

DEAF-BLIND RESOURCES

The term deaf-blindness refers to any combination of vision and hearing loss, not necessarily complete deafness and complete blindness. Most individuals who are deaf-blind have some useful vision and/or hearing, while others may have no residual sight or hearing. There is a wide range of cognitive and developmental ability among individuals who are deaf-blind. Because deaf-blindness is a combination of vision and hearing losses, no two individuals who are deaf-blind have the same needs.

Children who are deaf-blind need early intervention to increase their interest and understanding of the world around them. The information that most children acquire naturally must be introduced deliberately and systematically to children who are deaf-blind.

Many individuals who are deaf-blind need to utilize the services of a Support Service Provider (SSP). A SSP is a sighted person (deaf, hard of hearing or hearing) that works with a person who is deaf-blind. SSPs provide: sighted guiding, environmental, visual and auditory descriptions, facilitate communications with others, transportation and other assistive services.

AMERICAN ACTION FUND FOR BLIND CHILDREN AND ADULTS

1800 Johnson Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
(410) 659-9315
Website: www.actionfund.org
E-mail: actionfund@actionfund.org

Kenneth Jernigan Library for Blind Children

18440 Oxnard Street
Tarzana, CA 91356
(818) 343-3219
Website: www.actionfund.org/actionfund/Contact_KJ_Library.asp
E-mail: JerniganLibrary@actionfund.org

The American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults is a service agency which specializes in providing help to people who are blind which is not readily available from government programs or other existing service systems. The services are planned especially to meet the needs of children and the elderly who are blind and individuals who are deaf-blind. The Tarzana office houses the Kenneth Jernigan Library for Blind Children, a free lending library of over 40,000 Braille and Twin Vision® books for children who are blind. Books are sent postage free to borrowers in the U.S. and Canada. They also publish and distribute to persons who are deaf-blind a free weekly newspaper entitled,

“Hotline to Deaf-Blind.” This publication includes summaries of current news items written especially for deaf-blind persons.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND (AADB)

PO Box 2831

Kensington, MD 20891

(301) 495-4403 (Voice)

(301) 495-4402 (TTY)

(301) 563-9107 (Videophone)

Website: www.aadb.org

E-mail: aadb-info@aadbb.org

The AADB is a national consumer organization of, by, and for people with both vision and hearing losses. They provides technical assistance; information and referral; advocacy and support and publications and informational materials on deaf-blindness and related issues. The Mentoring Pilot Project trains adults who are deaf-blind to be mentors to youth who are deaf-blind and strives to develop new leaders in the deaf-blind community.

ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (AER)

1703 North Beauregard Street, Suite 440

Alexandria, VA 22311

(877) 492-2708

(703) 671-4500

(703) 671-6391 (Fax)

Website: www.aerbvi.org

The AER is an international membership organization dedicated to rendering all possible support and assistance to the professionals who work in all phases of education and rehabilitation of children and adults who are blind and visually impaired.

BLIND CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER

18542-B Vanderlip Avenue

Santa Ana, CA 92705

(714) 573-8888

(714) 573-4944 (Fax)

Website: www.blindkids.org

E-mail: carolyn.baker@blindkids.org

The mission of the Blind Children's Learning Center is to develop the full potential of children and young adults who are blind, visually impaired and deaf-blind (birth to age 21) to lead independent lives through technology and teaching. The core programs are Infant Family Focus, Early Childhood Center and Youth Outreach and Counseling. Comprehensive services, starting as early as possible and continuing through high school, include: speech and language, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility, Braille instruction, specialized vision services, social opportunities and assistive and adaptive technology training.

BRaille INSTITUTE LIBRARY SERVICES

741 North Vermont Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90029

(800) 808-2555

(323) 660-3880

(323) 663-1111, ext. 1500

Website: www.brailleinstitute.org/library

E-mail: bils@braillelibrary.org

The Braille Institute's Library Services has provided free books, periodicals and other texts in Braille and recorded formats for more than six decades. The main branch in Los Angeles links to four branch libraries at Braille Institute Regional Centers in Orange County, Rancho Mirage, San Diego and Santa Barbara. Patrons may select from more than 900,000 volumes accessible from the Library's own collection or that of the National Library Service.

CALIFORNIA DEAF-BLIND SERVICES

San Francisco State University

1600 Holloway Avenue/Pacific Plaza

San Francisco, CA 94132

(800) 822-7884 (Voice/TTY) (within CA)

(415) 405-7560 (Voice/TTY)

(415) 338-2845 (Fax)

Website: www.cadbs.org/

E-mail: aamandi@sfsu.edu.

California Deaf-Blind Services promotes positive quality of life for individuals from birth through age 21 who have both hearing and vision loss. Services are also provided to family members, care providers, personnel from public and private schools, as well as public and private agencies who serve persons who are deaf-blind. The goal of the project is to facilitate maximum participation in preferred life activities. California Deaf-Blind Services collaborates with individuals who are deaf-blind to celebrate strengths, recognize unique needs and develop personalized supports and services.

