



## LOW VISION RESOURCE LIST

This list is compiled by the Macular Degeneration Research and National Glaucoma Research programs of the American Health Assistance Foundation (AHAF). To make it easier for quick reference, it is arranged alphabetically under the following sections:

Page 1	<a href="#">Clinical Trials</a>
2	<a href="#">Eye Care Professional Organizations</a>
2	<a href="#">Federal Government Programs and Services</a>
4	<a href="#">Financial Aid</a>
5	<a href="#">General Information, Resources, and Referrals</a>
7	<a href="#">Legal Assistance</a>
8	<a href="#">Low Vision Aid Equipment and Resources</a>
10	<a href="#">Low Vision Organizations</a>
11	<a href="#">Print and Audio Materials for the Visually Impaired</a>
13	<a href="#">Senior Housing</a>
13	<a href="#">State and Local Resources</a>

**AHAF** funds research and educates the public about age-related macular degeneration and glaucoma and offers an extensive selection of publications. Contact us at [info@ahaf.org](mailto:info@ahaf.org) or 1-800-437-2423, or visit our website at [www.ahaf.org](http://www.ahaf.org).

**Disclaimer:** *The organizations listed below are not affiliated with the American Health Assistance Foundation (AHAF). In addition, AHAF is not responsible for the content of these websites, and does not endorse any particular programs offered by these organizations.*

### Clinical Trials

#### **CenterWatch Clinical Trials Listing Service**

Provides information about clinical research, including listings of active industry and government-sponsored clinical trials, research on new drug therapies and drugs recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

[www.centerwatch.com](http://www.centerwatch.com)

1-866-219-3440

**National Institutes of Health, National Eye Institute, National Institute on Aging**  
ClinicalTrials.gov provides information on government-sponsored and industry-sponsored human trials and recruitment, with locations, purpose, eligibility requirements, and phone contacts. NEI and NIA highlight clinical trials sponsored by those institutes.

[www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)

[www.nei.nih.gov/neitrials/](http://www.nei.nih.gov/neitrials/)

(301) 496-5248

[www.nia.nih.gov/HealthInformation/ClinicalTrials.htm](http://www.nia.nih.gov/HealthInformation/ClinicalTrials.htm)

(301) 496-1752

## **Eye Care Professional Organizations**

---

### **American Academy of Ophthalmology**

A national membership association of “eye M.D.s.” Search for ophthalmologists and eye specialists by state and locality. The AAO GetEyeSmart.com website includes information on eye health and other eye-related topics.

[www.aao.org](http://www.aao.org)

[www.GetEyeSmart.com](http://www.GetEyeSmart.com)

(415) 561-8500

### **American Optometric Association**

An organization of eye care professionals, serving patients in nearly 6,500 communities across the country. The AOA’s Vision Rehabilitation Section (VRS) supports the interdisciplinary approach to rehabilitation of patients with low vision (legally blind and/or visually impaired).

[www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org)

1-800-365-2219

## **Federal Government Programs and Services**

---

### **Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

A starting point for information on aging for elders and families.

[www.aoa.gov](http://www.aoa.gov)

(202) 619-0724

### **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

Offer latest information and resources on Medicare and Medicaid.

[www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov)

(401) 786-3000

### **Disability.gov**

Twenty-two federal government agencies are involved in this online database that connects people with disabilities to information and resources needed to participate in the workforce and community life, including benefits, civil rights, education, employment, housing, health, technology, and transportation.

[www.disability.gov](http://www.disability.gov)

1-800-333-4636

### **Eldercare Locator**

Website of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides resource information for older adults, including state and local area agencies on aging and community-based organizations that serve many elder care needs. Spanish-speaking information specialists and language interpretation service for 150 languages are available during business hours.

[www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov)

1-800-677-1116

### **GovBenefits.gov**

Official benefits site of federal government with information on more than 1,000 benefit and assistance programs.

[www.govbenefits.gov](http://www.govbenefits.gov)

1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636)

### **Healthfinder.gov**

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, this website provides healthcare information and access to other online sources.

