

Resource Guide for Our Patients with Visual Impairment

**University of Colorado Health
Eye Center**

720-848-2020

This manual is a compilation of material found from a variety of resources available in the community. The content and information contained in this manual should in no way be considered an endorsement of any kind from to the University of Colorado Health Eye Center. We do not imply any endorsement or warrantee of any services, products or information. We recommend that you confirm information directly with any resource you may choose.

Table of Contents

Audio and Large Print Books	page 3
Computers and Technology	page 6
Education and Schools	page 7
Employment and Training	page 8
Low-Vision Rehabilitation	page 9
Mental Health Resources	page 10
Organizations and Services	page 16
Scholarships	page 19
Social Security and Medicaid	page 20
Sports and Leisure	page 21
Support Groups	page 23
Telephone and Television Assistance	page 24

Audio and Large Print Books

Colorado Talking Book Library

180 Sheridan Blvd.

Denver, Co 80226-8101

Phone: 303-727-9277

Fax: 303-727-9281

Website: <http://www2.cde.state.co.us/ctbl/>

Email: ctbl.info@cde.state.co.us

A free service to Coloradans of all ages who are unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical or learning disabilities whether permanent or temporary. CTBL provides recorded, Braille and large-print books and magazines as well as a small collection of descriptive videos.

Tattered Cover Book Stores

1628 16th St.

Denver, CO 80202-1308

Phone: 303-436-1070

2526 E. Colfax Ave.

Denver, CO

Phone: 303-322-7727

9315 Dorchester St.

Highlands Ranch Town Center

Phone: 303-470-7050

Tattered Cover Book Stores has a selection of audio books available for purchase.

Website: <http://www.tatteredcover.com/>

Email: books@tatteredcover.com

The Christian Record Services, Inc.

402-488-0981

Website: <http://services.christianrecord.org/>

Read Easily!

The Ebooks Online Library! Accessibility was one of the main drivers for this free digital library design and development.

Website: <http://www.readeasily.com/>

American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) is the world's largest nonprofit organization creating educational, workplace, and independent living [products](#) and services for people who are visually impaired.

800-223-1839

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

Audio Information Network of Colorado

formerly known as: Radio Reading Service of the Rockies

2200 Central Avenue, Suite A

Boulder, CO 80301

303-786-7777

877-443-2001 Toll Free

We are a volunteer service that provides audio news, information and entertainment to Colorado's blind, visually-impaired and print-disabled residents.

Website: <http://aincolorado.org/>

Books on Tape

Division of Random House, Inc.

(800) 626-3333

For more than 35 years, BOT (Books on Tape) has been a leading provider of unabridged audiobooks, offering top quality recordings and outstanding customer service, first to consumers and now to libraries and schools.

Website: <http://www.booksontape.com/>

Learning Ally

Formerly: Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic

1355 South Colorado Boulevard

Suite C- 406

Denver, CO 80222

303-757-0787

A national non-profit dedicated to helping blind, visually impaired and dyslexic students succeed in education. Started in 1948 in the New York Public Library as Recording for the Blind, the organization utilized volunteers to record books for blinded veterans returning from WW II.

Website: <https://www.learningally.org/>

The Matilda Ziegler Magazine for the Blind

Phone: 877-424-5481

Featuring a well-rounded blend of general interest news and blindness-related information specifically made for the blind and visually impaired. Free electronic subscription and source for blindness news and information since 1907.

Website: <http://www.matildaziegler.com/about/>

National Library Service

Through a national network of cooperating libraries, NLS administers a free library program of braille and audio materials circulated to eligible borrowers in the United States by postage-free mail.

Website: <http://www.loc.gov/nls/>

Bookshare-CO

Using Bookshare® is simple and easy. You can search for a specific book title or browse through the library and its special collections, including newspapers and magazines. With a Bookshare membership, you can download accessible titles onto your computer and read them at your convenience. A variety of reading tools give you a range of options for reading your downloaded books.

