

Premie Parent Alliance Network
 First Steps EIP MS Parent Training
 Teacher of Students Information Center
 with Visual MS School for the Blind
 Impairments MS Hearing-Vision Project
 MS Instructional Radio Reading Service
 Resource Center (MIRC) Radio Reading
 MS Library Commission's Service of MS (RRSM)
 Talking Book Services National Federation
 Orientation and Mobility of the Blind of MS
 Specialist Lion's Club Sea and Sun Camp
 Lion's Club Low • Space Camp for Interested
 Vision Clinic at MS Visually Impaired
 School for the Blind Students (SCIVIS)

2020 RESOURCE GUIDE FOR PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS IN MISSISSIPPI

National Organization of Parents of Blind Children
 through National Federation of the Blind • • • •
 MS Department of Addie McBryde Rehabilitation
 Rehabilitation Services • • Center for the Blind
 Independent Living Services DeafBlind Community
 for Older Individuals First Steps EIP of MS (DBCM)
 who are Blind Never Lose Sight LLC • • • • • • • •
 MS Council of the Blind • • Family First Braille
 MS Association for the Education & Rehabilitation
 of the Blind and Visually Impaired National Research
 Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) and Training Center on
 • • • Blindness and Low
 National Center on Vision
 Deaf-Blindness (NCDB)
 MS School for the Blind
 National Family Association
 for Deaf-Blind (NFADB)
 Family First Braille
 • •

WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of the Resource Guide for People with Visual Impairments in Mississippi!

Our Guide:

- Is designed to help you easily navigate the complex world of resources for those who are visually impaired.
- Contains resources for all age groups and stages of life.
- Identifies resources especially for children birth to 21 years of age.
- Includes 2 pages of web resources.

Please feel free to contact Family First Braille at [Brenda Ramsey@FamilyFirstBraille.com](mailto:Brenda.Ramsey@FamilyFirstBraille.com) with any questions or comments.

PRODUCTION TEAM

We would like to thank all the professionals who contributed to the resources for this guide. Their hard work and generosity is much appreciated!

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

This list is not totally inclusive nor exclusive.

Denotes Resources for Children Birth to 21 Years Old 

- 4** Premie Parent Alliance Network 
- 5** First Steps EIP 
- 6** MS Parent Training Information Center 
- 7** MS School for the Blind 
- 8** Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments 
- 9** MS Hearing-Vision Project 
- 9** MS Instructional Resource Center (MIRC) 
- 10** MS Library Commission's Talking Book Services
- 10** Radio Reading Service of MS (RRSM)
- 11** Orientation and Mobility Specialist
- 12** Lions Club Low Vision Clinic at MS School for the Blind 
- 13** Lions Club Sea and Sun Camp
- 13** Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students (SCIVIS)
- 14** MS Department of Rehabilitation Services
- 15** Addie McBryde Rehabilitation Center for the Blind
- 16** Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind
- 17** DeafBlind Community of MS (DBCM)
- 17** Family First Braille
- 18** Never Lose Sight
- 19** National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision
- 19** MS Association for the Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired
- 20** MS Council of the Blind
- 21** National Organization of Parents of Blind Children through National Federation of the Blind
- 21** National Federation of the Blind of MS
- 22, 23** Web Resources for Families, Professionals and Individuals



Preemie Parent Alliance Network

supports parents of premature infants by providing a platform for them to come together as a collective voice, representing the needs and best interests of NICU families in all facets of healthcare policy, care guidelines, advocacy, education, and family support.

Keira Sorrells,
Founder and Executive Director

601.345.1772

connect@nicuparentnetwork.org

First Steps EIP



is a program that matches the unique needs of infants and toddlers who have developmental delays, or a birth condition that could cause a developmental delay, with Early Intervention services and resources within the community, through the MS Department of Health.

