

RESOURCES FOR YOU

Project Independence: Georgia Vision Program for Seniors

<http://gvra.georgia.gov/vocationalrehab/project-independence>

844-367-4872

Are you or is someone you know at least 55 years of age and experiencing vision loss or a combined vision and hearing loss?

Project Independence could help.

This vision program for seniors is administered by the Georgia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and provides services that can help you remain independent. Services may include:

- Comprehensive low vision evaluations by qualified professionals to assess your needs
 - Skills training in your home community by certified rehabilitation specialists
 - Mobility training by certified instructors
 - Support groups that offer opportunities to learn from and interact with peers
 - Assistive devices such as talking watches, big button phones and magnifiers
-

The Georgia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation contracts with these Project Independence Service Providers:

Center for the Visually Impaired
739 West Peachtree Street NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

404-875-9011

1-800-558-5451 (for infolink only)

www.cviga.org

Serves Northeast and Central Georgia

Savannah Center for Blind and Low Vision

1141 Cornell Avenue

Savannah, Georgia 31406

912-236-4473

www.SavannahCBLV.org

info@SavannahCBLV.org

Serves Southeast Georgia

Vision Rehabilitation Services of Georgia

3830 South Cobb Drive SE

Smyrna, Georgia 30080

770-432-7280

www.vrsga.org

Serves Northwest Georgia

Visually Impaired Foundation of Georgia

6595 Roswell Road #224

Atlanta, Georgia 30328

770-551-8455

1-800-541-7903

www.magnifiers.com

Serves Southwest Georgia

Visually Impaired Specialized Training and Advocacy Services (VISTAS)

337 South Milledge Avenue, Suite 114

Athens, Georgia 30605-5662

706-995-2216

www.vistascenter.com

Serves Northeast Georgia

Walton Options for Independent Living

948 Walton Way

Augusta, Georgia 30903-0519

706-724-6262

1-877-821-8400

www.waltonoptions.org

Serves East Georgia

Kay McGill, Project Independence Program Manager

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

404-417-6710

Fax: 404-417-6747

kay.mcgill@ablegeorgia.ga.gov

www.gvra.ga.gov

Paul Raymond, Blindness Services Coordinator

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

3586 Riverside Drive, Suite B

Macon, Georgia 31210-6304

770-500-9160

Fax: 478-757-4391

paul.raymond@gvra.ga.gov

www.gvra.ga.gov

ADVOCACY/EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND (AFB)

The American Foundation for the Blind created “AFB Senior Site” to help older Americans and their family members cope with age-related eye diseases, a growing public health problem in the United States.

www.afb.org

Click on “AFB Senior Site”

GEORGIA'S AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION (ADRC)

1-866-552-4464 (then select Option 2)

www.georgiaadrc.com

Georgia's ADRC is not a place or a program! It is a coordinated system of partnering organizations that are dedicated to:

- Providing accurate information about publicly and privately financed long-term supports and services.
- Offering a consumer-oriented approach to learning about the availability of services in the home and community.
- Alleviating the need for multiple calls and/or visits to receive services.
- Supporting individuals and family members who are aging or living with a disability.

What We Do:

- Georgia's ADRCs serve older individuals, individuals with disabilities of all ages, families, caregivers and professionals.

Where We Are:

- Georgia's ADRC currently serves all of the 159 counties across the state. For more information or to receive assistance [contact an ADRC near you.](#)

GEORGIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND (GCB)

GCB is a nonprofit consumer organization affiliated with the American Council of the Blind. We strive to elevate the social, economic, and cultural levels of the blind. For over 40 years, GCB has been working toward providing a forum for views of the blind, improving education and rehabilitation, and broadening vocational opportunities for the visually impaired. Peer support is an important part of GCB as it encourages and assists the blind in developing their abilities and potential to become independent and responsible citizens in their

communities. Peer support is especially helpful for the newly blind who may be confused or bitter. GCB works hard to educate the public about the problems of blindness and the needs and capabilities of the blind.
Georgia Council of the Blind