Website: <https://www.bookshare.org/cms>

Choice Magazine Listening

Choice Magazine Listening is a nonprofit organization that provides audio recordings of memorable articles, stories, interviews, essays and poems from outstanding current magazines, completely free of charge, to blind, visually impaired, physically disabled or dyslexic adults.

Website: <http://www.choicemagazinelistening.org/>

The New York Times

Large print subscriptions are available.

800-631-2580

Website:

<http://homedelivery.nytimes.com/HDS/LargeTypeWeeklyHome.do?mode=ChooseCountry.LargeTypeWeekly>

Reader's Digest

Large print subscriptions are available.

800-877-5293

Website: <http://www.magazine-agent.com/Readers-Digest---Large-Print-Edition/Customer-Service>

Computers and Technology

Techy Joe's Computer Solutions, LLC

Joseph Wheaton

Serving your Assistive Technology needs in the Rocky Mountain Region

Phone: 303-638-9550

info@techyjoes.com

Techy Joe's has been providing Assistive Technology solutions for all types of disabilities for over 15 years. We specialize in working with those who are blind, low vision, physically disabled, deaf, DBI and are needing portable solutions for AAC devices. We provide customized computer PC's, Macs, iPads, iPhones and many other devices and software to help you be more independent and successful at home, or in the work place. We also provide on-site services for assessments, training and integration of whatever items that you have purchased, or may already own. We look forward to serving your specific needs for Assistive Technology.

Website: <http://www.techyjoes.com/>

University of Colorado Assistive Technology Partners

601 East 18th Avenue

Suite 130

Denver, CO 80203

303-315-1280

800-255-3477 Toll Free

303-837-8964 TDD/TTY

Our mission at Assistive Technology Partners (ATP) is for persons with cognitive, sensory, and/or physical disabilities to reach their highest potential at home, school, work and play through the addition of appropriate assistive technologies to their lives. ATP is a program within the Department of Bioengineering, College of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus, and encompasses programs in four major areas: Clinical Services, Outreach and Information Service, Research and Engineering, and Education and Professional Development.

Website:

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschoo/Programs/atp/Pages/AssistiveTechnologyPartners.aspx>

Computers for the Blind

Formerly known as Texas Center for the Visually Challenged

For a small donation of \$100 for a desktop or \$150 for a laptop, they will send a newly refurbished computer with software allowing blind and visually challenged persons to be able to join family and friends, doing what they are doing. Each computer comes complete with monitor, keyboard, mouse, speakers, and all associated cables. It also comes with preloaded software. Software includes: Open Office for word processing/book keeping, NVDA screen reader, a demo version of Window-Eyes, and a 60-day demo version of ZoomText.

Website: <http://www.computersfortheblind.net/>

NonVisual Desktop Access (NVDA)

NVDA is a free "screen reader" which enables blind and vision impaired people to use computers. It reads the text on the screen in a computerized voice. You can control what is read to you by moving the cursor to the relevant area of text with a mouse or the arrows on your keyboard.

Website: <http://www.nvaccess.org/>

Flying Blind

Weekly publication that includes tech tidbits for computer geeks.

Visit their website to sign up for their electronic newsletter at

Website: <http://www.flying-blind.com/tidbits2012/06072012/index.html>

Education and Schools

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

33 N. Institute Street

Colorado Springs CO 80903

Phone: 719-578-2100

The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) is a state-funded school within the Colorado Department of Education. The school was established for the purpose of providing comprehensive educational services for children, birth to age 21, who are blind/low vision and/or deaf/hard of hearing. Services are provided directly to students enrolled at the school, and outreach programs serve students, staff, and families in communities throughout Colorado.

Website: <http://www.csdb.org/>

Anchor Center for Blind Children

2550 Roslyn St.

Denver, CO 80238

Phone: 303-377-9732

The mission of Anchor Center for Blind Children is to teach visually impaired infants, young children and their families, providing hope and a nurturing environment where children reach their highest potential.

