daily living aids including Braille paper, Braille slates, talking book equipment, and synthetic speech computer products. APH was founded in 1858, and is the official supplier of educational materials for visually impaired students in the US. APH also offers a database service that lists materials accessible to blind readers. These materials are available from 200 agencies across the US.

DIALOGUE

Blindskills, Inc.

PO Box 5181

Salem, OR 97304-0181

Main Phone: (503) 588-4224

Toll Free: (800) 860-4224

Fax: (503) 581-0178

E-mail: blindskl@teleport.com

Website: <http://www.blindskills.com/dialogue.html>

Description: Blindskills, Inc. publishes "*Dialogue*" magazine quarterly in Braille, large print, 4-track cassette, and IBM-compatible diskette. Blindskills also operates a toll-free number for resources and information. "Dialogue" is written by and for those who are blind or visually impaired and contains articles such as Adjusting and Coping with Vision Loss, Careers, Travel, Technology, Sports and Recreation, as well as a huge resource section.

National Braille Press

88 St. Stephen Street
Boston, MA 02115-4302

Main Phone: (617) 266-6160

Toll Free: (800) 548-7323

Fax: (617) 437-0456

E-mail: orders@nbp.org

Website: <http://www.nbp.org>

Description: Publisher of a wide variety of Braille books, including computer-related publications, crafts, cookbooks, etc. Children from pre-school through third grade can join The Children's Braille Book Club. Paid subscriptions to "Syndicated Columnists Weekly", a weekly news service, are also available.

National Federation of the Blind-Newsline®

1800 Johnson Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

Main Phone: (410) 659-9314
(410) 685-5653

Toll Free: (866) 504-7300

Email: nfb@nfb.org

Website: http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Newspapers_by_Phone.asp

Description: Newsline for the Blind is an automated toll free service that makes daily newspapers available over the telephone 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Using a touch-tone telephone, a caller can listen to fifty different newspapers including *The Seattle P-I*, *The New York Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *USA Today* and many others. Call to register for an access code. NFB membership is not required and the service is free.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic

20 Rozel Road
Princeton, NJ 08540-6206

Main Phone: (609) 987-8116

Toll Free: (800) 221-4792 (to order recordings)

Fax: (609) 987-8116

E-Mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.rfbd.org>

Description: A national nonprofit organization that lends textbooks on four-track cassette tape and CD, at all academic levels to people who cannot effectively read standard print because of a visual impairment, dyslexia or other physical disability. Over 91,000 recorded texts are available. Also provides bibliographic services and custom recording services.

Vision World Wide, Inc.

5707 Brockton Drive #302
Indianapolis, IN 46220-5481

Main Phone: (317) 254-1332

Toll Free: (800) 431-1739

Fax: (317) 251-6588

E-mail: Info@Visionww.org

Website: <http://www.visionww.org>

Description: Website is an excellent source of encouraging and motivating stories and resources for the vision impaired and their families, informative to healthcare professionals, senior centers, radio reading services, libraries, and are enlightening to the general public. Also provides information and referral services through a nationwide toll-free help line and a worldwide internet service.

SPECIAL INTEREST - OTHER

Aurora Ministries Inc/Bible Alliance

PO Box 621

Bradenton, FL 34206-0621

Main Phone: (941) 748-3031

Fax: (941) 748-2625

E-mail: AudioBibles@auroraministries.org

Website: <http://www.audiobiblesfortheblind.org/>

Description: The Bible on cassette, available in 64 languages, is given completely free to people who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise unable to read conventional print. Complimentary sets are also provided for use in resource centers or libraries. Bible studies and messages available as well.

Christian Record Services

PO Box 6097

Lincoln, NE 68506-0097

Main Phone: (402) 488-0981

Fax: (402) 488-7582

E-mail: info@christianrecord.org

Website: <http://www.christianrecord.org>

Description: Provides free publications and services to people who are blind or visually impaired. Services include summer camps; a cassette tape lending library; scholarship assistance; personal visits; Braille, large-print, and audio magazines.

The Jewish Heritage for the Blind

1655 E 24th Street

Brooklyn, NY 11229-2401

Main Phone: (718) 338-4999

Toll Free: (800) 995-1888

Fax: (718) 338-0653

E-Mail: jhb.ny@verizon.net

Website: <http://www.jhftb.org/>

Description: The JHB helps Jewish children and adults who are blind or visually impaired lead meaningful Jewish lives. Publishes large-print and Braille editions of the basic texts of Jewish life and distributes them free of charge across the world. Also publishes children's books, popular articles, scholarly works, and a large-print directory listing over 40 agencies providing audio cassette tapes, telephone services, and computer software on Jewish subjects.

Science Fiction for the Blind

322 Whittier Highway

Moulton, NH 03254-3627

Main Phone: (603) 253-6207

Fax: N/A

E-mail: edmeskys@localnet.com

Website: N/A

Description: A free science fiction newsletter available by e-mail only.

BRAILLE

The Braille system is used for reading and writing by some people who are blind. The following organizations provide a variety of services including instruction in how to communicate in Braille, transcription of materials from regular print to Braille, and training in Braille transcription. Some also sell books in Braille, as well as slates and styluses. Others sell or repair Braillewriters.

INFORMATION, INSTRUCTION, TRANSCRIPTION

AccessBraille

1421 West 12th Street

Bloomington, IN 47402-1307

Main Phone: (812) 339-6351

Fax: (413) 702-2243

E-mail: info@accessbraille.com

Website: N/A

Description: Braille transcription service specializing in production of Braille textbooks, technical manuals, product catalogs, large volume brochures and business cards.

Braille Access Center

WA State School for the Blind

2214 E 13th Street #201

Vancouver, WA 98661-4120

Main Phone: (360) 696-6321 ext. 158
(360) 696-6321 ext. 171 (TTY)

Fax: (360) 737-2120

Website: <http://www.wssb.org>

Description: The Braille Access Center serves the needs of the Washington State government and the private sector nationwide on a fee-for-service basis. The preferred method of transcription is for the customer to provide a computer file. They also have scanning and re-keying capabilities. Prices vary according to type of document. Call for details and a price list.

Braille Institute of America, Inc.

741 North Vermont Ave

Los Angeles, CA 90029-3514

Main Phone: (323) 663-1111

Toll Free: (800) 272-4553

Fax: (323) 663-0867

E-mail: info@brailleinstitute.org

Website: <http://www.brailleinstitute.org>

Description: A national information and referral line for locating a broad range of Braille materials, as well as other resources and organizations available to people with impaired vision across the United States and Canada. Braille and talking book library for blind, physically, or reading disabled people. They are privately funded. Free children's books in Braille are available.

Father Palmer Memorial Braille Service

The Lilac Blind Foundation

1212 N. Howard St.

Spokane, WA 99201-2410

Main Phone: (509) 328-9116

Toll Free: (800) 422-7893

Fax: (509) 328-8965

E-mail: info@lilacblindfoundation.org

Website: <http://lilacblindfoundation.org>

Description: Transcribes literary and textbook material (English, Spanish, and French) into Braille. Also does tactile drawings and maps; thermoforming; binding; and Megadots software program. In addition transcribes music pieces into Braille.

Hadley School for the Blind

700 Elm Street

Winnetka, IL 60093-2506

Main Phone: (847)441-8111 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 323-4238

Fax: (847) 446-9916

E-Mail: info@hadley.edu

Website: <http://www.hadley-school.org>

Description: Offers distance education courses in Adult Continuing Education, High School Education, Family Education, and Professional Education. Braille instruction is available at all levels.

I Can See Books

33222 Lynn Ave.

Abbotsford, BC

V2S 1C9 Canada

Toll Free: (800) 987-1231

Toll Free Fax: (800) 985-1231

E-mail: info@braillebookstore.com

Website: <http://www.braillebookstore.com>

Description: Braille books for children and adults can be purchased on line or by phone. Over 1,000 book titles available including classics, and best sellers. A transcription service is also available.

Louis Braille Center

10130 Edmonds Way

Edmonds, WA 98020-5130

Main Phone: (425) 778-2384

Fax: (425) 778-2384

E-mail: director @ louisbrailleschool.org

Website: <http://www.louisbraillecenter.org/>

Description: A non-profit organization offering Braille instruction for the blind, and sighted individuals, teachers and transcribers. The Center publishes Braille books for sale at affordable prices. They provide print/Braille greeting cards, Braille instruction materials, and Braille transcription services. Bank statement transcription services for clients of Washington Mutual Bank. Offers the Second Saturday Club for blind and visually impaired children and their families. They publish a free newsletter and catalog in Braille and print. Volunteers are welcomed.

Northwest Braille Services

PO Box 234

Ferndale, WA 98248-0234

Main Phone: (360) 714-1630**Fax:** N/A**E-mail:** nwbsbeth@cnw.com**Website:** www.healthsupportcenter.org/nwbs/

Description: Northwest Braille Services is a non-profit educational charity, whose purpose is to provide Braille materials and education. Braille transcription and embossing available for textbooks and recreational reading. Rates are negotiable. NLS Certified Literary and Nemeth Transcriptionist.

Seattle Area Brailists

1325 N Allen Place, Rm. 540

Seattle, WA 98103-7561

Main Phone: (206) 675-1588**Fax:** N/A**E-mail:** N/A**Website:** N/A

Description: Volunteer textbook and literary Braille including subjects such as mathematics, music, foreign language, and computers. They accept assignments from individuals and schools. Braille instruction for sighted persons.

BRAILLERS AND BRAILLER REPAIR**All Star Braille Repair**

W8937 Moritz Lane

Arkansas, WI 54721

Main Phone: (641)343-2505**Fax:** N/A**E-mail:** alanstomba@visi.com**Website:** <http://www.brailrepair.com>

Description: Perkins and Lavender brailers repaired. The cost is \$38 for labor plus parts. Shipping is \$10 in the continental United States or you can specify Free Matter For The Blind (UPS).

Braille Repair Program**Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted**

9709 Third Ave N E #100

Seattle, WA 98115-2027

Main Phone: (206) 525-5556 (V/TDD)

Toll Free: (800) 458-4888 (V/TDD)

Fax: (206) 625-0422

E-mail: csbps@csbps.com

Website: <http://www.csbps.com>

Description: Skilled volunteers repair Perkins Braille machines. CSBPS provides loaner machines while yours is being repaired. Charges include a shipping and handling fee plus replacement parts. Braille machines may also be rented for a maximum of 30 days.