President, Keith Morris

Email: mkumorris@yahoo.com

Phone: (706) 595-1465

Toll Free: 1-877-842-9733

www.georgiacounciloftheblind.org

THE GEORGIA VISION COLLABORATIVE

(404) 537-4985

www.georgiavisioncollaborative.org

georgiavisioncollaborative@pbga.org

<http://georgia.preventblindness.org/georgia-vision-resource-guide>

The Georgia Vision Collaborative is a statewide coalition of public and private agencies addressing aging eye disease in Georgia. The Georgia Vision Resource Guide is a directory of adult vision and aging eye health services available across the state. This guide may help you locate services such as low cost eye exams, reduced cost eyeglasses, vision rehabilitation, low vision resources and programs specifically designed to enhance the quality of life for aging adults. Download <http://georgia.preventblindness.org/georgia-vision-resource-guide> for your guide.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF GEORGIA (NFB)

Negative attitudes and mistaken perceptions about blindness are the largest barriers to our independence and full participation in society. Unfortunately, many people believe that blind people should be relegated to the role of dependent, custodial beneficiaries of society's good will. Equally as offensive, others feel the blind are extraordinary

simply because we perform the fundamental tasks and accept the basic responsibilities that are expected from all citizens. To counter these negative attitudes and mistaken perceptions, the NFB of Georgia works aggressively to empower blind people with a positive self-concept of independence and self-worth, while simultaneously educating the public about the true potential of the blind. We strive to promote positive, inclusive perceptions of blind people, so that we can exercise our right, like any other American, to live, work, and play in our communities and be appreciated as everyday people living life every day.

NFB of Georgia

404-371-1000

Toll Free: 1-866-316-3242

Fax: 404-371-1002

theblind@nfbga.org

www.nfbga.org

CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia, Inc. (SILC)

The SILC of Georgia is a nonprofit, nongovernmental consumer-controlled organization that plays the vital role of providing disability information and technical assistance to a network of nine Centers for Independent Living located throughout the state.

SILC of Georgia

Patricia Puckett, Executive Director

Decatur, GA

770-270-6860

Toll Free: 1-888-288-9780

TTY: Call GA Relay 711

Fax: 770-270-5957

ppuckett@silcga.org

www.silcga.org

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are nonresidential, community-based organizations, governed and staffed by people with disabilities that offer a wide variety of services to consumers with disabilities and their families. The foundation of these services is the peer-to-peer relationship, where people with disabilities act as mentors for other people with disabilities, showing them by example how to help themselves and to live independently. The core services that CILs provide are:

- Individual Advocacy and Systems Advocacy
- Peer Counseling
- Information and Referral
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Transition

Depending on the needs of the communities they serve, CILs may provide other services that vary from one center to another. For more information contact the center nearest you.

Access 2 Independence: Columbus Center for Independent Living

1315 Delauney Ave

Suite 201

Columbus, GA 31901

706-405-2393

TTY: Call GA Relay 711

www.access2independence.com

Serves Muscogee County only.

Bainbridge Advocacy Individual Network (BAIN)

316 West Shotwell Street

P.O. Box 1674

Bainbridge, GA 39818

229-246-0150

TTY: Call GA Relay 711 / Toll Free: 1-800-255-0135

Fax: 229-246-1715

<http://baincil.org>

Serves the following counties in Southwest Georgia: Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Decatur, Early, Grady, Miller, Mitchell, Randolph, Seminole and Thomas.

Disability Connections

3695 Broadway

Macon, GA 31206

478-741-1425

Toll Free TTY/Voice: 1-800-743-2117

Fax: 478-755-1571

<http://www.disabilityconnections.com>

Serves the following counties in Central Georgia: Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Twiggs and Wilkinson.

disABILITY LINK

1901 Montreal Road

Tucker, GA 30084

404-687-8890

TTY: Call GA Relay 711

Toll Free TTY/Voice: 1-800-239-2507

Fax: 404-687-8298

www.disabilitylink.org

Serves the following counties in Metro Atlanta: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton and Rockdale.

Disability Resource Center

170 Scoggins Drive

Demorest, GA 30535

Voice 770-534-6656

TTY: call GA Relay 711 or at 800-255-0135

FAX: 770-534-6626

www.disabilityresourcecenter.org

Serves the following counties in North Georgia: Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White

Living Independence for Everyone, Inc. (LIFE)

5105 Paulsen Street, Suite 143-B

Savannah, GA 31405

912-920-2414

Toll Free 800.948.4842

Video Phone 912.257.4834

Fax: 912-920-0007

www.lifecil.com

Serves the following counties in Southeast Georgia: Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Liberty, McIntosh, Tattnall and Toombs.