[www.healthfinder.gov](http://www.healthfinder.gov)

### **National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health**

Supports eye disease and vision research. Develops public and professional education programs to help prevent blindness, reduce visual impairment, and increase awareness of low vision services and devices.

[www.nei.nih.gov](http://www.nei.nih.gov)

(301) 496-5248

### **National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health**

Conducts and supports biomedical, social and behavioral research and public education to promote healthy aging. Website has database with information on more than 250 national organizations that help older people.

[www.nia.nih.gov](http://www.nia.nih.gov)

<http://nihseniorhealth.gov/> (general information)

[www.nia.nih.gov/HealthInformation/ResourceDirectory.htm](http://www.nia.nih.gov/HealthInformation/ResourceDirectory.htm) (database)

(301) 496-1752  
TTY 1-800-222-4225

### **National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**

The Library of Congress provides free Braille and recorded materials and lends playback equipment to eligible borrowers through a network of cooperating libraries. Books and magazines in recorded form (talking books) or in Braille are delivered and returned by postage-free mail.

[www.loc.gov/nls](http://www.loc.gov/nls)

(202) 707-5100

### **Social Security Administration**

Provides some financial assistance to those who are legally blind or who have vision problems that prevent them from employment.

[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

1-800-772-1213

### **Financial Aid**

---

Glaucoma prescription assistance program information:

[www2.ahaf.org/glaucomaassistance](http://www2.ahaf.org/glaucomaassistance)

Macular degeneration prescription assistance program information:

[www.ahaf.org/macular/resources/macular-degeneration.htm](http://www.ahaf.org/macular/resources/macular-degeneration.htm)

### **Benefits Checkup®, National Council on Aging**

Provides information on federal and state programs that offer assistance in paying for prescription drugs, utility bills, health care, and other needs of older Americans.

[www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)

### **EyeCare America**

Provides eye exams and up to one year of care to U.S. citizens and legal residents through volunteer ophthalmologists, often at no out-of-pocket cost to those who qualify. A program of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

[www.eyecareamerica.org](http://www.eyecareamerica.org)

1-877-887-6327

### **Hill Burton Program**

The program ended in 1997, but about 300 hospitals and healthcare facilities are still obligated to provide free or reduced-cost care. The website has a directory of participating healthcare facilities.

[www.hrsa.gov/hillburton](http://www.hrsa.gov/hillburton)

1-800-638-0742; Maryland Residents: 1-800-492-0359

### **Lions Clubs International**

Provides financial assistance to those who need eye care. The phone book lists local Lions Clubs.

[www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

(630) 571-5466

### **New Eyes for the Needy**

Helps provide eyeglasses for the poor worldwide. Applicants must provide written proof that they have no other source of assistance.

[www.neweyesforheneedy.org](http://www.neweyesforheneedy.org)

(973) 376-4903

### **Partnership for Prescription Assistance**

Helps qualifying patients who lack prescription coverage get the medicines they need through appropriate public or private programs.

[www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org)

1-888-477-2669

### **RxAssist**

Offers information on patient assistance programs sponsored by pharmaceutical companies that provide free medications to those who cannot afford them.

[www.rxassist.org](http://www.rxassist.org)

(401) 729-3284

### **Social Security Administration**

Provides some financial assistance to those who are legally blind or who have vision problems that prevent them from working.

[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

1-800-772-1213

### **Vision USA**

Provides free basic eye health and vision care services to individuals who have no other means of obtaining care. Managed by the American Optometric Association and its affiliated state agencies.

[www.aoa.org/visionusa.xml](http://www.aoa.org/visionusa.xml)

1-800-766-4466

## **General Information, Resources, and Referrals**

**AHAF** “Helpful Reading” lists:

Glaucoma: [www.ahaf.org/glaucoma/resources/helpfulreading.html](http://www.ahaf.org/glaucoma/resources/helpfulreading.html)

Macular degeneration: <http://www.ahaf.org/macular/resources/helpfulreading.html>

### **All About Vision**

Educates people about eye diseases including cataracts, glaucoma, and macular degeneration.