The Brailery

5 Cumberland Circle

El Paso, TX 79903-1911

Main Phone: (915) 565-0179

Fax: (915) 565- 7514

E-mail: repair@theBrailery.com

Website: <http://www.theBrailery.com>

Description: Specializes in Perkins Braille repair, but can also repair other types of Braille machines. Charges include labor plus parts. Will buy used Braille machines and recondition them for sale.

Howe Press

Perkins School for the Blind

175 N Beacon Street

Watertown, MA 02472-2751

Main Phone: (617) 924-3434

Fax: (617) 926-2027

E-mail: howepress@perkins.org

Website: <http://www.perkins.org/>

Description: Manufactures and sells materials and equipment for producing materials in Braille, including the Perkins Braille machine. Perkins Braille machines repaired.

The Selective Doctor, Inc.

PO Box 28432

Baltimore, MD 21234-8432

Main Phone: (410) 668-1143

Fax: N/A

E-mail: brailerrepar@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.selectivedoctor.com>

Description: The Selective Doctor, Inc. repairs Perkins Braille machines (manual and electric) for \$50 (manual) and \$60 (electric), plus parts and postal insurance of \$7.20 when mailed "Free Matter for the Blind" through the US Mail.

CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

School districts in Washington are legally mandated to provide special education services to all eligible disabled students. These services may include mobility, communications, and low vision services. Washington also has a residential facility for the education of blind and visually impaired children. The following organizations can help children with impaired vision and their families obtain information, support, and services. Other resources for children and their families are located throughout this guide.

Special Saturday Club

Camp Fire U.S.A.

8511 15th Avenue NE

Seattle, WA 98115-3199

Main Phone: (206) 461-8550

Toll Free: (800) 451-2267

Fax: (206) 525-3351

E-mail: info@campfirecpsc.org

Website: <http://www.campfire-usa.org>

Description: Camp Fire's Special Saturday Club is a recreation program designed for children with disabilities ages 4-12. Activities are developmentally appropriate and include: group and independent play, art and craft projects, cooking, outdoor play and stories. Saturday Clubs are located at the Highland Center in Bellevue, at the Olympic View Elementary School in north Seattle, John Muir Elementary in central Seattle. Saturday Club is staffed by adult managers and teens who have received training from Camp Fire USA to care for children with disabilities. For more information about the Special Saturday Club, please contact the Outreach and Education Assistant at Camp Fire USA (see the number above).

Guide to Toys for Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

American Foundation for the Blind (Toy Industry Assn. Inc)

1115 Broadway, Suite 400

New York, N Y 10010-3450

Main Phone: (212) 675-1141 (Toy Industry Assn Inc)

Toll Free: (800) 232-5463 (American Foundation for the Blind)

Fax: (212) 633 1429

Fax: N/A

E-mail: info@toy-tia.org

Website: <http://www.toy-tia.org>

Description: The American Foundation for the Blind and the Toy Manufacturers of America publish this free guide annually. It contains commercially available toys and games appropriate for blind and visually impaired children of all ages, and is available in print, audiocassette or online at the website listed above.

National Lekotek Center

3204 W. Armitage Ave

Chicago, IL 60647

Toll Free: (800) 366-PLAY (7529)(V/TTY)

Fax: (773) 276-8644

E-mail: lekotek@lekotek.org

Website: <http://www.lekotek.org>

Description: Lekotek is a resource for information about toys and play for children with special needs. This information can be accessed by calling their toll free Toy Resource Helpline at 1- 800-366-PLAY, which provides one-on-one phone consultation, or through their website.

National Association for Parents of the Visually Impaired (NAPVI)

PO Box 317

Watertown, MA 02471-0317

Main Phone: (617) 972-7441 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 562-6265

Fax: (617) 972-7444

E-mail: napvi@perkins.org

Website: <http://www.napvi.org>

Description: Provides support and information for parents with visually impaired children. National and regional conferences, publications, and newsletters can be provided.

Special Education Operations**WA State Superintendent of Public Instruction**

PO Box 47200

Olympia, WA 98504-7200

Main Phone: (360) 725-6075

(360) 664-3631 (TTY)

Fax: (360) 586-0247

E-mail: speced@k12.wa.us

Website: <http://www.k12.wa.us/specialed>

Description: Public school districts in Washington are mandated to provide special education services to all eligible students. These might include mobility, communications, and low vision services, and may be provided by the school district or educational services districts. OSPI Special Education Operations, or the Washington State Department of Services for the Blind (Children's Program) can provide additional information.

Seedlings Braille Books for Children

PO Box 51924

Livonia, MI 48151-5924

Main Phone: (734) 427-8552

Toll Free: (800) 777-8552

Fax: (734) 427-8552

E-mail: info@seedlings.org

Website: <http://www.seedlings.org>

Description: A nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high quality, low cost Braille books for children. Several pre-school books are available in print-and-Braille, which also enables blind adults to read with sighted children. A free catalog is available that includes more than 500 titles. The catalog is available in print, in Braille, on disk, via e-mail, or by downloading it from our Website.

Washington Sensory Disabilities Services

Puget Sound Educational Service District/Special Services

800 Oakesdale Ave SW

Renton, WA 98057-5221

Main Phone: (425) 917-7833 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 664-4549

Fax: (425) 917-7833

E-mail: questions@psed.org

Website: <http://www.wsdsonline.org>

Description: WSDS provides information, training, technical assistance and resources to families and educators statewide regarding individuals from birth to age 21 with sensory disabilities—students who are deaf, hard of hearing, visually impaired, blind or deaf-blind.

United Parents' Syndicate on Disabilities

3680 Kings Highway

Douglasville, GA 30135

Main Phone: (770) 577- 7771

Toll Free: (800) 322-7065

Fax: (770) 577-7774

E-mail: united_parent@peppinc.org

Website: <http://www.peppinc.org/>

Description: The United Parents Syndicate on Disabilities – (UPSD) is a national program of Parents Educating Parents and Professionals, Inc. (PEPP Inc.), a non-profit corporation dedicated to improving life for all families of children, youth, and adults with special needs. PEPP, Inc., has the unique capabilities to provide the most up-to-date resources and information concerning all community, educational, and government events on both state and national levels.

Toys "R" Us Toy Guide for Differently Abled Kids

United Parents' Syndicate on Disabilities

Main Phone: (770) 577-7771

Fax: (770) 577-7774

E-mail: Ross.Jennifer@peppinc.org

Website: <http://www.peppinc.org/toysrus.htm>

Description: Toys "R" Us publishes this guide in partnership with the National Lekotek Center and United Parents' Syndicate on Disabilities. This shopping guide contains toys which meet the standards set by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission and that have been evaluated by the National Lekotek Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to making play accessible for children with disabilities across the country. Trained Lekotek play professionals assess the toys with children with disabilities and then highlight the toys' exceptional features by creating the copy within.

Washington PAVE

6316 S 12th Street

Tacoma, WA 98465-1900

Main Phone: (253) 565-2266 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 572-7368

Fax: (253) 566-8052

E-mail: wapave9@washingtonpave.com

Website: <http://www.washingtonpave.org>

Description: PAVE stands for Parents Are Vital in Education. PAVE educates parents who have children with disabilities regarding school issues does trainings regarding IEP, 504, and parent rights and responsibilities regarding the education of children with special needs. PAVE also provides information and support regarding early intervention services, transition, and mental health services for children and youth.

Child and Family Program

WA State Department of Services for the Blind

Toll Free: (800) 552-7103

Seattle Office Main Line: 206-721-4422

Fax: 206-721-4103

E-mail: information@dsb.wa.gov

Website: <http://www.dsb.wa.gov/>

Description: The Child and Family program serves visually impaired children and their families from birth through high school. Information and referral, advocacy and support are offered regarding developmental and educational programs and resources including infant stimulation, mobility and orientation and daily living skills. Consultation is also available regarding the Individual Education Plan (IEP), which is

part of the blind or visually impaired student's school experience. Summer work experience and college preparation assistance are offered to older children.

WA State School for the Blind

2214 E 13th St

Vancouver, WA 98661-4120

Main Phone: (360) 696-6321
(360) 696-6321 Ext. 171 (TTY)

Fax: (360) 737-2120

E-mail: webinfo@wssb.wa.gov

Website: <http://www.wssb.org>

Description: The WA State School for the Blind provides specialized quality educational services to visually impaired/blind youth ages 0-21 who are residents of Washington through residential placement, day student programs, and outreach services throughout the state by itinerant vision teachers. The school serves as a statewide demonstration and resource center, and a technology support service for school districts.

WA State Services for Children with Deaf-Blindness

Puget Sound Educational Service District/Special Services

800 Oakesdale Ave SW

Renton, WA 98057-5221

Main Phone: (425) 917-7833 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 664-4549

Fax: (425) 917-7833

E-mail: questions@psed.org

Website: <http://www.wsdsonline.org>

Description: Provides consultation and training to families and service providers of children who are deaf-blind up to age 22. The project is funded by federal grants through the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Services, at no cost to participants, include on-site consultation, newsletters, training retreats, parent-to-parent support, and a lending library.

Woodbine House

6510 Bells Mill Road

Bethesda, MD 20817-1636

Main Phone: (301) 897-3570

Toll Free: (800) 843-7323

Fax: (301) 897-5838

E-mail: Info@WOODBINEhouse.com

Website: <http://www.woodbinehouse.com>

Description: Woodbine House publishes *Children with Visual Impairments: A Parents Guide*, edited by M. Cay Holbrook, as well as many other books for and about children and young adults with developmental and physical disabilities.

CONSUMER/MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

Membership organizations for blind and visually impaired persons provide a variety of benefits and services to their members. Some maintain advocacy programs that focus on issues such as accessibility, employment, disability rights and awareness, changes in public policy, and other areas of common interest. Others concentrate on public education, information and referral, peer support networks, and publications.

American Council of the Blind

1155 15th Street NW # 1004

Washington, DC 20005-2706

Main Phone: (202) 467-5081

Fax: (202) 467-5085

Toll Free: (800) 424-8666

Fax: N/A

E-mail: info@acb.org

Website: <http://www.acb.org>

Description: ACB is a national membership organization established to promote the independence, dignity, and well-being of blind and visually impaired people. It works to enhance civil rights, employment, rehabilitation services, safe and expanded transportation, travel and recreation, Social Security benefits, accessibility, and more. ACB publishes the monthly *Braille Forum*, awards annual scholarships to blind post-secondary students, and provides information and referral.

