



# Disability Network Directory – Montgomery County, Maryland

## Blind / Low Vision Resources

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**This is a project of the Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities.**

To submit an update, add or remove a listing, or request an alternative format, please contact: [MCCPWD@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:MCCPWD@montgomerycountymd.gov).

### **Advocate by Pharma Supply, Inc.**

1-888-469-3579 (Toll Free)

[www.advocatemeteters.com](http://www.advocatemeteters.com)

Manufacturer of talking blood pressure monitors.

### **American Council of the Blind (ACB)**

225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 660

Alexandria, VA 22314

202-467-5081 (V)

1-800-424-8666 (Toll Free)

Email: [info@acb.org](mailto:info@acb.org)

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

Advocate for people who are blind and visually impaired. Provide public education and awareness training, scholarship assistance, legal assistance, health care services, information about Social Security benefits, vocational training and other health and social services. Publish a free monthly national magazine titled "The Braille Forum" and produce ACB radio, available on the internet, which broadcasts talk shows, music by blind people, and events. ACB support is available through the Be My Eyes app. Download the app from the Apple Store or Google Play and locate ACB under "Blindness Organizations" in the "Specialized Help" section to speak with an ACB staff member or volunteer.

### **American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)**

1101 Wilson Boulevard, 6th Floor

Arlington, VA 22209

212-502-7600 (V)

Email: [communications@afb.net](mailto:communications@afb.net)

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

National non-profit that expands possibilities for people with vision loss. Information on living with vision loss, education, employment, technology, Braille, and blindness statistics. Publish AccessWorld, a free online information technology magazine.

### **Atlantic Low Vision, LLC**

Phillip Linz, CEO

703-888-7134 (V)

Email: [phil@atlanticlowvision.com](mailto:phil@atlanticlowvision.com)

<http://atlanticlowvision.com>

Distributor of assistive technology for the visually impaired including macular degeneration and glaucoma. Products include magnification and screen reading software, desktop, hand-held and video magnifiers, CCTV's, OCR readers and wearable technology. Offer free demonstrations.

### **Audio Description Associates, LLC**

6502 Westmoreland Avenue

Takoma Park, MD 20912

301-920-0218 (24-Hour Message Service)

Email: [jsnyder@audiodescribe.com](mailto:jsnyder@audiodescribe.com)

[www.audiodescribe.com](http://www.audiodescribe.com)

Audio Description provides a verbal version of the visual image. Record tours for museum exhibits training for professional describers, museum docents, tour guides, and children's librarians description for live and recorded arts events, broadcast television, DVDs, and videotape.

### **BrightFocus Foundation**

22512 Gateway Center Drive

Clarksburg, MD 20871

1-800-437-2423 (Toll Free)

Email: [info@brightfocus.org](mailto:info@brightfocus.org)

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

Provide information, research updates and treatment options for glaucoma and macular degeneration.

### **Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind**

8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 805

Silver Spring, MD 20910

301-589-0894 (V)

Email: [info@clb.org](mailto:info@clb.org)

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

Provide vision screenings, comprehensive eye examinations and low vision exams. Adult service programs include instruction in independent living skills such as shopping, cooking, computer skills, and Braille. Orientation and mobility classes include

### **Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind Continued**

instruction in using a white cane and learning to navigate public transportation safely. Offer ongoing support groups and case management. Youth and family programs include annual events, Braille Book Club, holiday activities, Reading Rally, summer camps, early intervention services, teen groups, and parent workshops. Provide hands-on assistive technology training, computer training classes, and consult with employers and working with employees experiencing vision loss to continue doing their jobs. Employment services department provides job-readiness assessments, computer skills assessments and job coaching for job development, and career life skills group workshops. Provides services to the DeafBlind community including support service providers, assistive technology, Braille instruction, orientation and mobility training, and independent living skills.

### **Connect Center**

1-800-232-5463 (Toll Free)

Email: [connectcenter@aph.org](mailto:connectcenter@aph.org)

<https://aphconnectcenter.org/>

Empower people toward greater independence and lifelong success by providing free curated information and resources to assist children, parents, job seekers, and adults who are blind or low vision. *Getting Started Guides* provide resources to support families raising children with visual impairments. They offer tips on visual development, IFSPs, IEPs, braille literacy, technology, and transitions, covering every stage from birth through 12th grade.

### **Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)**

#### **Maryland State Department of Education**

#### **Office of Blind & Low Vision Services**

2301 Argonne Drive

Baltimore, MD 21218

301-777-2119 (V)

1-866-614-4780 (Toll Free)

Email: [obvs.dors@maryland.gov](mailto:obvs.dors@maryland.gov)

<https://dors.maryland.gov/consumers/specialized/OBVSP/Pages/default.aspx>

Provides evaluation, training and case management services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired to help them live and work as independently as possible. Services may include career guidance and exploration; assistive technology (AT), such as screen reading software, magnifiers, and low vision aids; career training or academic education; independent living skills training, such as safe cooking techniques and managing personal care and household tasks; orientation and mobility, such as instruction in safe travel or use of a long, white cane; and job placement. **Independent Living Older Blind Program** helps individuals who are 55 or older who are blind or have a vision impairment to live independently in their homes and communities.