Web Page: <http://www.anchorcenter.org/>

Universities and Community Colleges

Check your local schools for the student disabilities department to help with accommodations and special needs.

Employment and Training

Colorado Department of Human Services/ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

1575 Sherman Street (4th Floor)

Denver, CO 80203

303-866-4150

Email: Voc.Rehab@state.co.us

DVR assists persons with disabilities to succeed at work and to live independently.

Website: <http://www.dvrcolorado.com/>

US Department of Veteran Affairs

Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST)

Pamela Newton, Denver VIST Coordinator

Email: Pamela.Newton@med.va.gov

Phone: 303-399-8020 X3040

The Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinators are case managers who are responsible for the coordination of services for veterans and active duty Service members with a severe visual disability.

VIST duties include providing Benefits reviews and/or arranging for the provision of appropriate treatment in order to enhance the veteran's independent functioning and emotional adjustment to low vision.

VIST Coordinators make referrals to VA Blind Rehabilitation Centers, the Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient program and the VISOR low vision program.

Website: <http://www.rehab.va.gov/PROSTHETICS/blindrehab/VIST.asp>

The Center for People with Disabilities

1675 Range Street

Boulder, CO 80301

Phone: 303-442-8662

The Employment Program provides employment services for people with disabilities. We are a service provider for the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and an Employment Network.

Website: <http://www.cpwd-ilc.org/>

Low Vision Rehabilitation Services

University of Colorado Health Eye Center

Located in the Rocky Mountain Lion's Eye Institute Building

1675 Aurora Court

Aurora, CO 80045

720-848-2020

Our Low Vision Rehabilitation Service provides a multidisciplinary approach to vision loss with the overall goal of improving independence and quality of life.

Service includes:

- Functional Vision Evaluation performed by an optometrist specializing in low vision rehabilitation. The evaluation process identifies the level of functional vision and determines how to maximize remaining vision to meet your specific visual goals with a Personalized Treatment Plan. Both optical and non-optical devices and strategies are prescribed, including prisms for mobility, conventional and electronic magnifiers, hand held telescopes and bioptic telescopes.
- Occupational Therapy helps to carry forward the personalized treatment plan by providing one-on-one instruction on how to use optical devices successfully and identify areas of daily activities where adaptive strategies may increase independence.

Ensign Skills Center

Phone: 303 757-4500-Denver

Phone: 970-407-9999-Fort Collins

The mission of Enight Skills Center is to provide individuals with low vision the opportunity to enhance their life skills, independence, and self-confidence in a safe environment through training and adaptive technology. Website: <http://ensightskills.org/>

Low Vision Services of Southern CO, PC

Thomas W. Theune, OD, FAAO

5614 N. Union Blvd

Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Phone: 719.471.3200

Low Vision Services of Southern Colorado, PC provides unhurried evaluations to help patients understand their vision loss and meet their desired goals. Hands-on experiences with the latest devices are included in the areas of: Reading and Writing, Distance Viewing, Lighting, Glare protection and control, Computer Technology and Non-optical devices.

Website: <http://www.lowvisionsoco.com/>

Mental Health Resources

For a mental health emergency, call 911 or go directly to nearest Emergency Department.

Colorado Crisis and Support Line: 1-844-493-TALK (8255)

(Formerly Metro Crisis Line) Free, confidential hotline that connects callers with resources statewide. Can assist with mental and emotional problems, drug or alcohol problems, and issues related to family, work or school.

Interpreters available, open 24/7. www.metrocrisiservices.org

Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Mental Health Treatment: A mental illness (such as Major Depression) and a mental health issue (such as experiencing grief and loss) can be treated by therapy, medications, or a combination of both. Most community mental

health centers provide all of these services. Other mental health treatment agencies may only provide one or the other form of treatment. Often a person will see a mental health professional for therapy and a doctor or a psychiatrist for medications. *(See end of resource list for further mental health treatment terms and definitions.)*

Medicaid – Community Mental Health Centers are Medicaid providers. They also sometimes take other insurances, and self-pay/sliding scale fee clients depending on the treatment needs and situation. Most offer substance abuse treatment as well, and have Spanish speaking clinicians. You will need to speak with the agency directly to obtain this information. All have access to psychiatric care for obtaining medications.