Council of Citizens with Low Vision International

(Affiliate of The American Council of the Blind)

1155 15th Street NW, Suite 1004

Washington, DC 20005-2706

Main Phone: (714) 630-8098

Toll Free: (800) 733-2258

Fax: N/A

Website: <http://www.cclvi.org/>

Description: CCLVI provides information and referral via an 800 line, awards scholarships to students with low vision, edits a quarterly magazine, sponsors an annual convention and workshops, and assists in forming state chapters and support groups.

National Association for Visually Handicapped

22 W 21st Street, 6th Floor

New York, NY 10010-6904

Main Phone: (212) 889-3141
Fax: (212) 727-2931
E-mail: staff@navh.org
Website: <http://www.navh.org>

Description: A non-profit membership organization that advocates for and serves people with partial sight. NAVH maintains a lending library of large-print books, available free by mail, NAVH Update quarterly newsletter and information on eye conditions in English, Spanish and Russian.

National Federation of the Blind

1800 Johnson Street
Baltimore, MD 21230-4914
Main Phone: (410) 659-9314
Fax: (410) 685-5653
E-mail: nfb@nfb.org
Website: <http://www.nfb.org>

Description: A consumer organization of 50,000 blind members who are working together to improve opportunities for the blind. Services include public education, information and referral, NFB-Newsline[®] for the Blind, scholarships, the *Braille Monitor* and other publications, adaptive products, advocacy services and protection of civil rights, development and evaluation of technology, and support for blind persons and their families.

National Federation of the Blind

Washington Chapter

PO Box 2516
Seattle, WA 98111-2516
Main Phone: (425) 823-6380 or (206) 624-8007
Fax: N/A
E-mail: info@nfbw.org
Website: <http://www.nfbw.org>

Description: Local meetings of blind persons. Yearly scholarships for blind college or vocational education students. Support and information for parents of blind children.

Washington Council of the Blind

(American Council of the Blind Affiliate)
PO Box 6996
Kennewick, WA 99336-0602
Toll Free: (800) 255-1147
Fax: N/A
Email: info@wcbinfo.org
Website: <http://www.wcbinfo.org>

Description: Consumer organization of the blind providing information and referral, advocacy services, scholarships, and a newsletter four times a year. There are 16 chapters in Washington.

Washington State Deaf-Blind Citizens

PO Box 2322

Seattle, WA 98111-2322

Main Phone: (206) 524-1654 (TTY only)

Fax: N/A

E-mail: pres@wsdbc.org

Website: <http://www.wsdbc.org/>

Description: Offers recreational and social opportunities for deaf and visually impaired persons, and lobbies statewide for their rights and needs.

DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE EXEMPTIONS

Both local and long-distance carriers in Washington offer free directory assistance (with certain restrictions) to blind and visually impaired persons. An application form needs to be completed for each company. Call your local and long-distance carrier to apply.

AT&T

Main Phone: N/A

Toll Free: (800) 872-3883

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay>

Description: Charges are waived for long distance directory assistance calls for disabled customers, up to 50 calls per billing cycle. Applies to directory assistance calls for personal use, billed to one residential telephone line per certified customer. Some restrictions apply. Application and verification of visual impairment required.

Verizon

Toll Free: (800) 974-6006

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: http://www22.verizon.com/foryourhome/SAS/res_family_servfordis.asp

Description: Customers with disabilities can obtain exemptions for directory assistance calls. Call for more details and an application form.

Qwest Communications Special Needs Center

P.O. Box 2670

Omaha, NE 68103

Main Phone: N/A

Toll Free: (800) 223-3131

Fax: (866) 826-4839

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.qwest.com/residential/disabled/>

Description: Within the US West calling area, visually impaired customers can obtain exemptions for some local directory assistance calls, and exemptions from operator dialing assistance charges. Call for more details and an application form.

DOG GUIDES

Although there is no organization in Washington that provides trained dog guides, resources are available in the Northwest and throughout the country. Generally, a residency program is required, and applicants must be a minimum age. Some programs will accept people who still have some sight. The groups listed below are frequently used by Northwest residents.

Guide dogs should not be confused with service dogs. Service dogs help individuals in a variety of ways but they are not trained to guide blind individuals. For more information on service dogs contact The Delta Society at (425) 226-7357 or (425) 430-3256. Their Website is www.deltasociety.org.

Guide Dogs for the Blind (Headquarters)

PO Box 151200

San Rafael, CA 94915-1200

Main Phone: (415) 499-4000

Toll Free: (800) 295-4050

Fax: (415) 499-4035

E-mail: Information@guidedogs.com

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

Description: Provides mobility by means of dog guides to qualified blind persons in the U.S. and Canada. Applicants must be at least 16 years old, legally blind, and physically and emotionally capable of undergoing a required four-week in-residence training program. No charge for the dog, training, transportation or room and board. Two training campuses: San Rafael, California and Boring, Oregon.

Guide Dogs for the Blind

32901 SE Kelso Road

Boring, OR 97009-9058

Main Phone: (503) 668-2100

Toll Free: (800) 295-4050
Fax: N/A
Email: Information@guidedogs.com
Website: <http://www.guidedogs.com>

Description: The Pacific Northwest campus of Guide Dogs for the Blind, headquartered in San Rafael, California. All applications are sent from and processed by the San Rafael office.

The Seeing Eye, Inc.

PO Box 375
Morristown, NJ 07963-0375
Main Phone: (973) 539-4425
Fax: (973) 539-0922
E-mail: info@seeingeeye.org
Website: <http://www.seeingeeye.org>

Description: A philanthropy that helps blind people achieve increased independence and mobility. It teaches Seeing Eye dogs to guide; instructs blind people how to use and care for the dogs; and informs the public about the role of dog guides and the capabilities of blind people for independent living. It is the first and oldest dog guide school in North America.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

School districts in Washington are mandated by legislation to provide special education services to all eligible disabled students, from pre-school through high school or until the student is 21 years old. Most universities and colleges have special offices for disabled student services. Some private organizations provide specialized correspondence or training programs. You may also wish to consult the "Children and Their Families" section.

Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking and Technology (DO-IT)

University of Washington
Box 355670
Seattle, WA 98195-5670
Main Phone: (206) 685-3648 V/TTY
(509) 328-9531 (V/TTY Spokane)
Toll Free: (888) 972-3648 V/TTY
Fax: (206) 221-4171
E-mail: doit@u.washington.edu
Website: <http://www.washington.edu/doit/>

Description: DO-IT is a program for disabled high school students that will encourage them to explore college education and career options, including those in math, science, engineering, and technology. Students learn about computers, assistive

technology, the Internet, self-advocacy, accommodation strategies and resources. DO-IT also develops and provides publications, videotapes and electronic resources about disability-related issues, including adaptive technology, working with students with disabilities, college transition, and employment for students, parents, educators, care providers and employers.

Hadley School for the Blind

700 Elm Street

Winnetka, IL 60093-2506

Main Phone: (847) 441-8111 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 323-4238

Fax: (847) 446 - 9916

E-mail: info@hadley-school.org

Website: <http://www.hadley-school.org>

Description: Offers approximately 90 distance education courses in four program areas: Adult Continuing Education, High School Education, Family Education and Professional Education. The courses are free of charge to legally blind persons worldwide. Also offers several courses for parents and families of blind persons as well as blindness professionals. Braille instruction by correspondence is available.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic

20 Roszel Road

Princeton, NJ 08540-6206

Main Phone: (609) 452-0606

Toll Free: (800) 221-4792 (to order recordings)

Fax: (609) 987-8116

E-mail: custserv@rxbd.org

Website: <http://www.rxbd.org>

Description: A national nonprofit organization that lends textbooks on four-track cassette tape and CD, at all academic levels to people who cannot effectively read standard print because of a visual impairment, dyslexia or other physical disability. Over 91,000 recorded texts are available. Also provides bibliographic services and custom recording services.

Washington Instructional Resource Center for the Visually Impaired

2214 E 13th Street

Vancouver, WA 98661 4120

Main Phone: (360) 696-6321 ext. 183

Toll Free: (800) 562-4176 ext. 183

Fax: (800) 562-4176

E-mail: webinfo@wssb.wa.gov

Website: <http://www.wssb.wa.gov/IRC.asp>

Description: The Washington Instructional Resource Center is now part of the Washington State School for the Blind's statewide service. This program provides materials, equipment and consultative services to students and staff throughout the state.

WA State School for the Blind

2214 E. 13th St.

Vancouver, WA 98661-4120

Main Phone: (360) 696-6321

(360) 696-6321 Ext. 171 (TTY)

Fax: (360) 737-2120

Email: admin@wssb.wa.gov

Website: <http://www.wssb.org/>

Description: The WA State School for the Blind provides specialized quality educational services to visually impaired/blind youth ages birth -21 who are residents of Washington. Offers residential placement, day student programs, and outreach services throughout the state by itinerant vision teachers. The school serves as a statewide demonstration and resource center, and a technology support service for school districts.

WA State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Special Education Program Office

PO Box 47200

Olympia, WA 98504-7200

Main Phone: (360) 725-6075

(360) 664-3631 (TTY)

Fax: (360) 586-0247

E-mail: speced@ospi.wednet.edu

Website: <http://www.k12.wa.us>

Description: Public school districts in Washington are mandated to provide special education services to all eligible students. These might include mobility, communications, and low vision services, and may be provided by the school district or educational services districts. The Special Education Program Office, or the Washington State Department of Services for the Blind (Children's Program) can provide additional information.

EMPLOYMENT

If you want to go to work or start your own business, you may wish to consult one of the following organizations, in addition to other job resources available in your community. Since the Americans with Disabilities Act covers workplace accessibility and accommodation, you may also wish to consult that subject listing in this guide.

Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment

PO Box 9046

Olympia, WA 98507-9046

Main Phone: (360) 438-3168
(360) 438-3167 (TTY)

Fax: (360) 438-3208

E-mail: tolson2@esd.wa.gov

Website: <http://www.wa.gov/esd/gcde/>

Description: Advocacy group for people with disabilities that researches and distributes information on disability issues and access for disabled persons. A variety of publications are available on the issues.

Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind

2501 S Plum Street

PO Box 14959

Seattle, WA 98114-0959

Main Phone: (206) 322-4200
(206) 324-1388 (TTY)

Fax: (206) 329-3397

E-mail: jobs@seattlelh.org

Website: <http://www.seattlelighthouse.org>

Description: The Seattle Lighthouse creates and enhances opportunities for independence and self-sufficiency of people who are blind, Deaf-Blind, and blind with other disabilities. Blind and visually impaired individuals work in capacities ranging from manufacturing, to customer service, computer instructors, and support staff. The philosophy maintains that employees be provided with whatever supports are necessary for success in the workplace. Supports include an in-house sign language interpreting department to insure effective communication for Deaf-Blind employees. Training programs at the Seattle Lighthouse follow a number of tracks. For instance, they provide a comprehensive, nine-month computer and customer service training course for blind members of the community.

Venture Advisory Services

PO Box 70642

Seattle, WA 98107-0642

Main Phone: (206) 783-7917 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 854-4922

Fax: N/A

E-mail: kathy@ventureadvisoryservices.com

Website: <http://ventureadvisoryservices.com>

Description: Agency promotes self-employment for people with disabilities. Works as vendor to vocational rehabilitation agencies or for fee for service. Free phone consultation for initial help with small business development. Services provided statewide.

WA State Department of Services for the Blind

3411 S. Alaska St.

Seattle, WA 98118-1631

Main Phone: (206) 721-4422

Toll Free: (800) 552-7103

Fax: 206-721-4103

E-mail: information@dsb.wa.gov

Website: <http://www.dsb.wa.gov>

Description: Offers several services to increase the employment potential of eligible blind persons including a vocational rehabilitation program and the business enterprise program. Call to determine eligibility. Fee-for-service training also available.

WA State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

PO Box 45340

Olympia, WA 98504-5340

Main Phone: (360) 438-8000 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 637-5627

Fax: (360) 725-3636

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr>

Description: Assists persons with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and retain employment. Programs and services are designed for each individual. Works in partnership with the community and business to develop employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. No fees.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid for Low Vision Devices and Assistive Technology

Association of Blind Citizens Assistive Technology Fund

PO Box 246

Holbrook, MA 02343-0246

Main Phone: (781) 961-1023

Fax: (781) 961-0004

Email: president@blindcitizens.org

Website: <http://www.blindcitizens.org>

Description: Legally blind US citizens with family incomes under \$50,000 and cash assets under \$20,000 are eligible for grants that cover 50% of the retail price of adaptive aids. All applications must be submitted via Email and include name, address,

phone, Email and a description in 500 or fewer words of the device you wish to purchase and how it will help you achieve employment or increase your independence. Requests must be received by June 30th, September 30th, and December 31st.

Lions Clubs International

300 W. 22nd St.

Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842

Toll Free: (888) 331-7007

Fax: N/A

Email: resources@lionsclubs.org

Website: <http://www.lionsclubs.org>

Description: Lions Clubs International is dedicated to helping blind and visually impaired individuals. Many local Lions Clubs have funds available to help individuals purchase low vision devices. In Washington you can find your local Lions Club by calling the number listed above.

Pearle Vision Foundation

2465 Joe Field Rd

PO Box 227175

Dallas, TX 75229-3409

Main Phone: (972) 277-6191

Toll Free: (888) 331-7001

Fax: (972) 277-6422

Email: tparasil@luxotticaretail.com

Website: <http://www.pearlevision.com> (Click on "About Pearle" and then on "Community Support")

Description: Individuals who demonstrate financial hardship may apply for grants for low vision aids or equipment. A second party, such as an eye care professional, member of the clergy, or social worker, must sponsor applications. Grants are awarded quarterly. Contact the Foundation for an application.

Washington Assistive Technology Foundation (WATF)

100 South King Street, Ste. 280

Seattle, WA 98104

Main Phone: (206) 328-5116

Toll Free: (888) 808-8942 V/TTY

Fax: (206) 328-5126

E-mail: info@watf.org

Website: <http://www.watf.org>

Description: The Foundation offers low-interest loans for Assistive Technology (AT) devices and services (including among other things, Closed Circuit TVs (CCTV), computers with Braille or speech output, reading systems, note takers and medical devices (blood pressure cuffs, scales, etc.) with large print or speech output) and for

home and vehicle accessibility adaptations. Under its Telework project, loans are available to entrepreneurs and employees with disabilities for purchases of equipment needed to work from home or other "Telework" locations on a full or part-time basis. In addition, the Foundation offers a low cost CCTV rental program.

Financial Aid for Eye Care

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

5097 North Elston Avenue, Suite 100
Chicago, IL 60630-2460

Main Phone: N/A

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.knightstemplar.org>

Description: This Foundation offers financial assistance to citizens who cannot afford to pay for eye surgery. Contact the Foundation for an application.

Lions-Vosh Eye Clinic at the Millionair Club Charity

2515 Western Ave
Seattle, WA 98121-1307

Main Phone: (206) 728-5627

Fax: (206) 441-9736

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.millionairclub.org>

Description: Free eye exams and glasses available every Thursday morning by a group of volunteer opticians and optometrists. Glasses take approximately one week to make up. Make appointments by phone or show up Thursday at 7:45 am to be put on the stand-by list. Must bring valid state identification and be 18 or older.

Eye Care America- Senior EyeCare Program

The Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology
PO Box 429098

San Francisco, CA 94142-9098

Toll Free: (877) 887-6327

Fax: (415) 561-8567

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.eyecareamerica.org>

Description: Referrals provided for medical and surgical eye care to seniors who might otherwise go without it. Must be citizens or legal US residents, age 65 or older, who do not have access to an ophthalmologist seen in the past and are unable to afford care. There is no cost to the patient for the physician's services. A volunteer ophthalmologist will provide a free comprehensive medical eye exam and treatment

for any condition diagnosed at the initial visit. Eyeglasses, prescriptions, hospital, other medical services are not covered.

The Optometric Center of Seattle

124 21st Ave. (Basement of the New Hope Baptist Church)

Seattle, WA 98122-5912

Main Phone: (206) 325-1100

Fax: (206) 324-7641

E-mail: N/A

Website: N/A

Description: Non-profit clinic provides optometric vision care and glasses to low-income persons. There is a sliding fee scale for exams. Medical coupons accepted. Open Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

VISION USA

American Optometric Association

243 N Lindbergh Boulevard

St. Louis, MO 63141-7851

Main Phone: (314) 991-4100

Toll Free: (800) 766-4466

Fax: (314) 991-4101

E-mail: visionusa@aoa.org

Website: <http://www.aoa.org>

Description: An annual program that provides free eye exams to low-income, uninsured working people and their families who have had no eye examination within the last two years. Apply by phone, mail or on line.

"FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND" POSTAL PRIVILEGES

In compliance with postal regulations effective January 1965, a blind or visually impaired person may send unsealed correspondence recorded on magnetic tape, written in Braille or large type, talking book machines, and devices for blind persons free of charge through the US Mail if the mailing container bears the words "Free Matter for the Blind". An application, including certification of blindness or visual impairment, is required for eligibility. For more specific information, contact your local post office.

HOUSING

Many cities and counties have public housing authorities that provide rental subsidies for low-income elderly and disabled persons, or can provide a list of subsidized housing. Call directory assistance for your local housing authority, or for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. In some areas home sharing

programs can assist householders and tenants to arrange mutually beneficial situations. Increasingly, businesses are forming to help seniors look at housing options. Your local mayor's office for senior citizens or senior information and assistance office can also provide information about retirement residences and low-income housing, as well as direct you to minor home repair programs in your area.

The Alliance of People with disAbilities

4649 Sunnyside Avenue N #100

Seattle, WA 98103-6900

Main Phone: (206) 633-6623
(206) 632-3456 (TTY)

Fax: (206) 545-7059

E-mail: info@disabilitypride.org

Website: <http://www.disabilitypride.org/>

Description: Assistance is provided to at-risk families and individuals with disabilities in securing and maintaining permanent housing that meets their access needs. Services include Fair Housing Counseling, housing identification and referral, advocacy and intervention on behalf of the consumer.

Homesharing for Seniors/Seattle

2208 Second Ave

Seattle, WA 98121-2055

Main phone: (206) 448-5725
(206) 448-5025 (TTY)

E-mail: homesharing@seniorservices.org

Website: <http://www.seniorservices.org/homesharing/homeshare.htm>

Service Area: Seattle City limits

Description: Intergenerational program that brings together people who want to share their homes with people who are looking for a place to live. Each home seeker will have a private bedroom and share common areas of the home. Some arrangements involve paying rent; others require an exchange of services. At least one person in the match must be 55 years or older, or disabled.

Shared Housing Services

909-A South 11th Street

Tacoma, WA 98455-4533

Main Phone: (253) 272-1532

Fax: (253) 272-0315

Email: N/A

Website: N/A

Service area: Pierce, King (South)

Description: Matching and referral service for home sharing. Participants must be 18 years or older, or an emancipated minor. No fee.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Main Phone: (206) 220-5140 (to obtain recorded information and request lists)

Fax: N/A

Email: N/A

Website: N/A

Description: Provides information about eligibility requirements, lists of housing authorities, and lists of HUD-subsidized housing for low-income elderly and disabled persons. Specify which of the three area lists you want: King County (includes Snohomish and Pierce counties, and Seattle); Western WA (includes the rest of western Washington or Eastern WA. Leave your name, complete address including zip code, and complete telephone number including area code.

Home and Community Services Regional Offices

WA State Department of Social and Health Services

1737 Airport Way S., Ste. 130

Seattle, WA 98134-1636

Main Phone: (206) 341-7750

Toll Free: (800) 346-9257

Fax: (206) 341-7724

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.aasa.dshs.wa.gov>

Description: These offices can provide information, referrals, and authorizations for assisted living, adult family homes, nursing homes, and retirement homes. There are income and resource eligibility requirements.

WA State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office

Main Phone: N/A

Toll Free: (800) 562-6028

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: N/A

Description: A statewide advocacy program that handles questions, complaints, and concerns affecting people who live in nursing homes, boarding homes, and adult family homes.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

In many areas there are countywide information and referral lines that field a broad range of inquiries about the resources available in a given community, as well as handle emotional crisis calls. The following resources are a current sample; for listings in other areas contact your local United Way, senior information and assistance, or directory assistance.