[www.allaboutvision.com](http://www.allaboutvision.com)

(858) 454-2145

### **Alliance for Aging Research**

Advocates for research and provides information on age-related medical discoveries and health topics.

[www.agingresearch.org](http://www.agingresearch.org)

(202) 293-2856

### **American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)**

Membership organization for people over 50.

[www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

1-888-687-2277 (1-888 OUR AARP)

### **American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR)**

Offers information on healthy lifestyles, age-related conditions, and diseases and biology of aging.

[www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org)

(212) 703-9977

1-888-582-2327

### **Meals on Wheels Association of America**

Provides information on local meal delivery and group meal locations for seniors.

[www.mowaa.org](http://www.mowaa.org)

(703) 548-5558

### **MediAlert Foundation International**

Offers emblems and chains engraved with the person's membership number, primary medical conditions, and a toll-free 24-hour emergency number. MediAlert allows the person to be identified, and can relay key medical facts and notify family contacts.

[www.medicalert.org](http://www.medicalert.org)

1-888-633-4298

### **National Association of Geriatric Care Managers**

Helps families care for older relatives while encouraging as much independence as

possible. Provides an online database for finding a health and human services specialist.

[www.caremanager.org](http://www.caremanager.org)

(520) 881-8008

### **National Council on Aging**

Provides information on healthy aging, maintaining independence, and government and private benefits programs; includes news updates of interest to seniors.

[www.ncoa.org](http://www.ncoa.org)

(202) 479-1200

### **Senior Citizens Bureau**

Provides information for seniors on government programs, counseling, housing, etc.; includes an online state-by-state directory for many services.

[www.seniorcitizensbureau.com](http://www.seniorcitizensbureau.com)

1-800-281-1088

## **Legal Assistance**

---

### **American Bar Association (ABA)**

Provides information to help find legal assistance and locate lawyers. Part of the website deals specifically with legal issues of aging.

[www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org)

[www.abanet.org/aging/home.html](http://www.abanet.org/aging/home.html)

1-800-285-2221

### **ElderLawAnswers.com**

Find an attorney, resources and information on financial and legal issues of aging.

[www.elderlawanswers.com](http://www.elderlawanswers.com)

1-866-267-0947

### **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys**

Use the database to find an elder law attorney in the private or public sector who deals with legal issues affecting the elderly and disabled.

[www.naela.com](http://www.naela.com)

(703) 942-5711

### **National Center on Elder Abuse**

A national resource center dedicated to the prevention of elder mistreatment.

[www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main\\_Site/index.aspx](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main_Site/index.aspx)

[www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/main\\_site/Find\\_Help/State\\_Resources.aspx](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/main_site/Find_Help/State_Resources.aspx)

(302) 831-3525

## Low Vision Aid Equipment and Resources

### **ABLEDATA**

Provides information on assistive technology and rehabilitation equipment from domestic and international sources.

[www.abledata.com](http://www.abledata.com)

1-800-227-0216

### **Ai Squared**

Develops computer access software for the visually impaired.

[www.aisquared.com](http://www.aisquared.com)

1-800-859-0270

### **Beyond Sight**

Offers a wide variety of items for the visually impaired, including computers, talking clocks, kitchen items, magnifying glasses, and closed-circuit TVs.

[www.beyondsight.com](http://www.beyondsight.com)

(303) 795-6455

### **Enhanced Vision Systems**

Offers a full line of vision tools and magnifiers.

[www.enhancedvision.com](http://www.enhancedvision.com)

1-888-811-3161

### **Freedom Scientific**

Provides assistive and adaptive low vision technology, including portable and desktop video magnifiers and magnification and screen-reading software.

[www.freedomscientific.com](http://www.freedomscientific.com)

1-800-444-4443

### **G. W. Micro**

Offers software and hardware solutions for the blind and visually impaired.