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

500 Walnut Avenue

Fremont, CA 94536

(510) 794-3800

(510) 794-3813 (Fax)

Website: www.csb-cde.ca.gov

E-mail: aamandi@csb-cde.ca.gov

This educational program, through the California Department of Education, provides special day classes for children between the ages of 3-22 years who are blind, visually impaired and deaf-blind. Students must be referred jointly by parents and school districts of residence. There is a residential component for those living too far to travel home daily. A separate comprehensive Assessment

Center for students not enrolled in the school program is available for eligible individuals.

THE CENTER FOR THE PARTIALLY SIGHTED (CPS)

Website: www.low-vision.org

E-mail: info@low-vision.org

CPS Los Angeles Office

6101 W. Centinela Avenue., Suite 150

Culver City, CA 90230

(310) 988-1970

(310) 988-1980 (Fax)

CPS Valley Office

18425 Burbank Boulevard, Suite 706

Tarzana, CA 91356

(818) 705-5954

The mission of The Center for the Partially Sighted is to promote independent living for people of all ages with impaired sight. Service fees are determined on a sliding scale basis and CPS is affiliated with the California Department of Rehabilitation. Optometric, counseling, rehabilitation, and children's services are offered to persons with low vision with accompanying deafness or hearing impairment.

COALITION OF PARENTS AND EDUCATORS DEAF-BLIND (COPE D-B)

c/o California Deaf-Blind Services San Francisco State University

1600 Holloway Avenue/Pacific Plaza

San Francisco, CA 94132

Website – National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness, State Resource Fact Sheet for California: www.nationaldb.org/ppStateFactSheets.php

(415) 405-7558

(800) 822-7884, ext. 1 (TTY)

COPE DB is a statewide organization committed to providing support, advocacy, recreation, and information to parents and educators of individuals with dual sensory impairments. These services are provided to family members, extended family members, caregivers, friends, educators and anybody wishing to be involved in the life of a person with deaf-blindness.

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICE CENTER (DHHSC)

5340 North Fresno Street

Fresno, CA 93710

(559) 225-3323

Website DHHSC: www.dhhsc.org

E-mail: kathyy@dhhsc.org or info@dhhsc.org

The program serves children and adults in an eight-county region in Central California. SSPs are recruited from several sources: the Interpreter Training Program at Fresno State University where they work as interns for DHHSC; certified deaf interpreters and via other interested people. Training is provided for seasoned interpreters and people new to the deaf-blind field. Training opportunities occur in workshop format and topics include causes of deaf-blindness, safe guiding, etiquette, communication techniques and protocol.

THE DEAFBLIND CHILDREN'S FUND (DBCF)

P.O. Box 11234

Spring, TX 77391

(877) 332-3254

Website: www.deafblindchildren.org

E-mail: deafblindchildren@yahoo.com

The DBCF was founded on the principle that deaf-blindness is a unique disability and helping the family of a deaf-blind child is a unique responsibility. The DBCF program serves the families of children who are deaf-blind through intervention; the teaching method that models itself after the education of Helen Keller.

Intervenors are not federally or state funded, therefore, DBCF provides funding and places them with qualified families throughout the nation.

DEAF-BLIND PROGRAM

Braille Institute of America, Inc.

741 North Vermont Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90029

(323) 663-1111 (Voice/TTY)

Website Braille Institute: www.brailleinstitute.org

Website – National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness, State Resource Fact Sheet for California: www.nationaldb.org/ppStateFactSheets.php

E-mail: jlutz@brailleinstitute.org

This program is designed to help adults who are deaf-blind (ages 18 and older) adjust to life. This program offers classes in Braille, computers, orientation and mobility, typing and instruction in daily living activities. Other services include: counseling, career/job placement, library usage and referrals as needed.

Students may take classes with other students who are deaf-blind or may opt to be included with the Braille Institute's population who hearing-blind. All classes and services are provided at no charge.

EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (EFRC)

Central Office

9245 Sky Park Court, Suite 130

San Diego, CA 92123

(800) 281-8252 (San Diego/Imperial Counties Only)

(619) 594-7416

Website: www.efrconline.org

E-mail: efrc@projects.sdsu.edu

The EFRC is a community-based collaborative agency, staffed by parents and professionals. It is designed to serve families of individuals with special needs by providing a broad continuum of information, education, and support. Services and supports are offered in English and Spanish.

FRANCES BLEND SCHOOL

Special Education, Los Angeles Unified School District

5210 Clinton Street

Los Angeles, CA 90004

(323) 464-5052

Website: www.francesblend.com

This special education school for children who are blind and visually impaired has classes for pre-school through elementary school, serving children with multiple disabilities, including deaf-blindness. The school has a specially designed play yard to suit the special needs of its students.

HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE (HKNC)

(Region 9 HKNC Southwestern Regional Office)

9939 Hibert Street, #108

San Diego, CA 92131

(858) 578-1600 (Voice/TTY)

(858) 578-3800 (Fax)

Website: www.hknc.org

E-mail: cathy.kirscher@hknc.org

HKNC regional representatives provide consultation and technical assistance to persons with deaf-blindness, their families and to public and private education and adult service agencies in their region. They locate, assist and refer individuals to the most appropriate programs for services, as needed. States covered by this regional office are: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, Samoa, and certain Trust Territories.

