



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Resources for Older Adults with Vision Loss and their Family Caregivers

General Services

Your Texas Benefits

Online access to Texas Health and Human Services Commission benefits, including Medicaid, nursing home care and other services for people who are older or have disabilities. Visit the [Your Texas Benefits website](https://yourtexasbenefits.com) (yourtexasbenefits.com).

Consumer Rights and Services

Find information about Health and Human Services programs and services, report an incident, or file a complaint. Call **800-458-9858** or visit the [Consumer Rights and Services website](https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/your-rights/consumer-rights-services) (hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/your-rights/consumer-rights-services).

2-1-1 Texas

Connects people to community services and supports. Call **2-1-1** or visit the [2-1-1 website](https://211texas.org) (211texas.org).

Aging Services

Area Agencies on Aging

A statewide network that provides local services, supports and programs for older Texans, their families and caregivers. To find the nearest AAA, call **800-252-9240**.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

Single point of contact for access and information about long-term services and supports. To find the nearest ADRC, call **855-937-2372**.

Medicare

Provides health coverage for older adults age 65 and older. Call **800-633-4227** or visit the [Medicare website](https://www.medicare.gov) (medicare.gov).

Texas Adult Protective Services

Investigates abuse, neglect and exploitation of older adults or adults who have a disability. To report suspected cases, call **800-252-5400** or visit the [Texas Abuse Hotline website](https://txabusehotline.org) (txabusehotline.org).



Eldercare Locator

Connects older adults and their families to local services.
Call **800-677-1116** or visit the **Eldercare website** (eldercare.gov).

Own Your Future

Long-term care information to meet health or personal care needs over an extended period. Visit the **Own Your Future website** (ownyourfuturetexas.org).

Vision Services *(skills development, support services, vocational rehabilitation, educational resources, etc.)*

Alliance on Aging and Vision Loss

An affiliate of the American Council of the Blind, AAVL is a national membership advocacy organization for older adults who are blind or visually impaired. Visit the **AAVL website** (aavl-blind-seniors.org).

American Council of the Blind Texas Affiliate

A statewide membership advocacy organization for people who are blind or visually impaired. Visit the **ACB Texas website** (acbtexas.org).

American Printing House for the Blind

Provides various products, materials and services for people who are blind or experiencing vision loss. Call **800-223-1839** or visit the **APH website** (aph.org).

» Vision Aware -

A division of the American Printing House for the Blind that provides information on vision-related services and supports.

Call **800-232-5463** or visit the **Vision Aware website** (visionaware.org).

Blindness Education, Screening and Treatment program

Helps people age 18 and older without vision insurance access prevention resources and medically urgent treatment for eye medical conditions. Visit the program's **website** (texashhs.org/bestprogram).

Business Enterprises of Texas

A program that assists Texans who are blind or experiencing vision loss to set up a business managing cafeteria or food vending facilities. Call **512-377-0559** or visit the **Business Enterprises of Texas website** (twc.texas.gov/programs/business-enterprises-texas-program-overview).


Computers for the Blind

A nonprofit organization based in Richardson that provides training and accessible computers to people who are blind or visually impaired.

Call **214-340-6328**, email **info@computersfortheblind.org** or visit the **Computers for the Blind website** (computersfortheblind.org).

Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center

A residential vocational rehabilitation training facility that serves adults who are legally blind by helping them learn alternative techniques to prepare for, find or retain employment, attend a college, university or trade school, and live independently in the community.



Call **800-628-5115**, email ccrc.admissions@twc.texas.gov or visit the [Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center website](http://twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/criss-cole-rehabilitation-center) (twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/criss-cole-rehabilitation-center).

Guide Dogs of Texas

A nonprofit organization that breeds, trains and matches guide dogs with people who are blind or visually impaired. Call **210-366-4081**, email outreach@guidedogsoftexas.org or visit the [Guide Dogs of Texas website](http://guidedogsoftexas.org) (guidedogsoftexas.org).

Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired

A nonprofit organization that offers free practical help, connection, support, and distance learning opportunities to anyone with visual impairment, their families and the professionals supporting them. Visit the [Hadley website](http://hadley.edu) (hadley.edu).

