Community & National DeafBlind Resources for Marylanders



| Table of Contents | |
|--|----|
| Assisted Living | 2 |
| Mental Health / Addictions / Human Services | 3 |
| Medical & State Assistance | 5 |
| In-Home and Personal Assistance | 6 |
| Assistive Technology / Equipment | 9 |
| Employment-Related Services & Vocational Rehabilitation | 10 |
| General Resources for DeafBlind | 13 |
| Social Support &/or Support Groups | 16 |
| National DeafBlind Organizations | 18 |
| Library & Reading Services | 20 |
| Orientation and Mobility | 22 |
| Co-Navigator / Support Service Providers | 23 |
| E-Learning & Education about DeafBlindness | 24 |
| Services for Children and Youth Who are DeafBlind | 26 |
| Independent Living for Older Blind | 29 |
| American Sign Language / Pro-Tactile / Intervener | 30 |
| Transportation | 31 |
| Filing Complaints / Advocacy / Legal / Abuse | 32 |
| Hearing Aids / Audiology / Cochlear Implants Information | 34 |
| VRS / TRS Relay | 35 |

MSDE Division of Rehabilitation Services Website: DORS Maryland

Administrative Offices: (v) 410-554-9442 or 888-554-0334 2301 Argonne Drive Baltimore, MD 21218

Office for Blind & Vision Services

(v) 410-554-9277 or toll free 866-614-4780 Email: <u>obvs.dors@maryland.gov</u>

DORS DeafBlind Specialist: Dr. Leo Yates Leo.Yates@maryland.gov DeafBlind Specialist VP: 443-839-0563

Contact Dr. Leo Yates with questions regarding this directory.

To learn more about Deafblindness: National Center on Deafblindness www.nationaldb.org

Info topics related to DeafBlindness:

National Center on Deafblindness <u>www.nationaldb.org/sitemap/</u> (e.g., assistive technology, education, orientation & mobility, sensory assessments, and more)

Assisted Living

Riderwood Assisted Living

3140 Gracefield Road Silver Spring, MD 20904 (v) 301-719-5898 Website: <u>Continuing Care & Assisted Living in Silver Spring, MD | Riderwood</u> (ericksonseniorliving.com)

Has several Deaf and hard of hearing persons, as well as some with low vision and visual impairments. This is not available for persons with limited income.

Department of Human Services Office of Adult Services, Project Home 25 South Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21201 (v) 1-800-332-6347 (tty) 1-800-735-2258 Website: <u>Continuing Care & Assisted Living</u> Department of Social Services locations: <u>Local Offices - Department of Human Services</u> <u>Project Home flier (PDF)</u> to be a Home Project provider.

The Project Home program provides supportive family-centered housing for persons with a disability. Case management is also included. Interested persons will want to contact the Department of Social Services to schedule an appointment with a case worker. Participants must be financially eligible. This may be useful for persons with an initial on-set of vision loss or persons who do not have family or community support.

Maryland Department of Health Community Options Waiver Program 201 W. Preston Street Baltimore, MD 21201-2399 (v) 410-767-6500 (v) 1-877-463-3464 Website: Pages - Home (maryland.gov) Medical Assistance Website: Maryland Medical Assistance Programs

The Community Options (CO) Waiver program is a Medical Assistance program that offers older adults and people with disabilities with services that support in-home or assisted living. Persons must be financially eligible and demonstrate difficulties with activities of daily living. If approved for the CO program following a nurse evaluation, individuals will be assigned a Service Planner (case manager) to plan services which can include in-home services or assisted living. Individuals must be recertified annually. <u>Click here (web to flier)</u> for a flier.

The goal for the CO program is to support persons to live independently in assisted living. Persons who do not meet eligibility for assisted living may likely be qualified for the Community Personal Assistance Services that provides in-home services and supports. Persons are typically referred by the <u>county's Department of Aging (webpage to listing)</u>.

Mental Health / Addictions / Human Services

Arundel Lodge, Inc. (ALI) Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program 2600 Solomons Island Rd. Edgewater, MD 21037 (vp) 443-569-7132 (v) 443-433-5900 Website: <u>Arundel Lodge | Hope Re-imagined</u>

Offers in-person and telecounseling for persons with low vision (state-wide). Therapists are fluent in ASL. Also, ALI offers behavioral health treatment (both mental health and substance use disorders). Access to psychiatrists with interpreters. Has support services, case management, day program and residential program for Deaf, hard of hearing, and persons who are Deaf and have low vision with mental health conditions.

Community Support Services of the Deaf (CSSD)

7123 Windsor Mill Rd, Suite 100
Baltimore, MD 21244
(vp) 443-348-8256
(v) 410-597-8780
Website: Community Support Services for the Deaf, Inc. (cssdinc.org)

CSSD receives referrals for DDA-funded consumers (MD Developmental Disabilities Administration). Social support, residential housing, ISS (individual support services), and case management. Has support services for DeafBlind and Deaf. CSSD also has a Day Habilitation Program for DeafBlind persons.