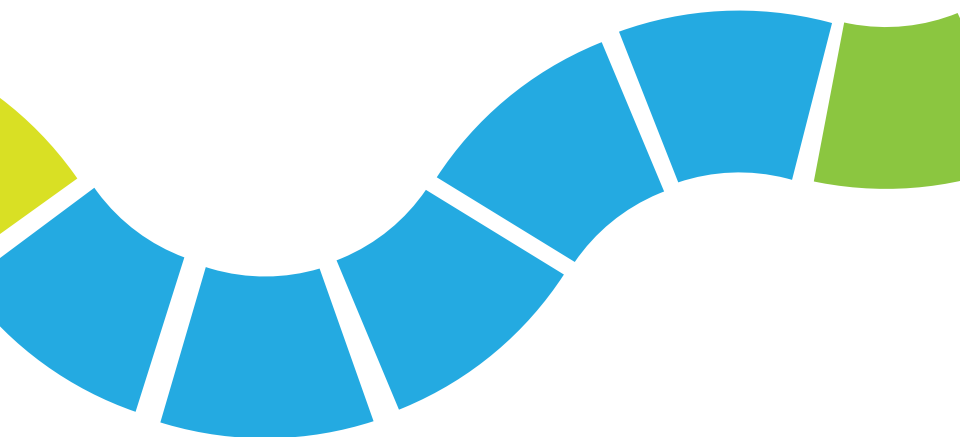
Chandra Laird, Referral Coordinator

601.576.7427 | 800.451.3903

chandra.laird@msdh.ms.gov or Fax

601.576.7540

<http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/msdhsite/index.cfm/41,0,74,html> and https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/2056.pdf



MS Parent Training Information Center (MSPTI)



If you are the parent or family member of a child with a disability, age birth to 26, MSPTI's job is to provide your family with information, resources, support and training that allows you to help your child meet his or her educational goals. They are also here to help you learn about what your child needs to lead a productive and independent adult life.

Leslie Junkin, Director

601-969-0601

leslie@mspti.org

www.mspti.org



MS School for the Blind:



- MS Assistance Center (MAC): Assessments for anyone from birth to 21 years old,
- Ski*Hi - Early intervention for infants and toddlers who are visually impaired or blind.
- On-campus K-12 education

Pre-school, elementary and secondary educational programs designed to focus on the unique learning needs of children and youth with visual impairment.

Donna Sorensen, Superintendent

601.984.8000

dsorensen@mdek12.org

769.257.3493 (c)

www.msb.k12.ms.us

Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI)



provides and coordinates specialized instruction. Caseloads include students ranging in age from birth through 21.

- Provides and coordinates specialized instruction to compensate for vision loss.
- Educates students ranging in age from birth through 21.
- Instructs students in the home, school or community.
- Addresses academic and functional domains.
- Uses The Expanded Core Curriculum as a focus with each individual student for assessment and development of learning goals.
- Recommends accommodations and modifications for access to the general curriculum.

www.tsbvi.edu/pds/496-typical-roles-and-responsibilities-of-vi-professionals

MS Hearing-Vision Project



provides assistance and training for families and educational teams serving children and youth with both hearing and vision loss.

Toni Hollingsworth, Project Director

228.249.9668

toni.hollingsworth@usm.edu

www.usm.edu/mhvp

MS Instructional Resource Center (MIRC)



provides textbooks and specialized materials for school-aged children with visual impairments.

Dr. Jeremy Stinson, Director

601.984.8226

jstinson@mdek12.org

www.msb.k12.ms.us/outreach/ms-instructional-resource-center

MS Library Commission's Talking Book Services

provides talking and downloadable books, large print, and more through the Library of Congress' Free Library Service.

Mary Rodgers Beal, Director

601.432.4151 | 800.446.0892

talkingbooks@mls.lib.ms.us

www.mlc.lib.ms.us/tbs

Radio Reading Service of MS (RRSM)

RRSM features on-the-air reading of newspapers, books and magazines.