### **Division of Rehabilitation Services Continued**

#### **Maryland Business Enterprise Program for the Blind**

prepares individuals whose primary disability is vision loss to operate successful retail concession, food service, and vending operations in federal and State of Maryland facilities. Career Life Planning is a four-week program designed to determine if working is right for you. The program allows for self-guided assessments of skills, knowledge, abilities, strengths and weaknesses, and job readiness, as well as exploration of career choices.

### **Envision - College Success Program**

316-440-1541 (V)

Email: [csp@envisionus.com](mailto:csp@envisionus.com)

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

Program provides free mentorship for blind or visually impaired students pursuing a two and four-year degree from an accredited institution.

### **EyeCare America – Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology**

1-877-887-6327 (Toll Free)

Email: [eyecareamerica@aaao.org](mailto:eyecareamerica@aaao.org)

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

Raise awareness about eye disease and care, provide free eye health educational materials and facilitate access to medical eye care. Call to see if you qualify for a free eye exam.

### **iCanConnect (National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program)**

8701 Georgia Ave, STE 510

Silver Spring, MD 20910

240-428-1428 (V)

Email: [icc@tcsaccess.com](mailto:icc@tcsaccess.com)

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

Informational Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tsgHgo49cM>

iCanConnect provides free communication equipment and personalized training for individuals with combined vision and hearing loss who meet federal income guidelines. The services include free communication equipment, such as smartphones, computers, Braille readers, specialized keyboards, and other devices. One-on-one training is offered to help individuals effectively use their equipment. TCS Access serves as the state representative in Maryland, DC, and Virginia and provides assistance throughout the application process.

### **Jewish Braille Institute**

110 East 30th Street

New York, NY 10016

1-800-433-1531 (Toll Free)

Email: [admin@jbrilibrary.org](mailto:admin@jbrilibrary.org)

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

Provides the visually impaired, blind, physically handicapped and reading disabled of all backgrounds and ages with books, magazines and cultural programs in audio (in 8 languages), in large print and in Braille. Services are provided free of charge.

### **Jewish Heritage for the Blind**

1-800-995-1888 (Toll Free)

Email: [services@jewishheritage.org](mailto:services@jewishheritage.org)

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

Provide large print and Braille prayer books and other materials. Cassette-recorded readings.

### **Low Vision Center - Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington**

4948 St. Elmo Avenue, Suite 209

Bethesda, MD 20814

301-951-4444 (V)

[www.youreyes.org/programs/low-vision/#low-vision-learning-center](http://www.youreyes.org/programs/low-vision/#low-vision-learning-center)

Offers free services to help people with low vision find the resources they need to maintain independence. Resource Specialists provide personal guidance as clients move through their vision journey, expert advice and demonstrations of different visual aid technologies. Visits are by appointment only.

### **Maryland School for the Blind**

3501 Taylor Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21236

410-444-5000 (V)

Email: [info@mdschblind.org](mailto:info@mdschblind.org)

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

Private, statewide resource center for providing outreach, educational, and residential programs to children from birth to 21 years old who are blind or visually impaired — including those with multiple disabilities. Provide a traditional classroom education in addition to a wide range of services, including Braille and low vision instruction, orientation and mobility, assistive technology, therapeutic recreation, residential services, career education, health services, psychology, social work, speech, physical, and occupational therapy, outreach and transition, and infant/toddler services. Serve students in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions.

### **Metropolitan Washington Ear, Inc.**

12061 Tech Road

Silver Spring, MD 20904

301-681-6636 (V)

Email: [information@washear.org](mailto:information@washear.org)

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

Nonprofit radio, reading and dial-in newspaper and magazine service for the blind, visually impaired, and physically disabled individuals who cannot read ordinary print. Free 24/7 service that has 350 dedicated volunteers that read and record the Washington Post, excerpts from the Washington Times, the New York Times, Time Magazine, and 100 other publications. Also offer independent living skills training including mobility and white cane training, Braille instruction, technology training and more.

### **Montgomery County Public Libraries**

#### **Accessibility & Inclusion**

240-777-0001 (Ask-A-Librarian)

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/library/accessibility/index.html>

Books @ Home is a free service that sends library materials to the homes of Montgomery County residents who cannot visit the library because of a physical disability, health issue, or frailty. Website features downloadable e-books and audiobooks. Assistive Technology Workstations featuring video magnifier and computer with magnification and screen reading software at all locations except Noyes. Four locations have video phones for people who are deaf. Many branches have large print books, audiobooks, closed captioned videos, and braille-with-print books for children, and audio amplification sound systems in large meeting rooms. A full listing of locations: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/)

### **National Federation of the Blind (NFB)**

200 East Wells Street

Baltimore, MD 21230

410-659-9314 (V)

Email: [nfb@nfb.org](mailto:nfb@nfb.org)