Arapahoe Douglas Mental Health Center	303-730-8858
Aurora Mental Health Center	303-617-2300
Mental Health Partners (Boulder County)	303-413-6263
Community Reach Center (Adams County)	303-853-3500
Denver Health Outpatient Behavioral Health (OBHS)	303-436-6393 303-436-5690
Jefferson Center for Mental Health	303-425-0300
Mental Health Center of Denver	303-504-7900 303-504-6500
University of Colorado Hospital Psychiatry Clinic	303-724-1000
Charge Resource Center	303-830-8805 303-830-2130

Medicare

Most community mental health centers accept Medicare. University of Colorado Hospital Psychiatric Clinic, 303-724-1000, accepts Medicare. Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or go to <http://www.Medicare.gov> to find a Medicare provider.

Uninsured or CICP Clients

Primary care clinics may prescribe mental health medications, but generally

do NOT provide mental health treatment. Therapists in the community offering sliding scale therapy (see below) provide mental health counseling, but most do not offer psychiatrist appointments. In these situations, you can work with your primary care provider to receive the appropriate medications and obtain therapy from another facility.

Sliding Scaling and Low Fee Treatment Options.

Often these agencies also take private insurance and may also take Medicaid and Medicare. You will need to call the agency to find out actual fees as this can vary greatly from agency to agency.

#Take Medicaid @ Have Spanish speaking mental health providers

*+Take Medicare *Have options for psychiatric care for medications*

MDS (Maria Droste Services) Counseling Center# +@	303-756-9052
Asian Pacific Development Center*#	303-393-0304
Denver Psychotherapy & Consulting Services	303-399-9988
Centus Counseling*# +	303-639-5240
University of Colorado/Denver Student and Community Counseling Center	303-556-4372
Denver Family Institute	303-756-3340
Denver University Professional Psychology*#	303-871-3626
Jewish Family Services# +	303-597-7777
Russian Mental Health Services#	720-248-4664
Refugee Mental Health Services*#	720-248-4602
Servicios de la Raza*# +@	303-458-5851
CPS Counseling Services (Broomfield)	303-964-5786
Denver University Counseling and Education Services Clinic	303-871-2528
People House Inc.	303-480-5130

Affordable Counseling Connection*	303-295-3326
Sheridan Clinic#@ (*for children only)	303-797-4260
Mental Health America of Colorado Pro Bono Counseling and Referral Program	720-208-2238
Shepherds Gate Counseling Services at Denver Seminary	303-762-6987
Refugee Mental Health Program at University of Colorado Hospital*#+ Catholic Charities#	303-724-1000 303-742-0823 Ext2060
Inner City Health (provides medical treatment but also offers "counseling" services)#+@	303-296-1767

Private Insurance

Call the customer service phone number for behavioral health on your insurance card or check your insurance's website for a list of psychiatrists (MDs) and therapists covered by your benefits. Call for an appointment. The following centers accept private insurance:

Compass Colorado Health Care*	888-852-6672 Ext. 2330
University of Colorado Hospital Psychiatric Clinic*#+	303-724-1000
Wellshire Wellness Center*	303-504-6565
Westside Behavioral Health*+	303-986-4197
The Wellness treatment Center*	303-777-0303
Southwest Counseling*+	303-730-1717

Out-of Pocket Pay

This is an option for those able to pay cash for a private psychiatrist, a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist, and a private therapist. Most Mental Health Treatment agencies will allow this, however, fees will vary. In addition to the agencies listed, you may find a provider using the following resources:

- Yellow pages and various internet sites
- The Colorado Psychiatric Society's directory of practicing psychiatrists: 303-692-8783
(Let them know you want an outpatient psychiatrist and have limited funds.)