Lighthouses for the Blind

Nonprofit organizations that assist people who are blind or visually impaired with skills training, education and employment. There are several Lighthouses across the state:

» Austin (Travis Association for the Blind) -

Call **512-442-2329** or visit the [Austin Lighthouse website](http://austinlighthouse.org) (austinlighthouse.org).

» Corpus Christi and Victoria (South Texas) -

Call **361-883-6553** or visit the [South Texas Lighthouse website](http://stlb.net) (stlb.net).

» Dallas (Envision) -

Call **214-821-2375** or visit the [Dallas Lighthouse website](http://envisionus.com/dallas) (envisionus.com/dallas).

» Tyler (East Texas) -

Call **903-593-3111** or visit the [Tyler Lighthouse website](http://tylerlighthouse.org) (tylerlighthouse.org).

» Fort Worth Lighthouse -

Call **817-332-3341** or visit the [Fort Worth Lighthouse website](http://lighthousefw.org) (lighthousefw.org).

» Houston:

Call **713-527-9561** or visit the [Houston Lighthouse website](http://houstonlighthouse.org) (houstonlighthouse.org).

» San Angelo (West Texas) -

Call **325-653-4231** or visit the [San Angelo Lighthouse website](http://lighthousefortheblind.org) (lighthousefortheblind.org).

» San Antonio -

Call **210-533-5195** or visit the [San Antonio Lighthouse website](http://salighthouse.org) (salighthouse.org).

» Wichita Falls (Beacon) -

Call **940-767-0837** or visit the [Wichita Falls Lighthouse website](http://beaconwf.com) (beaconwf.com).



National Federation of the Blind Texas

An advocacy organization made up of people who are blind or visually impaired that promotes training and opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired. Call **281-968-7733** or visit the **NFBTX website** (nfbtx.org).

» Silver Bells Senior Training Program -

A training program provided by NFBTX that teaches older adults who are losing vision about the audio newspaper service, alternative skills of blindness and provides an opportunity for networking with other older adults who are blind or visually impaired. Call **281-968-7733** or email lwisecarver@nfbtx.org.

Older Individuals who are Blind

Serves people age 55 and older with significant visual impairment. The program helps with independent living skills, technology and support services. Call **844-633-3642** or visit the **OIB website** (twc.texas.gov/programs/independent-living-services-older-individuals-who-are-blind-program-overview).

Ophthalmic Edge

A nonprofit organization that offers online training and educational resources for ophthalmic physicians, professionals working with vision loss and people experiencing vision loss. Visit the **Ophthalmic Edge website** (ophthalmicedge.org/patient).

Prevent Blindness Texas

A nonprofit eye health and safety organization dedicated to preventing blindness and preserving sight through early detection and screening programs, advocacy and promoting public awareness and health education. Call **888-987-4448**, email info@pbtexas.org or visit the **Prevent Blindness Texas website** (texas.preventblindness.org).

Sight into Sound

A nonprofit organization based in Houston that produces audio recordings of various books, magazines, newspapers and other print material. Call **713-622-2767**, email info@sightintosound.org or visit the **Sight into Sound website** (sightintosound.org).

Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program

Helps people with disabilities purchase specialized assistive technology or services for telecommunicating. Visit the program's **website** (texashhs.org/stapservices).

U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing, U.S. Currency Reader Program

A federal program that provides free currency readers to eligible people who are blind or visually impaired. Call **844-815-9388** or visit the **BEP website** (bep.gov/services/currency-accessibility/us-currency-reader-program).



Reading Resources

Bookshare

An e-book library for eligible people with reading barriers, including blindness or visual impairment. Visit the [Bookshare website](https://bookshare.org) (bookshare.org).

National Braille Press

An organization that produces printed materials in braille. Call **888-965-8965** or visit the [NBP website](https://nbp.org) (nbp.org).

National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled

A federal organization that administers a free national library program that provides braille and recorded materials to people who cannot see regular print or handle print materials. Call **888-657-7323** or visit the [LOC website](https://loc.gov/nls) (loc.gov/nls).

Texas Talking Book Program

A free library service for Texans of all ages who cannot read standard print due to a visual, physical or reading disability. Call **800-252-9605** or visit the program's [website](https://texastalkingbooks.org) (texastalkingbooks.org).