Deaf Addiction Services at Maryland (DASAM) 1001 W. Pratt St. Baltimore, MD 21223 (vp) 443-965-9172 (v) 443-462-3416 Email: LPyles@som.umaryland.edu Website: DASAM Website

Accessible virtually for Deaf and low vision, and fully DeafBlind people accessible onsite. ASL interpreters on staff. Access to psychiatrists with interpreters. Offers statewide telecounseling for Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons with low vision. Licensed therapists fluent in ASL and can use tactile in office. Substance use should be primary, mental health secondary.

Maryland Governor's Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)

Directory List of Mental Health & Rehabilitation Services Website - List of Providers: <u>Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (maryland.gov)</u>

Deaf Counseling Center (DCC)

Candance A. McCullough, Ph.D., LCPC Sharon M. Duschesneau, MA, LCPC Madeline Davis-Shelton, LCSW-C Lizabeth R. Katz, LCSW-C (vp) 240-390-6583 E-mail: info@deafcounseling.com Website: Deaf Counseling Center

The DCC offers mental health counseling for Deaf, hard of hearing, and Deaf with low vision. In-person and virtual counseling offered.

Deaf Independent Living Association (DILA) 806 Snow Hill Rd Salisbury, MD 21804 (vp) 443-365-2645 (v) 410-742-5052 Website: Deaf Independent Living Association

A human service agency that offers case management, advocacy, limited residential program, employment assistance, and general resources. DeafBlind, low vision, Deaf DDA-funded referrals for support services are required. The Independent living part of DILA for DeafBlind, low vision, Deaf and hard of hearing is available (this is non-staff support), separate from the DDA program at DILA. Support is available for Fredrick, MD.

Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA)

200 Wood Hill Rd. Rockville, MD 20850 (v) 240-800-5772 Website: <u>Jewish Social Services Agency</u>

Human service agency that provides case management, advocacy, counseling, employment services, hospice, and general support. Serves people who are hard of hearing and who are low vision and hard of hearing. Montgomery County only.

Individual Therapists from Psychology Today

Link to ASL Therapists in Maryland (webpage to listing

Some therapists offer counseling services for DeafBlind persons (low vision). This may work with a Communications Facilitator, a person who can interpret for a DeafBlind person on virtual platforms such as Zoom.

National Deaf Therapy

Website: National Deaf Therapy

Offers a small directory of providers by state who are Deaf and/or fluent in ASL.

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Deaf Services (vp) 855-812-1001 (v) 800-799-SAFE (7233) (text) Text "START" at 88788 Website: Domestic Violence Deaf Services | The National Domestic Violence Hotline

Deaf services for survivors who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard of hearing who experience domestic violence. A Communication Facilitator may be able to assist with requesting support.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA)

AA Website listing - <u>http://DeafAA.org - Home</u> NA Website listing - NA Website

AA and NA meetings that provide accessibility for persons who are Deaf. These would be ideal for persons who have low vision and/or who use a communication facilitator.

Medical & State Assistance

Maryland Access Point

(v) 1-844-MAP-LINK (1-844-627-5465)
(v) 2-1-1
Website: Maryland Access Point Listing by county: Local Offices

General health and human services hotline that provides referrals to different agencies and supports. Persons can call through VRS or with a Communication Facilitator.

Maryland Department of Aging

301 West Preston Street, Suite 1007
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
(v) 410-767-1100 or 800-243-3425
(fax) 410-333-7943
Website: Maryland Department of Aging List of agencies (webpage) by county

Some of the county agencies serve both seniors and persons with disabilities. They also have resources about caregivers and other support services. They make referrals to the Community Options Waiver Program and Community Personal Assistance Services Program - both Medical Assistance programs through the Department of Health.

Maryland Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) 201 W. Preston Street Baltimore, MD 21201-2399 (v) 410-767-6500 or 1-877-463-3464 Website: <u>Developmental Disabilities Administration</u>

DDA services are for persons with developmental delays, typically with an early on-set before the age of 21. Participants MUST apply before 21 years of age to receive these life-long services. This will be useful for DeafBlind persons who also have a developmental disability.

Johns Hopkins Hospital Wilmer Eye Institute 1800 Orleans St Baltimore, MD 21287 (v) 410-955-5080 Website: Johns Hopkins Hospital | Wilmer Eye Institute Different locations Webpage: <u>Hospital Locations</u> Treatment Specialties Webpage: <u>Treatment Services</u>

This provider administers eye evaluations, treatment, and recommendations.