Homeless Clients

The Stout Street Clinic, 303-293-2220, offers mental health and medical care.

Mental Health Services for new patients: Arrive anytime between 8:30-4pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (not Wednesdays) to fill out eligibility paperwork. Address is 2100 Broadway, Denver. You will typically not be seen the same day, but will be put on a waiting list, and then be contacted as appropriate to schedule an intake appt.

Walk-In Appts. for Existing patients: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays at 8:30am; and Wednesday after 12:00pm.

PATH Walk-in: Mondays and Thursdays 1-4pm; Tuesdays and Fridays 9:30am-12:00pm.

Various Telephone and Hotline Resources

RAAP (Rape Assistance and Awareness Program) (Spanish)	303-322-7273 303-329-0031
National Alcohol & Drug Referral Hotline	1-800-454-8966
Alcoholics Anonymous	303-3224440
NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness)	1-800-950-6264
Center for Disease Control (CDC) STD/AIDS Hotline	1-800-227-8922
End Teen Suicide (http://www.endteensuicide.org)	1-800-273-TALK(8255)
National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-7233

Important Terms and Definitions

Therapy (also called counseling, talk therapy, psychotherapy): In psychotherapy, you address mental health concerns by talking to a therapist. You learn about your condition and your moods, feelings, thoughts and behaviors. You learn how to take control of your life and respond to challenging situations with healthy coping skills. There are many forms of

therapy including individual therapy, couples therapy, family therapy, and group therapy.

Therapist: A therapist is a mental health professional trained in conducting therapy. A mental health professional can be a psychologist, a psychiatrist, a clinical social worker, a professional counselor, and marriage and family therapist. Someone who is licensed in their field has additional training and experience, and needs to maintain a high level of professionalism and training in order to keep their license. They cannot prescribe medications.

Medications: Medications can often help ease or eliminate the symptoms of mental illness. Medications can be prescribed by any medical doctor and some specially trained nurses (in the state of Colorado).

Psychiatrist: A Psychiatrist is a medical doctor who specializes in mental illness and the medications needed to help treat these illnesses. A Psychiatrist can diagnose your condition and prescribe a medication to treat your condition. Typically, they focus on medication and symptom management only and do not conduct therapy.

Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist: A Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist is a nurse specializing in mental illness. In the state of Colorado, they are able to prescribe medications to treat these illnesses.

Helen and Arthur E Johnson Depression Center

Located on the Anschutz Medical Campus

303-724-3300

Coloradodepressioncenter.org

To improve the lives of people with depression and mood disorders through clinical excellence, innovative research, community programs and education.

Organizations and Services

A3 (formerly American Council of the Blind of Colorado-ACBCO)

910 16th Street Suite 1240

Denver, CO 80202

303.831.0117 X 103

1.888.775.2221 X 103

FAX: 303.454.3378

A3 is dedicated to personalized education, training, and support for individuals significantly impacted by vision loss to help them adapt, adjust, and achieve maximum independence. A3's Program maintain and enhance the independence and quality of life of those who are experiencing vision loss/blindness, and to restore their roles in their families and communities. Privacy, dignity, personal values, and emotional needs of the client and their families are recognized and respected. This is accomplished through effective and efficient delivery of the program directly to seniors (in home service); their family, caregivers, and community education.

Website: www.a3colorado.org

Colorado Center for the Blind

2233 W. Shepperd Ave.

Littleton, Co 80120

Phone: 303-778-1130

Fax: 303-778-1598

Email: ccb@cocenter.org

Grounded in the National Federation of the Blind's positive philosophy of blindness, the Colorado Center for the Blind provides innovative teaching techniques, daily challenges and self-confidence that are the building blocks of independence, opportunity and success. Services include education, employment & training, support groups, braille services and advocacy.