[www.gwmicro.com](http://www.gwmicro.com)

(260) 489-3671

### **HumanWare**

Designs and manufactures technology solutions, including the SmartView™ video magnifier for the visually impaired.

[www.humanware.com](http://www.humanware.com)

1-800-722-3393

**Independent Living Aids, Inc.**

Offers a catalog of low vision products.

[www.independentliving.com](http://www.independentliving.com)

1-800-537-2118

**Innoventions, Inc.**

Created and offers the Magni-Cam™ electronic magnifier.

[www.magnicam.com](http://www.magnicam.com)

1-800-854-6554

**JBliss Imaging Systems**

Offers software and electronic equipment for portable and at-home magnification of texts and pictures via cameras, scanners, and more.

[www.jbliss.com](http://www.jbliss.com)

(650) 327 5477

1-888-452-5477

**LS&S**

Offers a catalog of products for people with low vision and/or impaired hearing.

[www.lssproducts.com](http://www.lssproducts.com)

1-800-468-4789

**Maxi Aids**

Offers a catalog of low vision devices.

[www.maxiaids.com](http://www.maxiaids.com)

1-800-522-6294

**MONS International, Inc.**

Offers products for the visually impaired, including Braille watches, talking calculators, 4-track recorders, kitchen aids, writing guides, computer software and accessories, greeting cards, and talking scales.

[www.magnifiers.com](http://www.magnifiers.com)

1-800-541-7903

**Ocutech, Inc.**

Offers various types of magnifier attachments to enhance the vision of the partially sighted; produces the VES AutoFocus telescope.

[www.ocutech.com](http://www.ocutech.com)

1-800-326-6460

## **Vision Cue**

Offers Braille, low vision, and speech products from a variety of manufacturers.

[www.visioncue.com](http://www.visioncue.com)

1-888-318-2582

## **Vision Technology, Inc.**

Offers desktop and portable video magnification devices.

[www.visiontechnology.com](http://www.visiontechnology.com)

1-800-560-7226

## **Low Vision Organizations**

---

### **Low Vision Rehabilitation Centers**

Evaluate and train those with low vision and offer devices and services.

Ophthalmologists or local hospitals can help locate low vision rehabilitation centers.

### **American Council of the Blind**

Provides a wide variety of services to visually impaired persons, with an emphasis on employment opportunities.

[www.acb.org](http://www.acb.org)

1-800-424-8666

### **Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired**

Engaged in the education, guidance, vocational rehabilitation, or occupational placement of the blind and partially sighted. Conducts certification programs, maintains job exchange services, and works with local, state, and national governments on legislation affecting services to the blind and visually impaired.

[www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org)

1-877-492-2708

### **The Braille Institute of America** (for California regions)

Offers free classes, training, and a wide variety of other services and activities for those with blindness and severe sight loss. Serves Central and Southern California.

[www.brailleinstitute.org](http://www.brailleinstitute.org)

1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553)

### **Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind**

Offers programs that enable the blind or visually impaired to remain independent, including early intervention services, training and consultation in assistive

technology, career placement services, comprehensive low vision care, and rehabilitation services.

[www.clb.org](http://www.clb.org)

(202) 454-6400

### **Lighthouse International**

Provides education and vision rehabilitation services, and supports research and advocacy.

[www.lighthouse.org](http://www.lighthouse.org)

1-800-829-0500

### **Macular Degeneration Support**

Provides information for those with macular degeneration and other retinal diseases, as well as assistance in forming and running support groups.

[www.mdsupport.org](http://www.mdsupport.org)

(816) 761-7080

### **National Federation of the Blind**

Provides advocacy, education, research, technology, and programs encouraging independence and self-confidence for the blind.

[www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org)

410-659-9314

### **The Seeing Eye**

Matches specially bred and trained guide dogs with blind people in the U.S. and Canada.

[www.seeingeye.org](http://www.seeingeye.org)

(973) 539-4425

### **VisionAWARE**

Self-help resource center for those with vision loss.

