



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Resources for Professionals Working with Older Adults with Vision Loss

## Educational and Training Resources

If your organization works with older adults, it's likely you may interact with an older adult experiencing vision loss. To provide the best support possible, it's important to learn best practices for working with older adults with vision loss. The following are education and training resources for professionals.

### **Aging and Vision Loss National Coalition**

An affiliate of VisionServe Alliance, AVLNC is a consortium of leaders representing national, state, local, private and public organizations that serve people who are blind or have vision loss. AVLNC advocates for equal access and quality of life for older adults with vision loss and has developed several resources to help service providers serve older adults, including the Service Provider Toolkit. Visit the [AVLNC website](https://visionservealliance.org/avlnc) ([visionservealliance.org/avlnc](https://visionservealliance.org/avlnc)).

### **American Foundation for the Blind**

A nonprofit organization that aims to create a world of no limits for people who are blind or visually impaired through promoting and engaging in research, developing and sharing knowledge, and creating and maintaining strategic relationships to accelerate change. Based on their subject matter expertise, AFB offers several ways service providers and organizations can help people with vision loss. Visit the [American Foundation for the Blind website](https://afb.org/take-action) ([afb.org/take-action](https://afb.org/take-action)).

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

The world's largest nonprofit organization creating accessible learning experiences through educational, workplace and independent living products and services for people who are blind or visually impaired. They offer a variety of resources for ensuring accessibility in communications to people with vision loss.

Visit the [APH website](https://aph.org/accessibility-solutions) ([aph.org/accessibility-solutions](https://aph.org/accessibility-solutions)).

- » **APH** also operates **VisionAware**, an informational service for adults with vision loss, their families, caregivers, health care providers and social service professionals. They provide resources and best practices for working with people experiencing vision loss. Visit the [VisionAware website](https://visionaware.org) ([visionaware.org](https://visionaware.org)).





### **The 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).

### **Older Individuals who are Blind Technical Assistance Center**

Part of the National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision at Mississippi State University, OIB-TAC provides a variety of training and technical assistance activities to state OIB programs to improve administration, operation and performance of OIB programs.

Visit the [OIB-TAC website](http://oib-tac.org) (oib-tac.org).

### **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](http://ophthalmicedge.org) (ophthalmicedge.org).

## **Vision Services**

Losing vision can be challenging. However, with the appropriate services and support, older adults with vision loss can learn new skills to remain independent. The following are state programs and services that can help older adults with vision loss. For more services, view the Older Adults and Caregivers resource sheet.

### **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](http://twc.texas.gov/programs/independent-living-services-older-individuals-who-are-blind-program-overview) (twc.texas.gov/programs/independent-living-services-older-individuals-who-are-blind-program-overview).

### **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](http://texashhs.org/bestprogram) (texashhs.org/bestprogram).

### **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 [Talking Book Program website](http://texastalkingbooks.org) (texastalkingbooks.org).

## **Aging Services**

Older adults with vision loss have a variety of needs, including needs unrelated to vision loss. The following are state and federal programs that serve older adults. For more services, view the Older Adults and Caregivers resource sheet.







## Texas Health and Human Services

Provides leadership and oversight of multiple programs, including:

- **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 HHS programs and services, report an incident, or file a complaint.

Call **800-458-9858** or visit the [Consumer Rights and Services website](https://texashhs.org/consumerrightsservices) (texashhs.org/consumerrightsservices).

- **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).

- **Texas Long-term Care Ombudsman**

Program advocates for quality of life and care for nursing home and assisted-living facility residents.

Visit the [Ombudsman website](https://texashhs.org/infoombudsman) (texashhs.org/infoombudsman).

## 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://medicare.gov) (medicare.gov).

## Texas Adult Protective Services

Investigates abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults who are elderly or 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](https://eldercare.gov) (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](https://ownyourfuturetexas.org) (ownyourfuturetexas.org).







## Caregiver Support

Family caregivers, unpaid providers of care that are typically family members or friends, are critical sources of support for many older adults, including older adults with vision loss. The following are state and federal resources with information on support services for family caregivers. For more resources, view the Older Adults and Caregivers resource sheet.

### **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://www.texasshhs.org/caregiversservices) (texasshhs.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://www.taketimetexas.org) (taketimetexas.org).

### **Eldercare Locator**

Connects older adults and their families to local services.

Call **800-677-1116** or visit the [Eldercare website](https://www.eldercare.gov) (eldercare.gov).