Mike Duke, Director

601.432.6301

Mike.Duke@mpbonline.org

Orientation and Mobility Specialist (O&M)

focus on training in environmental awareness and the use of a white cane, electronic travel aids, GPS, dog guide, etc.

Orientation is the process of using sensory information to establish and maintain one's position in the environment; mobility is the process of moving safely, efficiently, and gracefully within one's environment.

The ultimate goal of O&M instruction is for persons with visual impairment to be able to travel in any environment as independently as possible.

Lions Club Low Vision Clinic at MS School for the Blind



provides educational assessment of student's residual vision, training in low vision aids, and more.

Dr. Glen Stribling, Optometrist

601.984.8222

myjenkins@mdek12.org or

gstribling@mdek12.org

www.msb.k12.ms.us/low-vision-clinic

Lions Club Sea and Sun Camp

is a summer camp for children ages 5-15 years with visual impairments. Camp occurs one weekend each May at Camp Wilkes, in Biloxi, MS, and offers archery, kayaking, crafts, bicycling, swimming, fishing, and more.

Greg Crapo, Camp Co-Founder

228.760.0239

SeaAndSunCamp@cableone.net

www.seaandsuncamp.com

Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students

is a week-long camp for students in grades 4-12 at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Camp occurs the last week of September.

Dan Oates, Coordinator

304.851.5680 (mobile)

scivis.oates@gmail.com

www.scivis.org

MS Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS)

is the largest state agency committed solely to helping people with disabilities achieve independence through employment. Services may include youth transition services, vocational evaluation, counseling and guidance, educational assistance, job training, job placement, and assistive technology.

Dorothy Young, Director

601.853.5210

dyoung@mdrs.ms.gov

[www.mdrs.ms.gov/VocationalRehabBlind/
Pages/default.aspx](http://www.mdrs.ms.gov/VocationalRehabBlind/Pages/default.aspx)

Addie McBryde Rehabilitation Center for the Blind

is a comprehensive personal adjustment center for transition age students and adults who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind.

Rosie Gibson, Director

601.364.2700 | 800.443.1000

rgibson@mdrs.ms.gov

www.mdrs.ms.gov/VocationalRehabBlind/Pages/Addie_McBryde.aspx



Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind

is a statewide program through the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services. The coordinator's office is in Starkville. The OIB program assists older adults to "age in place" by improving their quality of life through instruction in adaptive techniques, resources and supportive services.

Lynda Hall, *Director*

662.320.6656

lhall@mdrs.ms.gov

[www.blind.msstate.edu/research/
current-research/oib.php](http://www.blind.msstate.edu/research/current-research/oib.php)

DeafBlind Community of MS

is a nonprofit organization promoting the social well-being of adults who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind.

Andre Jarreau, *Founder and President*

303.520.7004

dbcm@earthlink.net or

Contact: Send message in Facebook Messenger

www.facebook.com/DBCMOfficial

Family First Braille

offers quarterly grants for families and organizations serving people with visual impairments, provides custom Braille transcription, and publishes a free quarterly magazine for people with visual impairments and their families.

Brenda Ramsey, *Director*

228.224.2920

brendaramsey@familyfirstbraille.com

www.ffbraille.com

Never Lose Sight

is a nonprofit organization designed to provide the blind/visually impaired community of South MS the resources they need to increase their quality of life, expand their possibilities and regain independence and confidence. Behind the scenes, Never Lose Sight is working toward obtaining new resources and providing South MS with their very own school.

David Lancaster, *Founder*

228.864.2104

Dr. Barbara Coatney,

bcoatney_1@msn.com

www.facebook.com/pg/neverlosesightllc

The National Research and Training Center (NRTC) on Blindness and Low Vision's

mission is to enhance the employment and independence of persons who are blind and visually impaired through research, professional training and education.

662.325.2001

NRTC@msstate.edu

www.blind.msstate.edu

www.ntac.blind.msstate.edu and

www.oib-tac.org

MS Association for the Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (MAER)

is a professional organization to connect with vision professionals.