Multiple Choices

145 Barrington Drive

Athens, GA 30605

706-850-4025

Fax: 706-549-1060

www.multiplechoices.us

Serves the following counties in Northeast Georgia: Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe and Walton.

NWGA Center for Independent Living

242 North 5th Avenue

Rome, Georgia 30165

Phone: 706-314-0008

Toll Free: 866-888-7845

Fax: 888-906-1662

<https://www.nwgacil.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/NWGACIL>

Follow us on Twitter @NWGACIL

Serves the following counties in Northwest Georgia: Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker and Whitfield.

If you need an interpreter, alternate formats, or other accommodations to access any of our programs, services, or activities, please contact us at least five business days before the services are needed so proper arrangements can be made.

Walton Options for Independent Living

948 Walton Way

Augusta, GA 30903-5019

Phone/TTY: 706-724-6262

Toll Free: 1-877-821-8400

Fax: 706-724-4044

www.waltonoptions.org

Serves the following counties in East Georgia: Burke, Columbia, Emanuel, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Lincoln, Richmond, Screven, Glascock, Hancock, McDuffie, Taliaferro, Warren, Wilkes, and Washington.

GEORGIA PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

Georgia Talking Book Libraries

GLASS/ Atlanta Metro Library for Accessible Services

Advisory and Outreach Center

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library

One Margaret Mitchell Square, 4th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303-1089

Librarian: Beverly Williams

Telephone: (404) 657-1452

Toll-free (In-state): (800) 248-6701

E-mail: glass@georgialibraries.org

Hours of Operation: Telephone 8:00A-5:00P Mon, Fri & Sat; 8:00A-7:00P Tue, Wed, Thu; closed Sun

Serves: Georgia except for counties served by the subregional library in Bainbridge; braille readers receive service from Utah.

Subregional Library

Southwest Library for Accessible Services

Southwest Georgia Regional Library

301 South Monroe Street

Bainbridge, GA 39819-4029

Librarian: Susan S. Whittle

Telephone: (229) 248-2680

Toll-free (In-state): (800) 795-2680

TDD: (229) 248-2665

FAX: (229) 248-2670

E-mail: lbph@swgrl.org

Web site: <http://www.swgrl.org/handicap.php>

Hours of Operation: 8:30-5:30 M-F

Serves: Baker, Brooks, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Webster and Worth counties

GLASS: Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Service

Librarian: Pat Herndon

Telephone: (404) 657-1452

Toll-free (In-state): (800) 248-6701

E-mail: glass@georgialibraries.org

Web site: http://georgialibraries.org/glass/

BLINDNESS SERVICE PROVIDERS

AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND, Inc. (APH)

APH is the world's largest nonprofit organization creating educational, workplace, and independent living products and services for people who are visually impaired.

American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.

1839 Frankfort Avenue

P.O. Box 6085

Louisville, KY 40206-0085, U.S.A.

502-895-2405

Toll Free Customer Service: 1-800-223-1839 (U.S. and Canada)

Fax: 502-899-2284

info@aph.org

www.aph.org

AUDIO BIBLES

Braille Bibles International provides the audio Bible in the King James Version to legally blind individuals for a small fee (\$10-\$20) in Braille, large print and audio formats.

Braille Bibles International

P.O. Box 378

Liberty, MO 64069-0378

Toll Free: 1-800-522-4253

Fax: 1-877-822-4253

http://www.braillebibles.org

info@BrailleBibles.org

THE CENTER FOR FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE & INNOVATION, INC.

The Center for Financial Independence & Innovation, Inc. (CFII) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities and their family members advance their financial independence and security. Tool for Life/CFII provides a host of financial resources including the Credit-Able loan guarantee program and the new individual development accounts initiative, which may be of assistance in purchasing assistive technology and other items.