Website: <http://coloradocenterfortheblind.org/>

National Federation of the Blind, Colorado Chapter

Phone: 303-778-1130

Phone: 1-800-401-4NFB

Fax: 303-778-1598

With more than 50,000 members, the National Federation of the Blind is the largest and most influential membership organization of blind people in the United States. The NFB improves blind people's lives through advocacy, education, research, technology, and programs encouraging independence and self-confidence. Services: Education, Home Health Care, Housing,

Medical & Therapeutic Services, Recreational Services, Student Services, Support Groups, Technical Assistance, Membership Organizations and other services.

Website: <http://www.nfbco.org/>

Foundation Fighting Blindness-CO

The urgent mission of The Foundation Fighting Blindness is to drive the research that will provide preventions, treatments and cures for people affected by retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration, Usher Syndrome, and the entire spectrum of retinal degenerative diseases. Contact us through our website or use our Toll Free number 800-683-5555.

Website: <http://www.blindness.org/>

Colorado Coalition of Blind and Low Vision Resources

Mission of the Colorado Coalition of Blind and Low Vision Resources To bring awareness of resources related to vision loss to communities throughout Colorado through collaborative efforts, open minds, and shared goals.

Website: <http://www.cblv.org/>

Blind Institute of Technology

BIT will prepare the visually impaired and the employers who hire them for success in the workplace. BIT strives to reduce the excessively high unemployment among the visually impaired community by educating employers about the advantages of working with the visually impaired, by improving accessible technology capabilities within the workplace, by increasing access to professional training and certification programs, and by partnering with employers to create access to meaningful employment opportunities.

Website: <http://blindinstituteoftechnology.org/>

American Foundation for the Blind

The American Foundation for the Blind - AFB provides information and advocacy for the blind. Their website is a resource for directory of services, community message boards, bookstore, and journals. This group also promotes the use of technology and information resources for visually impaired people.

Website: <http://www.afb.org/default.aspx>

Prevent Blindness America-CO

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness is the nation's leading volunteer eye

health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness touches the lives of millions of people each year.

Website: www.PreventBlindness.org

Helen Keller National Center

Ryan Odland, Regional Representative

Helen Keller National Center (HKNC), Rocky Mountain Region (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)

190 E. 9th Ave., Ste. 150

Denver, CO 80203

Voice: (303) 934-9037 VP: (720) 457-3676

Fax: (303) 934-9037

ryan.odland@hknc.org

Helen Keller National Center Regional Representatives are located in ten offices across the country and are resources for information on deaf-blindness. The Rocky Mountain regional office, located in Denver, CO, represents Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The Regional Representative assists in identifying and advocating for people with combined hearing and vision loss, assessing their needs, offer professional development, and coordinating local services, if necessary. In addition, the Regional Representative provide consultation and support to families, consumers and agencies; may assist with the application process to HKNC Sands Point, NY facility for comprehensive rehabilitation training; provide follow-up services to former HKNC consumers; and assist in maintaining the National Registry of Persons who are Deaf-Blind.

Website: <http://hknc.org/>

Colorado Division of Aging and Adult Services

1575 Sherman Street, Ground Floor

Denver, CO 80203-1714

Local Telephone: (303) 866-2636

Toll Free Telephone: (800) 773-1366

Aging and Adult Services programs provide assistance in two general areas, support and protection and advocacy.

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-VetDis/CBON/1251595238465>

Colorado Department of Human Services

Provides assistance programs to eligible Colorado residents. The website below provides a list resources and phone numbers by county.

Website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/state.co.us/humanservices/home/services-by-county>

The Blinded Veterans Association

To promote the welfare of blinded veterans so that, notwithstanding their disabilities, they may take their rightful place in the community and work with their fellow citizens toward the creation of a peaceful world.