INTERNATIONAL HEARING DOG, INC.

5901 East 89th Avenue

Henderson, CO 80640

(303) 287-3277 (Voice/TTY)

Website: www.ihdi.org

E-mail: info@hearingdog.org

International Hearing Dogs, Inc. has trained more than 1,000 hearing dogs since 1979 for persons within the United States and Canada, who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. All of the dogs selected for this special training come from local animal shelters. This organization also trains dogs to assist individuals who are deaf-blind (in the home only) by training dogs to guide their owners slowly to the source of the sound.

LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

214 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 694-7322 (Voice)
(415) 431-4572 (TTY)

Website: www.lighthouse-sf.org

E-mail: info@lighthouse-sf.org for general information or schol@lighthouse-sf.org for Deaf-Blind training services

The LightHouse promotes the independence, equality and self-reliance of people in the Northern California area who are blind, deaf-blind or visually impaired through rehabilitation training and relevant services, such as access to employment, education, government, information, recreation, transportation and the environment. This organization has provided services to the deaf-blind community since the early 1950's with the establishment of Enchanted Hills Camp and the formation of a Deaf-Blind Social and Recreational Club in the early 1970's.

NATIONAL COALITION ON DEAF-BLINDNESS

(617) 972-7768

Website: www.dbcoalition.org

The National Coalition on Deaf-blindness was formed to provide feedback to legislators and policy makers regarding the ongoing needs of children who are deaf-blind and the reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Advocacy efforts on the part of the coalition have focused on legislation in education and rehabilitation, helping legislators to understand deaf-blindness as a unique and complex disability and to appreciate the important role the federal government plays through its discretionary programs with regard to this low incidence disability.

NATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON DEAF-BLINDNESS (NCDB)

The Teaching Research Institute: Western Oregon University
345 North Monmouth Avenue
Monmouth, OR 97361
(800) 438-9376 (Voice)
(800) 854-7013 (TTY)
(503) 838-8150 (Fax)

Website: www.nationaldb.org

E-mail: info@nationaldb.org

The National Consortium on Deaf-blindness is a federally funded information clearinghouse that identifies, coordinates, and disseminates information related to children (ages birth to 21 years) who are deaf-blind. NCDB is home to DB-LINK, the largest collection of information related to deaf-blindness worldwide. They provide free individualized information and referral services across many topics including effective early intervention, special education and general education practices, medical, health, social, recreational services, legal issues, employment, independent living, postsecondary educational services and

information on the nature of deaf-blindness. Fact sheets are available at no charge.

NATIONAL FAMILY ASSOCIATION FOR DEAF-BLIND

(REGION 9) See Service Areas Below

141 Middle Neck Road
Sands Point, NY 11050
(800) 255-0411
(516) 883-9060 (Fax)

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

E-mail: NFADB@aol.com

The NFADB is a national organization that advocates for all persons who are deaf-blind, supports national policy to benefit people who are deaf-blind, encourages the founding and strengthening of family organizations in each state and collaborates with professionals who work with persons who are deaf-blind. NFADB regional representatives can be contacted to share information and provide resources and referrals. The states served in NFADB Region 9 include: Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii and the Trust Territories.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND - DEAF-BLIND DIVISION

3400 CJ Barney Drive, N.E.
Apartment 301W
Washington, D.C. 20018
(202) 832-0697

Website: www.nfb.org/nfb/Divisions_and_Committees.asp?SnID=447884113#Divisions

Mailing List: www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/nfb-db_nfbnet.org

E-mail: browburnell@aol.com

The Deaf Blind division of the National Federation of the blind is comprised of persons who are deaf-blind working nationally to improve services, training, and independence for the deaf-blind. This network of individuals offers personal contact with other individuals who are deaf-blind that are knowledgeable in advocacy, education, employment, technology, discrimination and other issues surrounding deaf-blindness.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF DEAF-BLIND (NCADB)

(510) 789-0591 (Voice/TTY/Fax)

Website: www.ncadb.org

Email: president@ncadb.org

The mission of NCADB is to help persons who are deaf-blind achieve their maximum potential through increased independence, productivity, and integration into the community. Members participate in monthly networking events which involve community education workshops, fundraising events and discussions pertaining to special equipment awareness. NCADB is a member of the American Association of the Deaf-Blind (AADB) and they provide scholarships to members who wish to travel to the national conference.

VISTA CENTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Palo Alto Office

2470 El Camino Real, Suite 107

Palo Alto, CA 94306

(650) 858-0202

(650) 858-0214 (Fax)

Website: www.vistacenter.org

E-mail: info@vistacenter.org

Santa Cruz Office

413 Laurel Street

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(831) 458-9766

(831) 426-6233 (Fax)

Website: www.vistacenter.org

E-mail: information@vistacenter.org

The facility is open to all persons who are visually impaired and blind. Medi-Cal is accepted and assistance is provided to those without Medi-Cal. Services provided include: transportation; a low-vision optometry clinic with two optometrists available; rehabilitation services; daily living skills training; social services and counseling; and support groups.