[www.visionaware.org](http://www.visionaware.org)

(914) 528-5120

## **Print and Audio Materials for the Visually Impaired**

---

### **American Printing House for the Blind**

Provides special media, tools, and materials for the blind and visually impaired.

<http://www.aph.org/>

1-800-223-1839

**Associated Services for the Blind**

Offers Braille, tape, and large-print materials for the blind and visually impaired.

<http://www.asb.org/>

(215) 627-0600

**Books on Tape, Inc.**

Produces, rents, and sells unabridged audio books on CDs and as audio downloads playable on more than 500 devices.

[www.booksontape.com](http://www.booksontape.com)

1-800-733-3000

**International Association of Audio Information Services**

Includes a directory of radio reading services in the U.S., Canada, and several other countries.

[www.iaais.org](http://www.iaais.org)

1-800-280-5325

**Learning Ally** (formerly Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic)

Provides free recorded educational books for those with blindness, visual impairment, dyslexia, or other learning disabilities. The master library contains over 65,000 titles.

[www.learningally.org](http://www.learningally.org)

1-800-221-4792

**National Association for Visually Handicapped**

Serves as a clearinghouse for information about services available to the partially sighted from public and private sources. Conducts self-help groups and provides information on large-print books and educational tools, publishes a quarterly newsletter, and maintains a large-print lending library for the visually impaired.

[www.navh.org](http://www.navh.org)

(212) 889-3141

**NFB-NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup>**

Developed and operated by the National Federation of the Blind, offers free nationwide telephone newspaper service for the blind and visually impaired.

[www.nfb.org/nfb/newspapers\\_by\\_phone.asp](http://www.nfb.org/nfb/newspapers_by_phone.asp)

1-866-504-7300

**National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**

Provides free Braille and recorded materials and lends playback devices to eligible borrowers through a network of cooperating libraries. Books and magazines in

recorded form (talking books) or in Braille are delivered and returned by postage-free mail.

[www.loc.gov/nls](http://www.loc.gov/nls)

1-888-657-7323

## **Senior Housing**

---

### **Helpguide.org**

Provides information on long-term care and housing options at “Senior Housing and Care” section of website.

[www.helpguide.org](http://www.helpguide.org)

### **RetirementHomes.com**

Research senior housing options.

[www.retirementhomes.com](http://www.retirementhomes.com)

1-888-544-9124

### **seniorDECISION.com**

Offers a list of home healthcare and senior housing options by state and area, with consumer ratings and reviews.

[www.seniordecision.com](http://www.seniordecision.com)

### **SNAPforSeniors™**

Provides a senior housing options guide.

[www.snapforseniors.com](http://www.snapforseniors.com)

1-888-651-7627

## **State and Local Resources**

---

### **Healthcare Professionals**

Healthcare providers (physicians, nurses, etc.) are the first source of information for those facing health issues.

### **State and Area Agencies on Aging**

Each state and territory in the U.S. has an Agency on Aging office located in its capital city as well as local offices. Check the phone book or online by state and area. They provide information on nutrition and support services, elder-rights programs, long-term care, ombudsman programs, legal services, outreach, and elder-abuse prevention.

Each state in the U.S. has these departments as well as local offices. They can provide information on support and respite services, facilities, financial assistance, and regulations and licensing. Check the phone book or online by state and locality.

American Health Assistance Foundation  
22512 Gateway Center Drive  
Clarksburg, MD 20871  
(301) 948-3244  
1-800-437-2423  
[info@ahaf.org](mailto:info@ahaf.org)  
[www.ahaf.org/macular](http://www.ahaf.org/macular)  
[www.ahaf.org/glaucoma](http://www.ahaf.org/glaucoma)  
Connect and share: [www.ahaf.org/join](http://www.ahaf.org/join)



© American Health Assistance Foundation, 2011

COMPASSION FOR TODAY - A CURE FOR TOMORROW®

---

AHAF funds research on Alzheimer's disease, age-related macular degeneration, and glaucoma