Harold L. Miller, Jr., MAER President

601.364.1551

601.879.9077

harold.miller2@va.gov

www.aerbvi.org

MS Council of the Blind

is a statewide consumer organization. The Council helps elevate the social, economic, and cultural levels of people who are blind or visually impaired, in cooperation with other programs of private and public agencies and organizations serving the blind and visually impaired. Approximately 165 members in MS with chapters in Tupelo, Jackson, Hazlehurst and Hattiesburg.

Ralph Smitherman, *President (2019)*

601.672.0973

redbird26@bellsouth.net

www.msCounciloftheBlind.org/index.php

National Organization of Parents of Blind Children through National Federation of the Blind

is a national membership organization of parents and friends of blind children reaching out to each other to give vital support, encouragement and information.

Sara West, President of the Mississippi Parents of Blind Children

662.574.3942

nopbc.org

sarawest2009@hotmail.com

National Federation of the Blind of MS

is a national membership with a state affiliate which provides assistance and support with high expectations to live the life you want.

Patrina Pendarvis, President

601.540.6308

president.nfbms@gmail.com

nfb.org

WEB RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES, PROFESSIONALS AND INDIVIDUALS*

Wonderbaby

Online community of parents and caregivers who are living the challenges and joys that come with parenting special needs children.

help@wonderbaby.org

www.wonderbaby.org

Family Connect

An online, multimedia community created to give parents of visually impaired children a place to support each other, share stories and concerns, and link to local resources.

connectcenter@aph.org

www.familyconnect.org/parentsitehome.aspx

Hadley School for the Blind

Hadley offers low-to-no cost distance learning options for individuals with a visual impairment, their family members and professionals.

800.323.4238

info@hadley.edu

www.hadley.edu

Perkins School for the Blind

Perkins School for the Blind offers numerous distance learning opportunities through online classes, and webcasts.

617.924.3434

info@perkins.org

www.perkinselearning.org

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

TSBVI offers well-designed and researched-based resources, materials and online trainings for families of children and youth with visual impairments or deaf-blindness, and their educational professionals.

Training events: www.tsbvi.edu/training-events/4053-2014-15-

Publications: www.tsbvi.edu/tsbvi-publications

Selected Resources Page: www.tsbvi.edu/selected-resource-topics

512.454.8631

info@tsbvi.edu



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American Printing House for the Blind

Since 1858, The American Printing House for the Blind has operated in Louisville, Kentucky as the world's largest nonprofit organization creating accessible learning experiences through educational, workplace, and independent living products and services for people who are blind and visually impaired. These products are funded with a federal grant for school aged children. APH items in Mississippi are obtained through the MS Instructional Resource Center (MIRC) via your Teacher of the Visually Impaired and/or school district.

800.223.1839

cs@aph.org

www.aph.org

National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB)

As a national technical assistance center, NCDB works with families, state deaf-blind projects, and other partners to improve educational results and quality of life for children who are deaf-blind and their families.

www.nationaldb.org

National Family Association for Deaf-Blind (NFADB)

Empowering families with individuals who are deaf-blind.

nfadb.org

Helen Keller National Center (HKNC)

is the only national training center dedicated to providing quality services to promote the quality of life for individuals who are deaf-blind (16 years and older). With 50+ years of specialized employment and rehabilitation services to individuals with combined vision and hearing loss, HKNC is committed to providing individualized training to meet the participant's needs and preferences to maximize their potential in the community of their choice.

Cory Parker, Regional Representative

Voice: **516.350.1026**

Text Only: **516.329.3355**

VP: **850.270.6012**

cory.parker@hknc.org

www.helenkeller.org/hknc



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For more information about any of these resources listed in this book, please contact Brenda Ramsey at:

BrendaRamsey@FamilyFirstBraille.com

228.224.2920