



2023-2024

Resources for Parents of Students who are Visually Impaired



ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.

Helen Keller

Region One Esc
1900 West Schunior
Edinburg, Texas 78541

REGION 1 | VI RESOURCE LIST FOR PARENTS

AGENCIES / RESOURCES

| Agency / Resource | Information / Services Provided | Contact Information | Website |
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| 2-1-1 Texas | Connects families to opportunities for needed resources (food, housing, child care, counseling, etc.) | 211 877-541-7905 | https://www.211texas.org/cms/ |
| Children with Special Health Care Needs Program | Assists qualifying children under age 20 in specific income bracket with medical services | 800-252-8023 512-776-7355 | https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/children-special-health-care-needs-program |
| Navigate Life Texas | Medicaid Waivers for Home / Community Services; community living assistance; medically dependent children program; deafblind with multiple disabilities | 855-937-2372 https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/insurance-financial-help/community-living-assistance-and-support-services-class | https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/insurance-financial-help/texas-medicaid-waiver-programs-for-children-with-disabilities |
| Parent Companion: First five years | Information about children Ages: Birth to 5 years old | | http://www.parentcompanion.org/ |
| Texas Health and Human Services (HHSC): <i>Blind Children's Program</i> | Services to support children with blindness, visual impairments, and Deafblindness and their families | blindchildrensprogram@hhsc.state.tx.us 877-787-8999, option 3 | https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/blind-visually-impaired |
| Vibrant Works Empowering People with Vision Loss | Vibrant Works, formerly known as San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind and Vision Impaired, is a private, nonprofit organization empowering people with vision loss since 1933. We provide rehabilitation services and employment for people who are blind and vision impaired. | 2305 Roosevelt Ave. San Antonio, TX 78210 Main: 210-533-5195 Toll-Free: 800-362-4335 | https://vibrantworks.org/ |

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| Texas Project First | Family-to family network that provides information and resources for families of students with disabilities | https://www.spedtex.org/index.cfm/contact-us 855-773-3839 | http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/ |
| Texas Workforce Solutions | Vocational preparatory services for eligible students with blindness/visual impairment/deafblindness | customers@twc.state.tx.us 800-628-5115 | https://www.twc.state.tx.us/jobseekers/vocational-rehabilitation-youth-students#youthStudentServices |
| State Services for the Blind/Visually Impaired Teens (14 and up): Texas Workforce Solutions | Our VR counselors work closely with job seekers to determine an employment goal, and then identify and arrange for the high-quality services that lead to successful employment. | 800-687-7008 | http://www.twc.state.tx.us/jobseekers/vocational-rehabilitation-services |
| Texas Deafblind Project | Information and resources for students who are deafblind | | https://txdeafblindproject.org/ |
| WonderBaby.org | Find support for parents of children with special needs. Learn how to advocate for your child, raise funds for needed equipment and find helpful organizations. | help@wonderbaby.org | https://www.wonderbaby.org/special-needs |
| American Federation for the Blind | AFB speaks up for children who are blind or visually impaired, to make sure every student has an equal opportunity to succeed. | | https://www.afb.org/ |
| Career Connect | An employment information resource offered by the APH for job seekers who are | 1-800-232-5463 | |

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| For Job Seekers who are Visually Impaired | blind or visually impaired. Career Connect provides employment information, career exploration tools, and job seeking guidance for individuals with vision loss and the professionals who work with them. | connectcenter@aph.org | https://aphcareerconnect.org/ |
| American Printing House for the Blind | Resources and products for people who are visually impaired. | 800-223-1839 info@aph.org | www.aph.org |
| College Choice | Helps students and parents learn what they need to know about succeeding with disabilities in higher education. | contact@support.collegechoice.net | https://www.collegechoice.net/college-life/resources-for-students-with-disabilities/ |
| VAIL – Valley Association for Independent Living | VAIL is a non profit, non residential, consumer led, cross disability organization that serves as the center for independent living (CIL) in South Texas. | McAllen Office 3016 N McColl Rd, Ste B, McAllen, TX Office-956-668-8245 email-info@vailrgv.org Laredo Office 709 Alta Vista Dr Suite 102, Laredo, TX Office-956-523-1411 | https://www.vailrgv.org/ |
| LRGVDC – Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council | The LRGVDC promotes and encourages cooperation among local units of government in order to improve the region's health, safety, and general welfare and to plan for future development. VALLEY METRO is a part of this organization. | 301 W Railroad Weslaco, TX 78596 (956) 682-3481 | https://www.lrgvdc.org/ |
| East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind | East Texas Lighthouse creates opportunities and removes barriers across the nation! We strive to be a beacon of hope by restoring independence and confidence for those who are blind or visually impaired through facility-based and online training and programs. | 1-800-565-3852 info@etxlighthouse.org 411 West Front Street, Tyler TX 75702 | https://www.easttexaslighthouse.org/ |

Literacy: Accessible Books and Courses

| Resource | Info | Contact/Email/Phone | Website |
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| Bookshare | Free platform for accessible digital books for eligible student with visual impairment | | https://www.bookshare.org/cms |
| Hadley School for the Blind (courses) | Online personalized learning opportunities | info@hadley.edu 800-323-4238 | http://www.hadley.edu/ |
| Learning Ally | Audiobooks for education | 800-221-4792 | https://www.learningally.org/ |
| National Braille Press | Braille books and materials | 888-965-8552 | http://www.nbp.org/ |
| Overdrive | Free eBooks and audiobooks when used with a public library account | | https://www.overdrive.com/ |
| Seedlings Braille Books | Braille books for children | 800-777-8552 | http://www.seedlings.org/ |
| Texas State Library Talking Book Program | Free library service for qualifying individuals. Can be used with the BARD mobile app. | tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov 800-252-9605 512-463-5458 | https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html |
| National Library for the Blind and Print Disabled | NLS is a free braille and talking book library service for people with low vision, blindness, or a physical, perceptual, or reading disability that prevents them from using regular print materials. | | https://www.loc.gov/nls/ |