GENERAL INFORMATION & REFERRAL BY COUNTY

Community Information Line

King County

Main Phone: (206) 461-3200

Toll Free: (800) 621-4636

Kitsap County Crisis Clinic

Main Phone: (360) 479-3033

Toll Free: (800) 843-4793

Pierce County

Main Phone: (253) 572-4357

Toll Free: (800) 572-4357

Skagit County

Main Phone: (425) 258-4227

Toll Free: (800) 223-8145

Snohomish County

Main Phone: (425) 258-4227

Toll Free: (800) 223-8145

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: N/A

Community Information Line specialists provide information and referral to over 3,000 government and non-profit social services agencies. Information includes eligibility requirements and application procedures. Specialized information on Caregiver Assistance Programs, and Disability Information and Assistance Programs.

CRISIS LINES

Trained phone workers provide emotional support and information and referral to callers in personal crisis. A crisis may involve thoughts of despair, relationship troubles, or other situations which can cause overwhelming distress.

King County

Main Phone: (206) 461-3222

Toll Free: (800) 244-5767

Kitsap County Crisis Clinic:

Main Phone: (360) 479-3033

Toll Free: (800) 843-4793

Pierce County:**Main Phone:** (253) 7998-4333**Toll Free:** (800) 576-7764**Skagit County:****Main Phone:** (425) 258-4357**Toll Free:** (800) 584-3578**Snohomish County:****Main Phone:** (425) 258-4357**Toll Free:** (800) 584-3578**Fax:** N/A**E-mail:** N/A**Website:** N/A**VISION RELATED****American Foundation for the Blind**

11 Penn Plaza #300

New York, NY 10001-2018

Main Phone: (212) 502-7600**Toll Free:** (800) 232-5463**Fax:** (212) 502-7777**E-mail:** afbinfo@afb.net**Website:** <http://www.afb.org>

Description: A national clearinghouse for information concerning non-medical aspects of blindness and visual impairment. Provides information and referral about programs, products, technology, and support groups. AFB Press publishes a variety of books, as well as the professional publication *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*.

Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted

9709 Third Ave NE, Suite 100

Seattle, WA 98115-2027

Main Phone: (206) 525-5556**Toll Free:** (800) 458-4888**Fax:** (206) 525-0422**E-mail:** csbps@csbps.com**Website:** <http://www.csbps.com>

Description: This Seattle based low vision rehabilitation agency is staffed Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm to answer your vision related questions. Callers will be connected to the specialist who can provide information about a wide array of services, and as well as questions related to vision and vision loss. The specialist can refer callers nationwide to vision rehabilitation resources in their area.

The Lighthouse Information and Resource Service

Lighthouse International

111 E 59th Street

New York, NY 10022-1202

Main Phone: (212) 821-9200

(212) 821-9713 (TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 334-5497

Fax: (212) 821-9707

E-mail: info@lighthouse.org

Website: <http://www.lighthouse.org>

Description: The Lighthouse Information and Resource service can refer callers nationwide to vision rehabilitation services in their area. Lighthouse information specialists can also provide information on eye diseases, adaptive technology, low vision specialists and clinics, support groups, and publications. The Information and Resource service operates Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., EST.

PHYSICIAN REFERRALS

Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

2033 Sixth Avenue #1100

Seattle, WA 98121-2585

Main Phone: (206) 441-9762 ext.3029

Toll Free: (800) 552-0612 ext.3029

Fax: (206) 441-5863

E-mail: info@eyeacademy.org

Website: <http://www.eyeacademy.org>

Description: Referrals to ophthalmologists in Washington. Call and ask for Kory Diemert.

Optometric Physicians of Washington

555 116th Avenue NE #166

Bellevue, WA 98004-5274

Main Phone: (425) 455-0874

Toll Free: (800) 562-1487 (referrals)

Fax: (425) 646-9646

E-mail: info@eyes.org

Website: <http://www.eyes.org>

Description: Referrals to optometric physicians in Washington.

LIBRARIES

The following libraries lend books, magazines, and other materials in accessible formats. You may also wish to check with your local city or county library to see whether they have a special access program for blind and visually impaired persons such as the one listed below.

Library Equal Access Program (LEAP)

Seattle Public Library
1000 Fourth Avenue, Third Floor
Seattle, WA 98104-1109

Main Phone: (206) 386-4636 (V/TTY)

Fax: (206) 386-4167

E-mail: From the homepage, click on "Contact Us" at the bottom. Then click on "Ask a Question" then on "Email".

Website: <http://www.spl.org>

Service area: Greater Seattle/King County

Description: LEAP provides adaptive equipment access to the more than one million items in the library's collection. LEAP patrons have open access to the Kurzweil personal readers, adaptive word processing computers, CCTVs, adaptive access to the Internet, the library's adapted automated catalog system, audio-described videos, as well as many other resources, and services.

VIP/PC –Kitsap Regional Library

1301 Sylvan Way
Bremerton, WA 98310

Main Phone: (360) 779-2237

Fax: N/A

E-mail: Bergsman@sysmatrix.net

Website: <http://www.krl.org>

Description: Special computer software including ZoomText, JAWS, Openbook or Kurzweil have been installed to help individuals with vision impairment access on-line reference services, the internet, or scan and read print materials. Individualized training is available. Currently this equipment is installed at the Bainbridge Island, Central, Port Orchard and Poulsbo branches. Expansion is planned.

Washington Talking Book and Braille Library

2021 9th Ave
Seattle, WA 98121-2783

Main Phone: (206) 615-0400
(206) 615-0419 (TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 542-0866

Fax: (206) 615-0437

E-mail: wtbbl@wtbbl.org

Website: <http://www.wtbbl.org>

Description: WTBBL provides talking, Braille, and large print books, a print collection on various disabilities, a professional reference service, and the Evergreen Radio Reading Service. Books about the Northwest or by Northwest authors are transcribed into Braille or onto tape. Anyone unable to read or use standard printed materials because of visual impairment or other disability is eligible for free services.

Seattle Public Library Mobile Services

2025 9th Ave.

Seattle, WA 98121-2737

Main Phone: 206-684-4713 (V/TTY)

Fax: 206-615-0449

E-mail: mobile.services@spl.org

Website: <http://www.spl.org>

Description: Mobile Services provides access to Seattle Public Library materials for citizens who cannot reach their libraries because of age, disability, or illness. Library materials can be delivered to nursing homes and retirement homes and to homebound individuals.

Traveling Library Center (TLC)

King County Library

960 Newport Way NW

Issaquah, WA 98027-2702

Main Phone: (425) 369-3456

Toll Free: (877)-905-2008

Fax: (425) 369-3419

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.kcls.org/tlc/tlcsvcs.cfm>

Service area: All of King County excluding Seattle, Renton, Enumclaw, Hunt's Point and Yarrow Point

Description: Vans deliver library materials to nursing and retirement homes. The Words on Wheels program brings materials to homebound individuals. We carry a wide selection of large-print books and books on cassette. No fee.

LOW VISION SERVICES

The goal of low vision rehabilitation is to enhance the usable sight you still have so that you can continue to do routine tasks and reach personal goals that are important to you, such as reading, sewing, cooking, and watching television. The process of rehabilitation involves an assessment of your functional vision and training in new visual skills and techniques using special low vision devices. Additional services are sometimes available to help you adjust to vision loss and maintain your independence at home and in the community.

Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted

9709 Third Ave NE Ste. 100

Seattle, WA 98115-2027

Main Phone: (206) 525-5556 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 458-4888 (V/TTY)

Fax: (206) 525-0422

E-mail: csbps.csbps.com

Website: <http://www.csbps.com>

Description: Low vision assessment and training in how to use vision more effectively with new visual skills, special techniques, and low vision aids. Loaner program is offered to try out magnifiers at home before purchase. Referral to other staff specialists for additional services as needed. Fees depend upon length, type, and complexity of visits. Medicare and supplemental insurance accepted. Satellite low vision clinics are in Bremerton and Sedro Woolley.

Casey Eye Institute

Oregon Health Sciences University

3375 SW Terwilliger Blvd

Portland, OR 97201-4197

Main Phone: (503) 494-3098

Toll Free: (888) 222-6478 (ext. 43098)

Fax: (503) 494-2282

E-mail: ceiweb@ohsu.edu

Website: <http://www.ohsuhealth.com/cei/>

Description: Provides comprehensive low vision evaluations, prescribes and dispenses visual aids, referral to community resources.

Edith Bishel Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

628 N Arthur

Kennewick, WA 99336-2128

Main Phone: (509) 735-0699

Toll Free: (800) 662-9226

E-mail: info@edithbishelcenter.org

Website: <http://www.bmi.net/ebcenter/>

Description: Low vision clinic, and low vision devices for loan and sale.

Lilac Blind Foundation

1212 N Howard St

Spokane, WA 99201-2410

Main Phone: (509) 328-9116

Toll Free: (800) 422-7893

Fax: (509) 328-8965

E-mail: info@lilacblindfoundation.org

Website: <http://www.lilacblindfoundation.org>

Description: Low vision evaluations provided by a low vision technician, by appointment on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Low vision devices, including magnifiers and CCTVs are for sale.

Lions Low Vision Clinic (Kirkland)

12727 Northup Way #25
Bellevue, WA 98005-1917

Main Phone: (425) 558-4228

Fax: (425) 558-3825

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://lionsdistrict19b.org>

Description: Comprehensive low vision evaluations, training, and loaner program for aids/devices. No one turned away for inability to pay.

WA State School for the Blind

Lions Low Vision Clinic

2214 E 13th Street
Vancouver, WA 98661-4120

Main Phone: (360) 696-6321 Ext. 120
(360) 696-6321 Ext. 171 (TTY)

E-mail: N/A

Website: www.wssb.org

Description: Low vision clinic on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for students and qualifying Washington State residents. Offers low vision assessments and training in how to use remaining vision better with low vision aids.

US VA Puget Sound Health Care System

American Lake Division and Seattle Division

Low Vision Clinics

American Lake Division
9600 Veterans Dr. SW
Tacoma, WA 98493-0003

Main Phone: (253) 583-1299

Toll Free: (800) 329-8387

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.pugetsound.med.va.gov>

Seattle Division

1660 South Columbian Way
Seattle, WA 98108-1532

Main Phone: (206) 764-2758

Toll Free: (800) 329-8387

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.pugetsound.med.va.gov>

Description: Comprehensive low vision services for veterans.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The following national organizations support research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of vision loss maintain public and professional education programs and publish information about a variety of subjects including eye diseases, aging and vision loss, living with vision impairment, and related topics. Some offer toll-free information and referral lines, support groups, and a variety of other services. Some of these organizations have state affiliates in Washington, which are also listed here.