Tool for Life/Credit-Able

404-385-7029

Fax: 404-894-8323

www.gatfl.org

FRIENDS OF DISABLED ADULTS & CHILDREN (FODAC)

FODAC provides home health equipment (mobility and daily living) to people of any age or any disability, temporary or permanent, for medically necessary and medically helpful reasons. Items are provided for a suggested donation. Clients do not have to qualify financially, but the waiting lists place a priority on medically necessary and low income individuals.

FODAC

4900 Lewis Road

Stone Mountain, GA 30083

770-491-9014

www.fodac.org

GEORGIA LIONS' CAMP FOR THE BLIND

Overnight camp programs in Waycross, Georgia for visually impaired children and adults, ages 6 and up, and their families.

Georgia Lions' Camp for the Blind

5626 Laura Walker Road
Waycross, GA 31503
912-283-4320
www.glcb.org

GEORGIA RADIO READING SERVICE (GaRRS)

As the State's only radio reading service, the Georgia Radio Reading Service (GaRRS) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1980 whose mission is to improve the quality of life for every Georgian who is blind, visually-impaired or has difficulty with access to the printed word. Volunteer broadcasters from across Georgia provide approximately 200 different radio shows each month including cover-to-cover readings of magazines, newspapers, and books, population- and issue-specific programming (Seniors, Veterans and Hispanic/Latino News, Transportation), public service announcements and information regarding community support programs. GaRRS' programming is designed to inform listeners of opportunities to obtain or maintain independence in their own communities, increase their personal health outcomes, obtain or maintain self sufficient employment (livable wage), and increase their community involvement, advocacy and socialization.

GaRRS programs are broadcast 24 hours a day, seven days a week by way of special subchannel radios provided by GaRRS to its subscribers. Listeners can also hear the broadcast via an audio streaming link on GaRRS' website: www.garrs.net

GaRRS
260 14th Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30318
404-685-2820/2822
Fax: 404-685-2821
Toll Free: 1-800-672-6173

garrsinfo@gpb.org

www.garrs.net

GEORGIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM (GATEDP)

GATEDP provides a variety of specialized telecommunications equipment to qualified applicants who have difficulty using a standard phone. For those who qualify, the GATEDP staff also offers assistance selecting telecommunications equipment and training on how to use it properly. Example: large button phones with amplification.

GATEDP

Kevin Steffy - Coordinator/Administration

4151 Memorial Drive, Suite 103-B

Decatur, GA 30032

404-297-9461

Toll Free: 1-888-297-9461

Fax: 404-297-9465

www.gachi.org

GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCY BLINDNESS REHABILITATION SERVICES

The VR Blindness Services unit provides services to help eligible persons with visual disabilities prepare for, start, and maintain competitive employment, thus becoming productive and independent citizens in their communities.

Paul Raymond, Blindness Services Coordinator

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

3586 Riverside Drive, Suite B

Macon, Georgia 31210-6304

770-500-9160

Fax: 478-757-4391

paul.raymond@gvra.ga.gov

www.gvra.ga.gov

THE HADLEY INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The mission of Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired is to promote independent living through lifelong, distance education programs for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, their families and blindness service providers.

Founded in 1920 by William Hadley and Dr. E.V.L. Brown, Hadley offers courses free of charge to its blind and visually impaired students and their families, and affordable tuition to blindness professionals. Today, Hadley is the largest provider of distance education for people who are blind or visually impaired around the world, serving more than 10,000 students annually in all 50 states and in 100 countries. Hadley is also the largest educator of braille worldwide. A 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, the school relies on contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations to fund its programs.

Hadley has a course for you if you are:

- A blind or visually impaired individual 14+ years of age
- A relative of a blind or visually impaired child
- A family member of a blind or visually impaired adult
- A professional or paraprofessional in the blindness field

Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired

700 Elm Street

Winnetka, IL 60093-2554

847-446-8111

Toll Free: 1-800-323-4238

Fax: 847-446-9916

info@hadley.edu

www.hadley.edu

NEWSLINE

Anyone who cannot read regular newsprint could qualify for this free service. Many seniors have lost enough vision that reading the daily newspaper is no longer possible. These individuals will enjoy being able once again to participate actively in community affairs. Information is available from more than 300 Newspapers Available. NFB-NEWSLINE[®] is the only service that makes so much information available to eligible people 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Toll Free: 1-866-504-7300 or 1-855-476-9911

www.nfb.org

PREVENT BLINDNESS GEORGIA

Prevent Blindness Georgia was established in 1965 as an affiliate of Prevent Blindness America, the nation's leading nonprofit eye health and safety organization. With a focus on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness Georgia touches the lives of more than 40,000 people each year with our direct services. We vision screen 35,000 four year olds; train more than 400 public health, school nurse and pediatric vision screeners; screen high risk adults for glaucoma and other aging eye diseases; provide current information on eye health and safety; and provide eye examinations and free or low-cost eye glasses to adults and replacement glasses to students.

