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 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.nwgcil.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
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
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
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
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
STARKEY HEARING FOUNDATION
“Hear Now” is a national nonprofit program committed to assisting those permanently residing the 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
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)
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)