American Diabetes Association

ATTN: National Call Center

1701 North Beauregard Street

Alexandria, VA 22311-1717

Main Phone: (703) 549-1500

Toll Free: (800) 342-2383

Fax: (703) 549-6995

E-mail: ASKADA@diabetes.org

Website: <http://www.diabetes.org>

Description: The nation's leading voluntary health agency providing diabetes research, information, and advocacy. Patient assistance is offered in many different areas, including general information about diabetes, nutrition, exercise, treatment, and referrals to diabetes medical professionals. The association also conducts a variety of patient activities including educational seminars and workshops, culturally diverse programs, support groups, and youth programs.

American Diabetes Association

Pacific Northwest Region

557 Roy Street, Lower Level

Seattle, WA 98109-4219

Main Phone: (206) 282-4616

Toll Free: (888) DIABETES (342-2383)

Fax: (206) 282-4729

E-mail: gwalker@diabetes.org

Website: <http://www.diabetes.org>

Description: Information and referral, information on support groups, advocacy, support of research, patient and professional education programs, summer camps for children with diabetes, lending library, and literature.

American Foundation for the Blind

11 Penn Plaza #300

New York, NY 10001-2018

Main Phone: (212) 502-7600

Toll Free: (800) 232-5463

Fax: (212) 502-7777

E-mail: afbinfo@afb.net

Website: <http://www.afb.org>

Description: A national clearinghouse for information concerning non-medical aspects of blindness and visual impairment. Provides information and referral about programs, products, technology, and support groups. AFB Press publishes a variety of books, as well as the professional publication *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*.

The Foundation Fighting Blindness

11435 Cronhill Drive

Owings Mill, MD 21117-2220

Main Phone: (410) 568-0150

Toll Free: (888) 394-3937
(800) 683-5555 (TTY)

Fax: (410) 363-2393

E-mail: info@blindness.org

Website: <http://www.blindness.org>

Description: Offers information and referral services for affected individuals and their families as well as doctors and eye care professionals. Provides comprehensive information kits on Retinitis Pigmentosa, Macular Degeneration, and Usher Syndrome. Our newsletter, Fighting Blindness News, presents articles on coping, research updates, and Foundation news and is published 6 times per year, every other month. National conferences are held annually.

Glaucoma Research Foundation

490 Post Street #1427

San Francisco, CA 94102-1305

Main Phone: (415) 986-3162

Toll Free: (800) 826-6693

Fax: (415) 986-3763

E-mail: info@glaucoma.org

Website: <http://www.glaucoma.org>

Description: The Glaucoma Research Foundation (GRF) is a national non-profit agency dedicated to protecting the sight and independence of individuals with glaucoma, through research and education, with the ultimate goal of finding a cure. The GRF is a leading non-government funder of basic and clinical research concerning

glaucoma in the United States. The GRF is the most comprehensive source of education, support and information for people living with glaucoma.

**Helen Keller National Center
NW Regional Office**

1620 18th Avenue

Suite 201

Seattle, WA 98122-7007

Main Phone: (206) 324-9120

(206) 324-1133 (TTY)

Fax: (206) 324-9159

E-mail: nwhknc@juno.com

Website: <http://www.helenkeller.org/national>

Description: Serves individuals with a combined hearing and vision impairment, their families, and service providers who work with them. Provides consultation, resources, information, co-ordination of services, advocacy, and referrals to the most appropriate program for comprehensive services.

Macular Degeneration International

6700 N. Oracle Rd., Ste. 505

Tucson, AZ 85704-7736

Main Phone: (520) 797-2525

Toll Free: (800) 393-7634

Fax: (520) 797-8018

E-mail: MDinfo@blindness.org

Website: <http://www.maculardegeneration.org>

Description: A nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering scientific research while at the same time providing educational seminars and support programs to help people with macular diseases effectively cope with their vision-related problems. A \$25 membership entitles members to a resource binder giving listings of services, programs, and consumer product catalogs; audiotape; biannual newsletter; and complimentary newsletter for the family. Website can be viewed in large print with one click.

The Macular Degeneration Partnership

8733 Beverly Blvd., Suite 201

Los Angeles, CA 90048-1844

Main Phone: (888) 430-9898

E-mail: MDinfo@blindness.org

Website: <http://www.amd.org>

Description: The Macular Degeneration Partnership provides comprehensive, easily understood and up to the minute information about macular degeneration to the public through the Internet, telephone, public events and printed materials, to support research and to coordinate advocacy efforts.

National Eye Institute Information Office

National Institutes of Health

Building 31, Room 6A32

31 Center Drive, MSC 2510

Bethesda, MD 20892-0001

Main Phone: (301) 496-5248

Fax: (301) 402-1065

E-mail: 2020@nei.nih.gov

Website: <http://www.nei.nih.gov>

Description: Supports and conducts research on the eye and eye diseases; publishes a variety of medical information, including information on visual impairment. All materials are available for free in bulk quantities.

Prevent Blindness America

211 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1700

Chicago, IL 60606

Main Phone: (800) 331-2020

Fax: (847) 843-8458

E-mail: info@preventblindness.org

Website: <http://www.preventblindness.org>

Description: The nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Prevent Blindness America serves millions of people each year through public and professional education, certified vision screening training, community and patient services, programs, and research. Together with a network of affiliates, divisions and chapters, the organization is committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America.

PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) contracts with various organizations throughout the state to provide chore services to low-income elderly or disabled persons. These services can include meal preparation, house cleaning, laundry, and shopping. Other businesses and nonprofit organizations also provide these and other personal and home care services on a fee-for-service or volunteer basis. Call your local senior information and assistance office to help you locate resources in your area.

HOME AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REGIONAL OFFICES

WA State Department of Social and Health Services

Toll Free: (800) 459-0421 (Region I: Spokane and surrounding counties)

(800) 822-2097 (Region II: Yakima and surrounding counties)

(866) 608-0836 (Region III: Snohomish, Skagit, Island, San Juan and Whatcom counties)

(800) 346-9257 (Region IV: King County)

(800) 442-5129 (Region V: Pierce & Kitsap counties)

(800) 462-4957 (Region VI: Olympia and surrounding counties)

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.aasa.dshs.wa.gov>

Description: These offices can provide information, referrals, and authorizations for chore services, COPES, Medicaid personal care, assisted living, adult family homes, nursing homes, and adult residential care. There are income and resource eligibility requirements to receive these services. The offices can also provide information about "private pay" chore services.

VOLUNTEER CHORE SERVICES

Catholic Community Services

100 23rd Ave South

Seattle WA 98144-2302

Main Phone: (206) 328-5774 (King County)

(509) 328-8400 (Spokane)

(253) 502-2690 (Tacoma)

(425) 257-2111 ext. 3303 (Snohomish County)

(360) 750-6922 (Vancouver)

(509) 965-7105 (Yakima)

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.ccsww.org>

Description: Volunteers offer weekly chore services to seniors 60 years of age and older, and to disabled persons 18 and older, who do not qualify for DSHS chore services and cannot afford private chore services. Services include transportation, housekeeping, laundry, shopping, yard work, cooking, minor repairs, and other non-medical assistance. Regional offices can also refer you to your local CCS offices. Services depend upon volunteer availability.

SENIOR RESOURCES

Throughout Washington, senior information and assistance offices provide information and referrals on a variety of topics including federal and state programs, tenant/landlord regulations, Meals on Wheels, counseling, employment, transportation, Social Security, legal services, home repair, chore services, etc. Many communities, towns, and cities have also developed their own support network for seniors. Check local directory assistance for the senior information and assistance office nearest you. Your nearest service provider can also direct you to senior resources in your area.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Catholic Community Services of King County

100 23rd Avenue S
Seattle, WA 98144

Main Phone: (425) 562-6850
(206) 328-5646 (TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 499-5979

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.ccsww.org>

Description: A volunteer advocacy program that helps seniors and disabled persons in King County obtain the services they need to remain independent. Home visits assist with organizing and processing Medicare and related insurance claims; individual advocacy with government agencies; a variety of applications including Supplemental Security Income, property tax exemptions, and reduced transportation fares; and information and referral.

Elder Care Locator Service

Toll Free: (800) 677-1116

Or dial 711 for your relay operator and ask to be connected to the Elder Care Locator Service.

E-mail: eldercarelocator@spherix.com

Website: <http://www.eldercare.gov>

Description: A nationwide information and referral service that helps locate state and local senior information and assistance offices around the country. Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST.

Computer Classes for Seniors

Seattle Public Library

1000 Fourth Ave.

Seattle WA 98104-1109

Main Phone: (206) 386- 4636

Fax: (206) 386-4167

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.spl.org>

Description: Computer classes are offered to seniors at the central Seattle Library in Computer Basics, Internet Basics and Beginning E-mail. Screen magnifying software is supplied. Call or go to the Website and click on for a schedule.

The Lighthouse National Center on Vision and Aging

The Lighthouse Inc. (New York)

Toll Free: (800) 829-0500

E-mail: info@lighthouse.org

Website: www.lighthouse.org

Description: The Center is dedicated to promoting the interests of older people with, or at risk of incurring, a visual impairment. Services include a National toll-free information and referral line and an array of print and audio-visual materials for consumers and professionals. The Center also conducts professional training, engages in research, and develops educational curricula and other materials.

SENIOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE (SENIOR I&A)

Senior information and assistance offices provide a wide variety of information about federal and state programs, regulations for tenants and landlords, housing, homeowner concerns, insurance, legal services, in-home care, and other matters of interest to seniors. To locate the nearest office, consult the telephone directory, call your senior center, call the Seattle Senior I&A office listed below (206) 448-3110, or call the nationwide referral service ElderCare Locator (800) 677-1116.

Senior Information and Assistance/Senior Services

2208 Second Ave.

Seattle, WA 98121-2055

Main Phone: (206) 448-5757

(206) 448-5025 (TTY)

Toll Free: (888) 435-3377 (WA only)

Fax: (206) 448-5748

E-mail: webmaster@seniorservices.org

Website: <http://www.seniorservices.org>

Service Area: King County

Description: Information on services available for senior citizens in King County, screening and referrals for case management, Respite Program, and Home and Community core services. Advocate for clients eligible for services and not receiving them. Consumer information is available.