Prevent Blindness Georgia

739 West Peachtree Street NW, Suite 200

Atlanta, GA 30308-1137

404-266-2020

www.preventblindness.org

TOOLS FOR LIFE

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they

can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

The Alternative Media Access Network

Georgia Institute of Technology/Enterprise Innovation Institute

512 Means Street, Suite 250

Atlanta, Georgia 30318

404-894-0541

Toll Free: 1-800-497-8665

www.gatfl.gatech.edu

info@gatfl.org

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA)

Veterans and eligible active duty service members can get help for vision loss by first contacting the VIST Coordinator in the VA facility nearest their home. VIST locations can be found on the Blind Rehabilitation Service website at:

www.va.gov

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

202-461-7317

Toll Free: 1-800-224-4087

HEARING LOSS RESOURCES

GEORGIA COUNCIL FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED (GACHI)

Established in 1989, GACHI is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides a variety of assistive services to the deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, deaf-blind, their family members, friends, and those with whom they interact. In addition to the main office in Decatur, satellite offices are operated in Columbus, Rome, Augusta, Macon and Savannah, GA.

GACHI Headquarters

4151 Memorial Drive, Suite 103-B

Decatur, GA 30032
TTY/Voice: 404-292-5312
Toll Free TTY/Voice: 1-800-541-0710
Fax: 404-299-3642
www.gachi.org

STARKEY HEARING FOUNDATION

“Hear Now” is a national nonprofit program committed to assisting those permanently residing in the U.S. who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and have no other resources to acquire hearing aids.

Toll Free: 1-800-648-4327
www.sotheworldmayhear.org/hearnow/

HEARING AND VISION LOSS RESOURCES

GEORGIA LIONS LIGHTHOUSE, INC.

Low cost vision and hearing services for Georgians, including

- full eye exams
- eyeglasses
- eye surgeries
- digital hearing aids
- vision and hearing screenings

Georgia Lions Lighthouse, Inc.

5582 Peachtree Road

Chamblee, GA 30341

404-325-3630

www.lionslighthouse.org

GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCY

DEAF-BLIND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Rebecca Cowan - Story MRC C.R.C.

State Coordinator of Deaf Blind Services

404-783-4193

rebecca.cowan-story@gvra.ga.gov

www.gvra.ga.gov

**HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER (HKNC) FOR DEAF-BLIND YOUTHS
AND ADULTS**

The mission of HKNC is to enable each person who is Deaf-Blind to live and work in his or her community of choice.

Helen Keller National Center

141 Middle Neck Road

Sands Point, NY 11050

516-944-8900 (8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.)

Fax: 516-944-7302

www.hkncinfo@hknc.org

www.hknc.org

Paige Berry, Program Director

Senior Adult Services Coordinator

Helen Keller National Center

P.O. Box 980330

Richmond, VA 23298-0330

TTY/Voice: 804-827-0920

Paige.berry@hknc.org

www.hknc.org

Barbara Posner

SE Regional Representative (AL FL GA MS)

Helen Keller National Center

P.O. Box 380

Concord, GA 30206

404-462-0185 (V)

678-826-9174 (V)

404 -381-8374 (VP)
barbara.chandler@hknc.org
www.hknc.org

**iCANCONNECT/GA
GEORGIA NATIONAL DEAF-BLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION
PROGRAM (GNDBEDP)**

The iCanConnect/GA NDBEDP provides modern telecommunications technology free of charge to low-income individuals of all ages who have combined vision and hearing loss.

GACHI, Inc. /www.gachi.org
4151 Memorial Drive, Suite 103-B
Decatur, GA 30032
678-235-3411 (V)
Toll Free: 877-659-4574
404-381-8354 (VP)

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