Website: <http://www.bva.org/>

Scholarships

See the Future

Our mission is to provide financial assistance to visually impaired and blind students who are residents of Colorado. This assistance is used to encourage and support the pursuit of higher education, which will enhance both career and personal success.

Website: <http://www.seethefuture.org/>

American Foundation of the Blind

800-232-5463

The American Council of the Blind (ACB) annually awards approximately 20 scholarships to vocational, undergraduate and graduate college students who are legally blind and are involved in their school and local community. For applications or additional information, contact:

Website: <http://www.afb.org/info/other-scholarships-and-grants-for-students-blind-or-visually-impaired/5>

Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired (AER)

The mission of AER is to support professionals who provide education and rehabilitation services to people with visual impairments.

Website: <http://aerbvi.org/>

The Christian Record Services, Inc.

Provides scholarship opportunities and other free services to all individuals who are legally blind or have physical impairments that prevents the ability to hold a book to read.

Website: <http://services.christianrecord.org/scholarships/index.php?fmt>

National Federation for the Blind of Colorado

Awards up to \$15,000 in scholarship funds for deserving students.

Website: <http://www.nfbco.org/scholarships/nfbco-state-scholarship>

United States Department of Education

To receive your free cassette recordings with information on financial aid for persons with visual impairments wanting to attend college, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 433-3243 or

Website:

<http://findit.ed.gov/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&affiliate=ed.gov&query=scholarship>

Social Security and Medicaid Information

Disability Evaluation under Social Security

Disability Evaluation under Social Security has been specially prepared to provide physicians and other health professionals with an understanding of the disability programs administered by the Social Security Administration. It explains how each program works, and the kinds of information a health professional can furnish to help ensure sound and prompt determinations and decisions on disability claims.

Website: <http://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/>

To find a social security office near you go to the website below and enter your zip code.

Website: <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>

How to apply for Medicaid

Website:

<https://www.colorado.gov/search?tid=applying%20for%20medicaid>

Sports and Leisure

Denver Center for the Performing Arts

Certain Broadway shows and opera events offer audio description services.

Phone 303-893-4100

Website: <http://www.denvercenter.org/shows/special-performances>

Foresight Ski Guides

Various locations within the Colorado Rockies

Phone: 303-506-3859

Foresight Ski Guides, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to making challenge recreation opportunities through snow sports both affordable and accessible to visually impaired and blind skiers.

Website: <http://foresightskiguide.org/>

United States Association of Blind Athletes

1 Olympic Plaza

Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Phone: 719-866-3224

USABA is a Colorado organization that provides life-enriching sports opportunities for every individual with a visual impairment. Opportunities include but not limited to track and field, nordic and alpine skiing, biathlon, judo, wrestling, swimming, tandem cycling, powerlifting and goalball (a team sport for the blind and visually impaired).

Website: <http://www.usaba.org/>

Visually Impaired Blind Skiers (VIBeS)

VIBeS is a community based non-profit organization dedicated to enabling the blind and Visually Impaired to experience recreational activity through a shared vision. The goal is to provide physical fitness, outdoor and recreational activities for the participants, thereby increasing self-esteem, independence and personal growth.

Phone: 719-632-3679

Website: <http://www.coloradovibes.org/>

Achilles International Colorado

Our mission is to enable people with all types of disabilities to participate in mainstream athletics, in order to promote personal achievement, enhance self-esteem, and lower barriers to living a fulfilling life.

Contact: Michael Oliva at achillescolorado@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.achillescolorado.org/>

Achilles Colorado meets every Monday at 6pm in Wash Park for a run and walk. For more details and to RSVP go to <http://www.meetup.com/coloradoruns>

Eye Cycle Colorado

The mission of Eyecycle Colorado is to enhance the quality of life and independence of our blind and visually impaired stokers by offering organized tandem rides in and around the Denver Metro area. We also promote Club multi day rides for our more experienced sighted captain and blind stoker teams.