Skagit Senior Information and Assistance/Case Management

315 S Third

Mount Vernon, WA 98273-3855

Main Phone: (360) 336-9345 (V/TTY)

Fax: (360) 336-9696

E-mail: On homepage click on "Contact Us"

Website: <http://www.nwrcwa.org>

Service Area: Skagit County

Description: Gateway for information and advocacy for seniors throughout Skagit County and for family and friends caring for a loved one who is disabled. Services include information and referral on topics, including but not limited to, respite, case management, Medicaid, Meals on Wheels, in-home care, transportation, housing, legal

issues, and insurance. Maintains an extensive database of resources, programs, and services for seniors.

Senior Information and Assistance/Snohomish County

8221 44th Ave W, Suite E

Mukilteo, WA 98275-2847

Main Phone: (425) 355-1112

Toll Free: (800) 422-2024

Fax: (425) 353-1112

E-mail: info@sssc.org

Website: <http://www.sssc.org>

Service area: Snohomish County

Description: Senior Information and Assistance is the recognized gateway for information and advocacy for older adults in Snohomish County. Senior I & A staff members maintain a computerized database of more than 850 programs and services that can be accessed through a single telephone call. Senior I & A is the formal intake point for the Snohomish County Case Management and Respite Programs. I&A also makes referrals for State Funded Long Term Care services through DSHS. Vietnamese, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog speaking staff provide outreach and information services to the Chinese, Korean, Southeast Asian, Hispanic and Filipino communities. We also have the AT&T Language Line available to assist with callers who speak other languages.

Washington Senior Citizens Lobby

1501 S Capitol Way Suite 102

Olympia, WA 98501-2220

Main Phone: (360) 754-0207

Toll Free: (800) 562-6118 (during legislative sessions)

Fax: (360) 956-0362

E-mail: seniorlobby@qwest.org

Website: <http://www.waseniorlobby.org>

Description: During legislative sessions, provides information and an opportunity to express pro or con opinions about particular bills under consideration in Olympia. Messages will be hand delivered to legislators.

AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

Aging and Adult Services Administration

WA State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

PO Box 45600

Olympia, WA 98504-5600

Toll Free: (800) 422-3263

(800) 737-7931 (TDD)

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.aasa.dshs.wa.gov>

Description: Thirteen area agencies on aging are responsible for planning, advocacy, and funding for senior programs throughout Washington. They contract with community-based agencies to provide chore services, transportation, respite services, in-home care, legal services, nutrition services, adult day care, and other services. They also work on legislation affecting seniors, do some case management, and fund local senior information and assistance programs.

SIGN LANGUAGE SERVICES

The following organizations provide sign language interpretation in a variety of situations and settings for people who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing. Each service has its own fee structure and policies, and may provide other services as well.

Interpreter Referral Service

Community Service Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

1609 19th Ave

Seattle, WA 98122-2848

Main Phone: (877) 457-5777

Fax: (206) 322-0074

E-mail: interpreter_referral@cscdhh.org

Website: <http://www.cscdhh.org/>

Description: The Interpreter Referral Service provides referral of certified and/or qualified interpreters for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing people in the Puget Sound area. More than 75 interpreters are available, and fees vary depending upon skill level and interpreting situation. The interpreters are not employees of the Interpreter Referral Service. Other services include conference interpreter planning, real time captioning, and relay interpreting.

Sign On: A Sign Language Interpreting Resource

1414 Dexter Avenue N. #316

Seattle WA 98109

Main Phone: (206) 632-7100

(206) 632-7200 (TTY)

Toll Free: (866) 688-7100

Fax: (206) 632-0405

E-mail: Terps@SignOnASL.com

Website: <http://www.signonasl.com>

Service area: Puget Sound

Description: Sign language interpreting resource: American Sign Language and English in visual and tactile forms serving deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing persons.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Blind and visually impaired persons throughout the country enjoy a wide range of sports and recreational activities including golf, riding, skiing, and overseas travel. The following organizations provide a wide variety of opportunities. Your county parks and recreation department may also have developed special programs. You may also wish to consult your nearest service provider or the "Arts and Entertainment" section of this guide.

Bowen Lodge by the Sea

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind

380 Cardena Rd.

Bowen Island, BC

PO Box A-34

VON 1GO CANADA

Main Phone: (604) 947-2129

Toll Free: (877) 947-2129

Fax: (604) 947-2122

E-mail: info@bowenlodgebythesea.com

Website: <http://www.bowenlodgebythesea.com>

Description: CNIB sponsors summer camps for blind, visually impaired, and deaf-blind persons in July and August at its lodge on Bowen Island near Vancouver. Adult, teen, and children's camp sessions are scheduled. Hiking, fishing, crafts, games, and other entertainment are organized for guests. No attendant care is available, but guides may accompany guests.

Center Point

1408 N Washington Street

Spokane, WA 99201-2438

Main Phone: (509) 325-5451

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: N/A

Description: Recreational, social, and educational activities for people with disabilities including blindness and visual impairment. Day Out for the Blind organizes day-long recreational activities every Friday for blind and visually impaired persons.

Challenge Aspen

PO Box M

Aspen, CO 81612-7414

Main Phone: (970) 923-0578

Fax: (970) 923-7338

E-mail: possibilities@challengeaspen.com

Website: <http://www.challengeaspen.com>

Description: Winter activities in Aspen, Colorado, including downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, ice-skating and dog sledding. Volunteer guides available to accompany individuals with disabilities including vision impairment. Various summer activities also available with access to volunteer guides.

The Footloose Sailing Association

4509 Interlake Ave. N. #142

Seattle, WA 98103-6782

Main Phone: (206) 382-2680

Fax: N/A

E-mail: info@footloosesailing.org

Website: <http://www.footloosesailing.org>

Description: Offers day sails, sailing lessons, and other sailing opportunities to people with disabilities, including those who are blind or visually impaired. Most sailing is on Lake Washington.

Mobility International USA

132 E. Broadway, Suite 343

Eugene, OR 97401

Main Phone: (541) 343-1284 (V/TTY)

Fax: (541) 343-6812

E-mail: info@miusa.org

Website: <http://www.miusa.org>

Description: MIUSA, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1981, promotes international educational exchange and community service for people of all disabilities and all ages. MIUSA manages the National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange, a project that provides free information, referrals and resources about international exchange to people with disabilities.

Oral Hull Foundation for the Blind, Inc.

PO Box 157

43233 SE Oral Hull Road

Sandy, OR 97055-0157

Main Phone: (503) 668-6195

Fax: N/A

E-mail: webmaster@oralhull.org

Website: <http://www.oralhull.org>

Description: Offers two week-long camp sessions for blind and visually impaired individuals every summer at this recreational facility. The July session is for adults and the August session is for youth. Activities include trout fishing, swimming, crafts,

competitive games, and other entertainment. The park is available year around for groups and individual events.

**Outdoor Recreation Information Center
National Park Service/US Forest Service**

222 Yale Avenue N

Seattle, WA 98109-5429

Main Phone: (206) 470-4060

Toll Free: (888) 467-2757

Fax: N/A

E-mail: parkspass@nationalparks.org

Website: http://www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm

Description: The National Park Service issues lifetime passes to seniors and disabled persons that provide free admission and reduced camping fees in national parks. Apply in person at any National Park Service site across the country or at the Outdoor Recreation Information Center. The Golden Age Passport costs \$10; the Golden Access Passport is free.

Ski For Light/Puget Sound

Event Location:

Trollhaugen Sons of Norway Lodge, Erling Stordahl Snow Park

Stampede Pass, Washington

Main Phone: (206) 297-7579

Fax: N/A

E-mail: info@sfl.org.

Website: <http://www.sfl.org>

Description: Ski For Light, a Sons of Norway outreach program, teaches visually and mobility impaired adults how to cross-country ski.

Outdoors For All Foundation

1621 114th Avenue SE #132

Bellefield Office Park, Arbor Bldg.

Bellevue, WA 98004-6905

Main Phone: (425) 462-0978

(425) 462-0979 (TTY)

Fax: (425) 462-0980

E-mail: info@outdoorsforall.org

Website: <http://www.outdoorsforall.org>

Service area: Western Washington

Description: Outdoors For All Foundation provides year-round outdoor recreational activities and education in a variety of adaptive sports, such as, river rafting, cycling, hiking, in-line skating, canoeing, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowboarding, snowshoeing, Day Camps and Custom Events.

Travel Discoveries, Inc.

2522 Rucker Ave., Apt. 305

Everett, WA 98201-5715

Main Phone: (425) 783-0705

E-mail: N/A

Website: N/A

Description: Educational Discoveries, Inc. of Mukilteo and Mercedes Dalrymple work together in a group travel for the visually impaired. Mercedes, who is trained to be a tour guide, previously worked with Evergreen Travel of Edmonds. Mercedes trains all her guides, and at least one guide is provided for every three visually disabled persons traveling with their groups.

United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA)

33 N Institute

Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3508

Main Phone: (719) 630-0422

Fax: (719) 630-0616

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.usaba.org>

Description: USABA is a membership organization dedicated to ensuring that blind and visually impaired athletes have the same sport competition and training opportunities as their sighted counterparts. USABA provides competition and training opportunities for grassroots through elite-level athletes in nine established sports, and it may add other sports in the future. USABA is a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

United States Blind Golfers Association (USBGA)

3094 Shamrock St. North

Tallahassee, FL 32309-2735

Main phone: (615) 885-2952

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.blindgolf.com>

Description: USBGA has golf tournaments for players who are blind and visually impaired and publishes a biannual newsletter, *The Midnight Golfer*.

WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Attn: License Dept

600 Capitol Way N

Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Main Phone: (360) 902-2464 (License Division)

Fax: N/A

Email: licensing@dfw.wa.gov

Website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

Description: Will issue a fishing license free of charge to Washington residents who are blind or visually impaired. You must apply for a disability card through the state office (above) in order to obtain a license.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

SSI is a financial assistance program administered by the Social Security Administration to low-income elderly and disabled persons. Recipients are eligible for Medicaid benefits through the Department of Social and Health Services. Past employment or contributions into Social Security are not required. Some community organizations have special programs to help applicants fill out the necessary paperwork. Ask your nearest service provider for local resources.

US Social Security Administration

Toll Free: (800) 772-1213

(800) 325-0778 (TTY)

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.ssa.gov>

Description: The SSA administers Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for low-income elderly or disabled persons, Social Security income, Disability Program benefits, Medicare, and Survivor's Benefits. Call the 1-800 number for information about these programs, referral to the nearest office, benefit payment problems, etc.

