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

**National Resources**

American Council of the Blind (ACB)  
[www.acb.org](http://www.acb.org)

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

American Printing House for the Blind (APH)  
[www.aph.org](http://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](http://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.