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

Largest consumer organization of blind and visually impaired people in the U.S. Provide career mentoring, assistive technology evaluations, vocational training centers, scholarships for students, resources for parents of blind children and other services for people of all ages. **International Braille and Technology Center for the Blind:** A comprehensive evaluation, demonstration, and training center that serves as a resource for vendor-free advice on all aspects of access technology. Facility showcases the latest mobile devices with speech and magnification; digital magnifiers and magnification software; optical character recognition; digital bookreaders and software; screen access software; Braille displays; embossers; election technology; and tactile graphics equipment. **Free White Cane Program:** NFB will provide a free cane to anyone in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico who is blind or has low vision and who uses or desires to use a white cane in order to travel independently. Individuals may only request one free cane in any 6-month period. Applications available online at [www.nfb.org/programs-services/free-white-cane-program](http://www.nfb.org/programs-services/free-white-cane-program). **Free Slate and Stylus Program:** NFB will distribute a plastic, four-line, twenty-eight cell slate along with a saddle stylus to those that need them. That includes those that are blind and low vision who know Braille or want to learn Braille. Applications available online at [www.nfb.org/programs-services/free-slate-and-stylus-program](http://www.nfb.org/programs-services/free-slate-and-stylus-program)

### **NFB-NEWSLINE®**

1-866-504-7300 (Toll Free)

Email: [nfbnewsline@nfb.org](mailto:nfbnewsline@nfb.org)

[www.nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-newsline](http://www.nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-newsline)

Offers access to more than 500 publications, emergency weather alerts, job listings, and more.

Anyone who cannot read printed publications due to vision loss, dyslexia, or a physical disability is eligible to receive NFB-NEWSLINE. Please register by calling your state's Library for the Blind and Print-Disabled (Maryland: 1-800-964-9209) or the National Federation of the Blind at 1-866-504-7300 to request an application. NFB-NEWSLINE is available on phones, mobile applications, Amazon Alexa, digital talking book players, email, and website.

### **National Federation of the Blind of Maryland**

Ronza Othman, President

443-426-4110 (V)

Email: [president@nfbmd.org](mailto:president@nfbmd.org)

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

Affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind.

Nonprofit made up of blind people of all ages, their families and friends. Protect, promote and advocate for the rights of people who are blind. Educational and training scholarships. Assist individuals who are blind in acquiring the skills of independence. Provide specialized information for diabetics losing their vision. Local chapters help newly blind people adjust to vision loss and promote the full participation and integration of blind people in our communities.

### **National Federation of the Blind Sligo Creek Chapter**

Debbie Brown, President

301-881-1892 (V)

Email: [DeborahB14@verizon.net](mailto:DeborahB14@verizon.net)

<https://nfbmd.org/slygo-creek-chapter>

Monthly meetings held the 2nd Saturday of every month primarily in Silver Spring, Maryland.

### **National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Print Disabled – Library of Congress**

1-888-657-7323 (Toll Free)

Email: [nlsref@loc.gov](mailto:nlsref@loc.gov) (Ask A Librarian)

[www.loc.gov/nls](http://www.loc.gov/nls)

Free national library program of Braille and talking books for people with temporary or permanent low vision, blindness, or a physical disability that prevents them from reading or holding the printed page.

Through a national network of cooperating libraries, NLS offers books in Braille or audio formats, mailed to your door for free, or instantly downloadable.

### **NVDA Screen Reader**

[www.nvaccess.org/download/](http://www.nvaccess.org/download/)

NVDA screen reader can be downloaded free of charge by anyone. Available for PCs running Microsoft Windows 7 SP1 and later.

### **Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington**

415 2nd Street NE, Suite 200

Washington, DC 20002

202-234-1010 (V)

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

Children's Vision Screening program provides screenings for children ages 3 to 18. Screenings test for myopia (nearsightedness), amblyopia (lazy eye), and strabismus (a turned eye or crossed eyes). The Glaucoma and Visual Acuity Screening program provides free screenings for adults in the Greater Washington area. Host support groups and lectures.

#### **Affordable Eyeglasses Clinic**

202-269-0203, Option 1 (V)

Email: [eyeglasses@youreyes.org](mailto:eyeglasses@youreyes.org)

[www.youreyes.org/affordable-eyeglasses-clinic](http://www.youreyes.org/affordable-eyeglasses-clinic)

Provides prescription eyeglasses at a nominal fee to individuals who need eyeglasses but cannot afford their full cost. Clinic open for visits by appointment only.

### **TCS Access (TCSA)**

8701 Georgia Ave, STE 510

Silver Spring, MD 20910

240-428-1820 (V)

[www.tcsaccess.com](http://www.tcsaccess.com)

Email: [info@tcsaccess.com](mailto:info@tcsaccess.com)

Specializing in assistive technology training for individuals with disabilities and older adults, TCSA offers one-on-one or group training at the Silver Spring center, remotely, or through in-home/office visits. TCSA is an authorized distributor of assistive technology solutions. Additionally, TCSA provides workplace personal assistant services, accessibility consulting services, and workshops for organizations on topics like creating accessible documents and fostering inclusive practices.

### **Vision Council Foundation**

<https://thevisioncouncilfoundation.org/>

A resource for people with a vision impairment due to macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and other eye conditions.