Website: <http://eyecyclecolorado.org/>

Access Gallery

909 Santa Fe Drive

Denver, CO 80204

303-777-0797

303-777-0796 TTY

Creative and educational opportunities for people with disabilities to access and experience the arts.

Website: <http://accessgallery.org/>

Movie theaters with audio description services

Offers audio description services with a head set that enhances a movie's description while the movie is playing, but does not interfere with the movie's regular dialogue.

Cinemark Theater in Pueblo

Website: www.cinemark.com/theatre-249

AMC Theaters Denver

Website: <https://www.amctheatres.com/assistive-moviegoing>

Audio description also is available in other movie theater chains so be sure to check out the website for that specific location or call the theater to verify they have this technology.

Discounted Park Passes

State of Colorado – Columbine Pass

Website: <http://cpw.state.co.us/buyapply/Pages/ColumbinePassInfo.aspx>

National Park Service – America the Beautiful "Access Pass"

Website: <https://store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html>

Support Groups

Support Group information is subject to change without notice. Please confirm the information prior to making plans.

National Federation of the Blind (NFB)

Website: <http://www.nfbco.org/chapters-divisions>

A3 (formerly American Council for the Blind)

Contact: (888) 775-2221

(303) 831-0117

Website: www.a3colorado.org

Ensign Low Vision Support Group

Website: <http://ensightskills.org/tag/low-vision-support-groups/>

Center for People with Disabilities

Website: <http://www.cpwd-ilc.org/>

Lakewood Low Vision Support Group

Low Vision Support Group meets in the Clements Community Center in Lakewood. For more information please call 720-308-3087.

The Carillon Low Vision Support Group

Low Vision Support Group meets in The Carillon at Boulder Creek. For more information please call Angela Parkins at (720) 565-6844. (Boulder area)

Disabled Resources Services

Resources and services available including support groups and social activities. For more information please call Karen Norton 970-449-6983. (Loveland area)

Louisville Low Vision Support Group

Low Vision Support Group meets the 1st Friday of each at 1:00PM in The Lodge at Balfour. For more information please call (303) 926-3006.

Connections Low Vision Support Group

We facilitate educational support groups that are both fun and instructive in techniques for managing vision loss.

Website: <http://www.connectionsforindependentliving.org/programs-2/additional-services/vision-after-55-program/>

Pueblo ADA Group – Americans with Disabilities Group

Contact: Earl Wilkinson (719) 553-2995 or email at ewilkinson@pueblo.us

Colorado Springs Adult Blind

Low Vision Support Group sponsored by the Adult Blind Association meets monthly and "provides an educational speaker or entertainment and refreshments." Group meets in the Medallion Retirement Community in Colorado Springs. For more information please call Joe Fabac at (719) 633-8293.

Telephone and Television Assistance

FREE-411

A free directory assistance service at 1-800-FREE-411 (800-373-3411)

Century Link

Telephone dialing privileges and free directory assistance through Qwest Customers with Disabilities Center 1-800-223-3131

<http://www.centurylink.com/Pages/AboutUs/Community/Disabled/>

XFINITY

XFINITY Voice customers who are unable to use a telephone directory because of a visual or physical disability may qualify for an exemption from XFINITY Voice Directory Assistance (411) and/or Operator Services (Operator Assisted) call charges.

<http://customer.xfinity.com/help-and-support/phone/directory-assistance-operator-services-exemption>

Television

Comcast

Customers who rely on [accessibility services](#) - including Closed Captioning, video description and voice guidance - now have direct access to a specially trained customer support team via Comcast's Accessibility Center of Excellence, dedicated to resolving issues of importance to our customers with disabilities.

<http://customer.xfinity.com/help-and-support/account/accessibility-services#Help>

This manual is a compilation of material found from a variety of resources available in the community. The content and information contained in this manual should in no way be considered an endorsement of any kind from to the University of Colorado Health Eye Center. We do not imply any endorsement or warrantee of any services, products or information. We recommend that you confirm information directly with any resource you may choose.