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| Dots for Families: Paths to Literacy | Tips on how to get started with Braille Literacy for your child. | 617-924-3434 | https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/dots-families-2/ |
| NFB Newsline | NFB-NEWSLINE® is a free audio news service for anyone who is blind, low-vision, deafblind, or otherwise print-disabled that offers access to more than 500 publications, emergency weather alerts, job listings, and more. | 200 East Wells Street at Jernigan Place Baltimore, Maryland 21230 866-504-7300 or 410-659-9314, Ext. 2317 | https://nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-newsline |

SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

| Special Education Resources | Info | Contact/Email/Phone | Website |
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| Education Service Center Region One | Provides Educational support to districts in the Region One area including the Rio Grande Valley, Laredo, Webb County, and Brooks County. | Susie Andrews 956-984-6165 sandrews@esc1.net | https://www.esc1.net/Domain/113 |
| IDEA | Individuals with Disabilities Education Action Parent and Family Resources | | https://sites.ed.gov/idea/parents-families/ |
| Texas Education Agency TEA | Texas Education Agency Parent and Family Resources | | https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/parent-and-family-resources |
| Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired | Resources and opportunities for short-term programs | http://www.tsbvi.edu/parent-portal 800-872-5273 512-454-8631 | http://www.tsbvi.edu/ |
| SPEDEX | Special Education Information Center created by TEA | 1-855-773-3839 | https://www.spedtex.org/ |

SUPPORT GROUPS

| Support Groups | Info | Contact/Email/Phone | Website |
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| National Federation of the Blind – RGV Chapter | National Federation of the Blind | rgv@nfbtx.org 956-320-8090 | https://www.nfbtx.org/chapters-rio-grande-valley-chapter.php |
| Family Connect | Online community for parents and families | connectcenter@aph.org | https://familyconnect.org/get-connected/about-familyconnect/ |
| MAGIC Foundation | Services to support Optic Nerve Hypoplasia (ONH) | ContactUs@magicfoundation.org 800-362-4423 | http://www.magicfoundation.org/Growth-Disorders/Optic-Nerve-Hypoplasia |
| NOAH | Family Support for Children with Albinism | info@albinism.org 800-473-2310 | http://www.albinism.org |
| TAPVI Parent Association | Texas Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments | Contact Form: http://www.tapvi.org/contact-the-board/ | http://www.tapvi.org |
| Texas Chargers | CHARGE syndrome support | Kathi Barksdale kathi@centex.net 325-286-4230 | www.texaschargers.org |
| Texas Parent to Parent | Parent to parent support | 866-896-6001 512-458-8600 | http://www.txp2p.org/ |
| PATH Project | Parent training and information | Veronica Alvarez valvarezpath@gmail.com 512-969-1848 | http://prntexas.org/texas-ptis/path-project/ |
| National Family Association for Deaf-Blind | The National Family Association for Deaf-Blind (NFADB) is the largest national nonprofit organization empowering families with individuals who are Deaf-Blind. | 800.255.0411 info@nfadb.org | https://nfadb.org/ |
| Center for Parent Information and Resources | Supporting the Parent Centers Who Serve Families of Children with Disabilities | | https://www.parentcenterhub.org/ |

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| Texas Association of Blind Students | The Texas Association of Blind Students (TABS) serves as a resource for blind students throughout the state. The lively division is a cross-section of Texas students, including high school, college and non-traditional students, which comes together to discuss a wide variety of issues specific to blindness. | Division President: Demetria Ober tabs@nfbtx.org National Federation of the Blind of Texas 1600 E Hwy. 6, Suite 215 Alvin, TX 77511 (281) 968-7733 | https://www.nfbtx.org/division-student |

Guide Dog Resources

| Resource / Organization | Info | Contact/Email/Phone | Website |
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| Leader Dogs for the Blind | Leader dogs is empowering people who are blind or visually impaired with lifelong skills for safe and independent daily travel. | 1039 S. Rochester Rd. Rochester Hills, MI 48307 248-651-9011 | https://www.leaderdog.org/ |
| The Seeing Eye | The Seeing Eye's mission is to enhance the independence, dignity and self-confidence of people who are blind, through the use of specially trained Seeing Eye® dogs. | P.O. Box 375 Morristown, NJ 07963-0375 (973) 539-4425 info@SeeingEye.org | https://www.seeingeye.org/ |
| Guide Dogs of Texas | We train and place purpose-bred dogs with Texans who are blind or have low vision. | 1503 Allena Drive San Antonio, Texas 78213 Phone: 210-366-4081 outreach@guidedogsoftexas.org | https://guidedogsoftexas.org/ |
| Guide Dogs for the Blind | We offer highly trained guide dogs to qualified individuals, we also teach guide dog readiness skills in our O&M Immersion Program; match both children and adults with K9 Buddy dogs as companions and pets. | P.O. Box 151200 San Rafael, CA 94915 800-295-4050 | https://www.guidedogs.com/ |