SUPPORT GROUPS

The experience of losing your vision, or of being blind, is different for each person. Some people find it helpful to meet regularly with others who have also lost their sight to share experiences, exchange tips for living well with vision loss, and learn about relevant programs and services in their community. There are many vision-related peer support groups operating throughout the state of Washington. Ask the vision rehabilitation service provider nearest you about support groups in your area.

Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted

9709 Third Ave. NE, Suite 100

Seattle, WA 98115-2027

Main Phone: (206) 525-5556

Toll Free: (800) 458-4888

E-mail: csbps@csbps.com

Website: <http://www.csbps.com>

Service area: King, Snohomish, Skagit and some other nearby counties.

Description: CSBPS makes an effort to keep up with local vision-related support groups in King, Snohomish, and Skagit counties as well as other nearby cities. We also often have information about groups or contacts in other parts of Washington State. Please call us to find out if there is a group in your area or if we have another contact for you. Beyond Washington State, we recommend contacting **your local vision services agency, local senior center, local eye care provider, or Lighthouse International** at (800) 829-0500 to inquire about vision-related support groups in your area.

TAX ASSISTANCE

Free tax assistance is available to elderly, disabled, and non-English speaking taxpayers at senior centers, libraries, and other locations in many communities. Free tax assistance for homebound people is also available. Call your local senior information and assistance office or local library to find out about the site nearest you. The Washington State Department of Revenue offers property tax relief programs for senior citizens and people with disabilities. Your local county assessor may also provide special tax exemptions based on disability, age, or income.

US Internal Revenue Service

Main Phone: (206) 442-1040 (Seattle, tax assistance)

Toll Free: (800) 829-1040 (Statewide, tax assistance)
(800) 829-4059 (TTY, tax assistance)

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.irs.gov/>

Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE)

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

AARP Member Services Office

9750 3rd Ave NE #450

Seattle, WA 98115

Main Phone: (206) 526-7918

Toll Free: (866) 227-7457

Fax: (206) 517-9350

E-mail: wa@aarp.org

Website: <http://www.AARP.org/states/wa>

Description: TCE and VITA are programs of the IRS that provide free tax assistance. TCE assists taxpayers age 60 or older. VITA assists low-income, disabled, elderly, or non-English speaking taxpayers. Trained volunteers can help prepare basic tax

returns and some basic schedules. To find the nearest site, call the above numbers between February 1st and April 15th, your local library or community center, or senior information and assistance.

Washington Talking Book and Braille Library2021 9th Ave

Seattle, WA 98121-2783

Main Phone: (206) 615-0400 (V/TTY)**Toll Free:** (800) 542-0866 (V/TTY)**Fax:** (206) 615-0437**E-mail:** wtbbl@wtbbl.org**Website:** <http://www.spl.org/wtbbl/wtbbl.html>

Description: Braille copies of major tax forms are available at the library.

Property Tax Division**WA State Department of Revenue**

PO Box 47471

Olympia, WA 98504-7471

Main Phone: (360) 570-5871**Fax:** (360) 586-7602**E-mail:** N/A**Website:** <http://dor.wa.gov/content/taxes/Property/default.aspx>

Description: Property tax relief programs for senior citizens and people with disabilities. Taxpayer assistance locations are found throughout the state. Contact your local county assessor's office.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES

Local or long-distance telephone companies may offer several free or subsidized services to blind and visually impaired persons including free directory assistance, telephone aids, phone credit cards in Braille, and other programs. See the section on "Directory Assistance Exemptions" for more information on that service. Washington also has a statewide telephone communication system for deaf persons called the WA State TTY Relay Service (see below). Utility credit programs may be available to low-income seniors and adults with disabilities to help with water, electricity, and other bills. The Department of Housing and Human Services also offers special utility rates for other very low-income households. Your local service provider will be able to refer you to such programs.

AT&T Accessible Communications Product Center**Toll Free:** (800) 233-1222 (V/TTY)**Fax:** N/A**E-mail:** N/A**Website:** N/A

Description: Information about telephone adapters and amplifiers for people who are visually impaired or hard of hearing. Products may be ordered by phone.

WA State Telecommunications Relay Service

Attn: Mark Tauscher

701 Pike St, Suite 2100

Seattle, WA 98101

Toll Free: (888) 655-3514 (TTY)

(866) 410-5787 ext.89962 (Voice)

Fax: (206) 254-5138

E-mail: N/A

Website: www.washingtonrelay.com

Description: A 24-hour statewide service that links deaf and hard-of-hearing people via the telephone. To use the service, dial the appropriate number (above), then give the agent the number you would like to call and she/he will stay on the line to relay the conversation. The service is free to callers, although long distance calls will be billed accordingly.

Telecommunications Access Service (TAS)

Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

1155 SE Washington St. M/S-45301

Olympia, WA 98504-1140

Main Phone: (360) 902-8000

Fax: (360) 902-0855

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/basicneeds/dhh2tas.html>

Description: TAS distributes specialized phone equipment to people who are certified as deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or speech-disabled and live in Washington. Equipment is free or for sale on a sliding scale based on income level.

TRANSPORTATION

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, citizens with disabilities, including those that are blind or visually impaired, have a right to equal access to public transportation services. Your local public transportation company may offer free bus travel training and discounted fares. If bus travel training is not available through the bus company, contact your local vision rehabilitation service provider for this type of training. If your disabilities prevent you from using the regular bus system ask about your local paratransit option. Paratransit commonly provides door-to-door van shuttle service covering the same territory as the regular bus routes. Sometimes you may also have the paratransit option of taxi service at a reduced rate. If you have questions about public transportation, contact your local or regional transportation agency. If you are a Medicaid recipient you are also eligible for free transportation to and from Medicaid

covered services. Additionally your community may have a volunteer transportation program that will provide free transportation by volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles. To find out more about your transportation options, contact your local senior information and assistance office.

VETERANS

If you receive or are eligible to receive veterans' benefits, you may wish to contact the sources listed below for assistance. In some areas (e.g. Spokane, Walla Walla, Vancouver, Tacoma, Seattle), you may wish to contact the local VA health care system or the veterans benefits counselor of a service organization such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Am Vets, or other veteran's groups.

Blinded Veteran's Association

477 H Street NW

Washington, DC 20001-2612

Main Phone: (800) 669-7079

Fax: N/A

E-mail: bva@bva.org

Website: <http://www.bva.org>

Description: BVA is the only Congressionally chartered nonprofit veterans service organization dedicated to America's blinded veterans. The Field Service Program is BVA's backbone. All BVA Field Reps are blinded veterans. They link veterans and their families with services, rehabilitation training, and other benefits. BVA publishes a bimonthly newsletter called the *BVA Bulletin*. BVA also provides continuing education scholarships for the spouses and dependent children of blinded veterans.

US VA Puget Sound Health Care System (American Lake Division)

American Lake Division / Blind Rehabilitation Program

9600 Veterans Dr. SW

Tacoma, WA 98493-5000

Main Phone: (253) 582-8440

Toll Free: (800) 329-8387

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: N/A

Description: The Blind Rehabilitation Center has a 15-bed hospital that provides comprehensive inpatient services including low vision clinic, orientation and mobility, independent living skills, and training in the use of adaptive aids including computer-related assistive technology.

US VA Puget Sound Health Care System (Seattle Division)

Seattle Division / Blind Rehabilitation Program

1660 S Columbian Way

Seattle, WA 98108-1532

Main Phone: (206) 762-2010

Toll Free: (800) 329-8387

Fax: (206) 764-2477

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.va.gov/blindrehab/>

Description: Comprehensive outpatient services related to vision impairment include an eye clinic, all aspects of rehabilitation teaching, orientation and mobility, independent living skills, and adaptive aids.

US VA Visual Impairment Services Teams (VIST)

1660 S Columbian Way

Seattle, WA 98108-1532

Main Phone: (206) 764-2758 (Seattle)

Fax: N/A

Main Phone: (509) 434-7670 (Spokane)

Fax: N/A

Main Phone: (253) 582-8440 x76842 (Tacoma)

Fax: N/A

Description: VIST Coordinators are found at the VA Health Care Systems listed above. VIST can help visually impaired veterans find appropriate medical care, set up regular eye care, provide counseling, arrange blind rehabilitation training, review VA benefits, and provide referral to other services that may help with job training, in-home independence skills, and other resources.

WA State Department of Veterans Affairs

505 E. Union

Olympia, WA 98504-1155

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Website: <http://www.dva.wa.gov>

VOTER INFORMATION

To register to vote in Washington, you must be at least 18 years of age by Election Day, a US citizen, and a legal resident of Washington. If you are registered to vote, and you are disabled or over the age of 65, you may apply for status as an ongoing absentee voter. This will entitle you to automatically receive an absentee ballot for each subsequent election through January of the next odd-numbered year. At that time, the county auditor will automatically notify you and permit you to renew your status as an ongoing absentee voter. Contact your local county auditor for an application. The county auditor's office or county elections department will also be able to help you with any other questions about voter registration or voting.

Washington Secretary of State

Toll Free: (800) 448-4881 (Voter Hotline)
(800) 422-8683 (TTY)

Description: Provides information and referral; publishes and distributes voter's information pamphlets in large print, Braille, and cassette tape for statewide general elections.

Washington Talking Book and Braille Library

2021 9th Ave

Seattle, WA 98121-2783

Main Phone: (206) 615-0400 (V/TTY)

Toll Free: (800) 542-0866 (V/TTY)

Fax: (206) 615-0437

E-mail: wtbbl@wtbbl.org

Website: <http://www.wtbbl.org>

Description: Braille copies of major tax forms are available at the library.

Changes and Additional Listings

If you would like to make changes to your entry in this edition of *Visual Impairment and Blindness: A Resource Guide*, or suggest an additional listing for the next edition, please complete this form and send it to Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted at the address below. Thank you!

Organization Name:

Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip:

Phone: (_____) _____

TTY: (_____) _____ Toll Free #

Fax: (_____) _____ E-mail:

Service area in WA (if applicable):

Description of programs, services, activities, etc:

Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted

Attn: Information & Referral Specialist

9709 Third Ave NE #100, Seattle, WA 98115-2027

Phone: (206) 525-5556 or (800) 458-4888

Fax: (206) 525-0422

E-mail: csbps@csbps.com

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