Assistive Technology Devices and Services

Aira

A visual interpreting service that provides live and on demand access to visual information. Call **800-835-1934** or visit the [Aira website](https://aira.io) (aira.io).

Audio Optical Systems

A company that sells optical recognition and text-to-speech reading and writing software. Call **800-888-0305** or visit the [Audio Optical Systems website](https://kurzweil.com) (kurzweil.com).

Be My Eyes

A free phone app that connects people who are blind or visually impaired with sighted volunteers for visual assistance through a live video call. Visit the [Be My Eyes website](https://bemyeyes.com) (bemyeyes.com).

BlindSquare

An accessible navigation phone app developed to assist people who are blind or visually impaired with navigating streets and locating businesses. Visit the [BlindSquare website](https://blindsquare.com) (blindsquare.com).

Christal Vision

A company that sells a variety of assistive technology devices, such as video magnifiers, scanning and reading devices, and braille devices. Call **800-299-0700** or visit the [Christal Vision website](https://christal-vision.com) (christal-vision.com).





HIMS

A company that sells a variety of assistive technology devices, such as braille note-taking devices and magnifiers. Call **888-520-4467** or visit the [HIMS website](https://hims-inc.com) (hims-inc.com).

Humanware

A company that sells a variety of assistive technology devices, such as magnifiers, audio assistants and embossers. Call **800-722-3393** or visit the [Humanware website](https://humanware.com/en-usa/home) (humanware.com/en-usa/home).

Independent Living Aids

A company that sells assistive technology, mobility devices, durable medical equipment, home health care and other products. Call **800-537-2118** or visit the [Independent Living Aids website](https://independentliving.com) (independentliving.com).

LS&S

A company that sells assistive technology devices and aids for people who are blind, deaf or hard of hearing. Call **800-468-4789** or visit the [LS&S website](https://lssproducts.com) (lssproducts.com).

Maxi-Aids

A company that sells assistive technology, health and durable medical equipment, accessible appliances, and other products. Call **800-522-6269** or visit the [Maxi-Aids website](https://maxiaids.com) (maxiaids.com).

Vispero

A company that sells assistive technology and computer software. Call **727-803-8000** or visit the [Vispero website](https://vispero.com) (vispero.com).

Caregiving Services and Supports

Texas Health and Human Services Commission Support for Caregivers Website

This HHSC website provides information on a variety of topics that caregivers may find useful. Visit the program's [website](https://texashhs.org/caregiversservices) (texashhs.org/caregiversservices).

Take Time Texas Respite Resources

This HHSC website provides information on caregiving and a search feature to locate the nearest respite services. Visit the [Take Time Texas website](https://taketimetexas.org) (taketimetexas.org).

Eldercare Locator

A federal tool that connects older adults and their families to local services. Call **800-677-1116** or visit the [Eldercare website](https://eldercare.gov) (eldercare.gov).



Long-term Care Facilities

Long-term Care Provider Search

This HHSC search tool provides information on various types of long-term care and a search feature to locate providers. Visit the [Long-term Care Provider website](https://www.texasshhs.org/ltcsearch) (texasshhs.org/ltcsearch).

Texas Long-term Care Ombudsman

A program that advocates for quality of life and care for nursing home and assisted living facility residents. Visit the [Ombudsman website](https://www.texasshhs.org/infoombudsman) (texasshhs.org/infoombudsman).

Care Compare

A federal website used to search for and compare nursing homes, hospice, home health agencies and other types of providers. Visit the [Care Compare website](https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare) (medicare.gov/care-compare).

Wellness and Physical Health

Age Well Live Well

The HHSC Age Well Live Well campaign highlights the importance of aging well and promotes increased community preparedness through informational and educational resources. Visit the [Age Well Live Well website](https://www.agewelllivewell.org) (agewelllivewell.org).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Formally known as food stamps, this program helps eligible recipients buy food. To see if you are eligible to apply, visit the [SNAP website](https://yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home) (yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home).

Texercise

A health promotion initiative that provides free resources and programs that support social connections by bringing together groups of people to learn about and engage in healthy lifestyle behaviors, including physical activity and nutrition. Call **800-889-8595** or visit the [Texercise website](https://www.texercise.com) (texercise.com).

