

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT/BLINDNESS **RESOURCES AND STATE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Local Resources

Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments

314-776-1300

www.dgckids.org

Services include education, orientation and mobility services, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy services for children with complex developmental challenges.

Missouri Council of the Blind

314-832-7172

www.missouricounciloftheblind.org

Works with and for persons who are blind or visually impaired.

Missouri School for the Blind

314-776-4320

www.msb.dese.mo.gov

Nationally accredited program for kindergarten through high school, ages 5 to 21. Outreach services include functional vision assessments, consultation, inservice training, parent involvement program.

National Federation of the Blind of Missouri- St. Louis Chapter

<http://www.nfbmo.org/node/53>

Consumer organization seeks to influence public and private policies related to blindness; referrals to other agencies.

Rehabilitation Services for the Blind North Office

314-264-7601

South Office

314-933-7311

www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/rsb/

Provides vocational training, post-secondary education, instruction in

orientation and mobility, Braille and other communication skills.

St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired

314-968-9000

www.slsbvi.org

Provides specialized vision rehabilitation, adaptive education, assistive technology and support services.

TREE House of Greater St. Louis (Therapeutic Horsemanship)

636-332-4940

www.thstl.org

Programs serve clients from age 2 through adulthood who have physical, mental, emotional, social, and/or learning disabilities.

University of Missouri-St. Louis School of Optometry – Center for Eye Care

314-516-5131

<http://www.umsl.edu/~optometry/Patient%20Services/cecpage.html>

Provides vision exams on sliding scale, optics at lower cost.

State Resources

MPACT (Missouri Parents Act)

800-743-7634

Trains and supports parents so they can effectively advocate for their children's educational rights and services.

www.missouriparentsact.org

Wolfner Talking Book & Braille Library
800-392-2614

www.sos.mo.gov/wolfner/

The library's collection includes fiction and nonfiction audio, braille, and large print books for all ages. Over seventy (70) magazine subscriptions are

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available, and the library loans playback machines to those using audio books.

National Resources

American Council of the Blind (ACB)
www.acb.org

American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)
www.afb.org
www.braillebug.org
Information and consultation; catalogs of publications and products.

American Printing House for the Blind (APH)
www.aph.org
Publishes and distributes books (Braille, large type, music), computer products, educational toys and equipment.

Assistive Technology

Missouri Assistive Technology
800-647-8557
www.at.mo.gov
Information and referral regarding assistive technology products, services and policy/funding issues. Training, demonstrations, advocacy.

Examples of assistive technology products for people with visual impairments:

Braille embossers/printers
Braille-to-text translation software
Braille music translation software
cursor enlargers CCTV
note takers screen magnifiers/large print scanners/reading systems
screen readers tactile image generation/enhancement
voice synthesizers web browsers

DEFINITION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FROM APPENDIX A OF THE MISSOURI STATE PLAN

Visual Impairment/Blindness Definition

Visual Impairment, including blindness, refers to any an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness.

Criteria for Initial Determination of Eligibility

A child displays a Visual Impairment when:

A. A visual impairment or a progressive vision loss has been diagnosed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist:

B. Visual acuity has been determined to be:

1) for visual impairment, of 20/70 to 20/200 in the better eye with best correction by glasses;

2) for blindness, of 20/200 or less in the better eye after best correction by glasses or a visual field measuring 200 or less.

C. The visual impairment adversely affects the child's educational performance.