

Vision Resources

Braille and Talking Book Library

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons
P.O. Box 30007
702 W. Kalamazoo
Lansing, MI 48909

1-800-992-9012

Service: Braille materials or recorded books or magazines with special machine loaned to individuals who are unable to read due to visual or physical limitations or reading disabilities. Members may download books to a mobile device. Call for application or go to www.michigan.gov/btbl
Fee: none

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1-800-292-4200

(Formerly Michigan Commission for the Blind)

Service: offers three different programs to help individuals with vision impairments to function independently. **Need documentation from doctor about vision status, completed application and counselor evaluation to access programs.**

Contact: Paige Lloyd, Rehabilitation Instructor

1. Independent Living Program:

Service: Home visit by specialist to instruct client in adaptive techniques such as mobility, kitchen skills, check writing, medication and money identification, and use of low vision devices.

Eligibility: 55 or older, and legally blind.

2. MiniAdjustment Seminars:

Service: week-long seminars held in various cities throughout Michigan. Seminars teach skills needed for independence, same as the Independent Living Program topics, but taught in a small group setting at local hotels.

3. Training Center:

Service: Provides intensive training in independent living skills to legally blind individuals at the residential MCB Training Center in Kalamazoo for a 3 week period or longer, depending upon need.

Eligibility: legally blind individuals, age 16 and older.

continued

(AT&T's) Directory Assistance Exemption Program 1-866-241-6568

Service: Provides exemption from the directory assistance charge for looking up **local** phone numbers, for those unable to read standard print with correction. Once an eligible person is registered, they may dial "411" for local help, explain they are "exempt", and ask operator for phone number. *Additional charge pertains if operator connects call, however. Yellow pages search and non-local numbers **not** included in free service.*

Eligibility: legally blind diagnosis (signed by agency worker or doctor), and completed AT&T exemption form. Call for form or obtain at ATT.com.

Fee: none

EyeCare America- Seniors Program

Service: provides local medical eye exam and follow-up treatment for any diagnosed eye disease to senior citizens that do not have ability to pay.

Eyeglasses and medicines are *not* covered.

Eligibility: Age 65 or older, who have not seen an ophthalmologist in the last 3 years, and do not belong to an HMO or the VA.

Fee: Medicare or private insurance accepted as payment in full. Uninsured clients receive care at no charge.

Enroll: must apply online at www.eyecareamerica.org

Jackson District Library Outreach Dept. 905-1343

Service: Delivery of all types of library materials available for homebound or disabled residents. Materials are sent via courier.

Eligibility: Jackson county resident and cannot come to the library because they are homebound, disabled, or confined to a nursing home.

Fee: none.

Lions of Michigan State Office 517-887-6640 ext. 10

Service: may provide assistance with optical needs, such as glasses.

Contact State Office for referral to appropriate local Lion's Club which is based on residence, usually county. Funding ability varies per club.

Fee: based on ability to pay.

National Federation of the Blind: local chapter **784-8834**

Contacts: Mary Ann Robinson; jackson@nfbmi.org or drob1946@gmail.com

Service: Advocacy and support group for those legally blind or losing vision and their family members. May provide information on resources, adaptive skills and devices.

Meetings Held: 3rd Wednesday of month, 1:30-3:00 p.m., at Christoff Community Room, 400 N. Mechanic, Jackson.

WKAR Radio Reading Service **517-884-4747**

Service: special portable radio pre-set to channel that provides readings from 3 Michigan newspapers, 2 national papers, best-selling novels, grocery and department store ads and community events. Streaming service on internet is also available.

Eligibility: unable to read due to visual or physical impairment.

Area served: within 60 miles of WKAR's Meridian Township radio tower.

Cost: donation encouraged.

Assistive Technology that may be useful for those with vision impairments:

WellWise (Region 2 Area Agency on Aging) **592-1974**

107 Chicago St.

Brooklyn, MI 49230

Service: Assistive technology services to assist people to be more independent at home, work or school. Includes demonstrations of low-tech devices to help with bathing, dressing, cooking as well as assessments and instruction for home control and monitoring, and access to computers, smartphones, and tablets. Group or individual appointments available.

Cost: no charge for device demonstrations, fee for other services – please call for details.

Contact: Glen Ashlock, MS, Assistive Technology Professional