Low Vision Specialists of Maryland and Virginia (v) 866-269-3916 Website: Low Vision Specialists of MD and VA Multiple Offices Webpage: Locations Financial assistance Webpage: Finance Options

Evaluations are out-of-pocket as Medicare and private insurance are not accepted.

In-Home and Personal Assistance

Maryland Department of Human Services Office of Adult Services, In-Home Aide Services 25 South Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21201 (v) 1-800-332-6347 (v / tty) 7-1-1 (tty) 1-800-735-2258 Website: In-Home Aides Services - Maryland Department of Human Services Department of Social Services locations: Local Offices - MD Dept of Human Services

In-home assistance for persons with disabilities with laundry, chores, shopping, light cleaning, and activities of daily living. Interested persons will want to contact the Department of Social Services to schedule an appointment to have a caseworker come to the home. Participants must be financially eligible. This may be useful for persons with an initial onset of vision loss.

Maryland Department of Human Services Office of Adult Services, Social Services to Adults (SSTA) 25 South Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21201 (v) 1-800-332-6347 (tty) 1-800-735-2258 Website: <u>Social Services to Adults - Maryland Department of Human Services</u> Department of Social Services locations: Local Offices - MD Dept of Human Services

The SSTA program provides case management services for vulnerable adults. Participants must be financially eligible. Interested persons will want to contact the Department of Social Services to pursue this option who will then have a social worker complete an assessment. This may be useful for persons with an initial on-set of DeafBlindness and/or DeafBlind persons with other disabilities.

Maryland Department of Health Community Options Waiver Program 201 W. Preston Street Baltimore, MD 21201-2399 (v) 410-767-6500 (v) 1-877-463-3464

Website: <u>Maryland Medicaid – offers home and community-based services</u> Website: <u>Medical Assistance – Maryland Department of Human Services</u>

The Community Options (CO) Waiver program is a Medical Assistance program that offers older adults and people with disabilities with in-home services and/or financial assistance for assisted living. Persons must be financially eligible. If approved for the CO program following a nurse evaluation, individuals will be assigned a Service Planner (case manager) to plan services. Individuals must be recertified annually. <u>Click here (PDF)</u> for a flier. The goal for the CO program is to support persons to live semi-independently.*

* **Department of Health** (Eligibility Determination Division) – if there is a long delay for their CO Waiver determination, then contact the Office of Constituent Services under the Office of Secretary's office to request an update.

Department of Health Webpage: Maryland Department of Health Office of the Secretary

Further down the page is an online form - complete it (that you are still waiting for a determination). <u>Maryland Department of Health MDH Contact Us</u>

Maryland Department of Health Community Personal Assistance Services 201 W. Preston Street Baltimore, MD 21201-2399 (v) 410-767-1739 or 1-877-463-3464 Website: Pages - Community First Choice

The Community Personal Assistance Services program is a Medical Assistance program that offers older adults and people with disabilities with in-home care services when activities of daily living are difficult on their own. Persons must be financially eligible. If approved for the CPAS program following a nurse evaluation, individuals will be assigned a Service Planner (case manager) to plan services to support difficulties with activities of daily living, including nurse monitoring. In some circumstances, family members can be paid for providing the services. Individuals must be recertified annually. <u>Click here (PDF document)</u> for a flier. This may be helpful for persons with an initial on-set of DeafBlindness and/or a DeafBlind person with other disabilities.

Maryland Access Point (p) 2-1-1 Home Delivered Meals Website: Locations across Maryland

Meals on Wheels and other meal delivery services can be received. This may be useful for DeafBlind persons with an initial onset of DeafBlindness or who are Deaf+.

Maryland Department of Aging

301 West Preston Street, Suite 1007 Baltimore, Maryland 21201 (v) 410-767-1100 or 800-243-3425 (fax) 410-333-7943 Website: <u>MD Department of Aging</u> Website: <u>List of agencies (webpage)</u> by county

Some of the county agencies serve both seniors and persons with disabilities. They also have resources about caregivers and other support services. They make referrals to the Community Options Waiver Program and Community Personal Assistance Services Program – both Medical Assistance programs through the Department of Health.

Assistive Technology / Equipment

iCanConnect (ICC)

TCS Access 8701 Georgia Ave Suite 510 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 Contact Person: Lisa Howard (Customer Experience Manager) Email: <u>lisa@tcsaccess.com</u> (v) 240-428-1821 Website: <u>iCanConnect</u> How to Apply (website): <u>iCanConnect Application</u> AT Equipment & Devices (website): <u>iCanConnect Equipment List</u>

A National DeafBlind Equipment Distribution Program, iCanConnect provides free equipment and training for DeafBlind persons who meet income eligibility guidelines.

Hamilton CAPTEL

Offers equipment and apps Website: <u>Hamilton CapTel</u>

Assistive technology equipment distribution program, such as the Captel phones that displays captioning from the hearing caller. Hamilton also has large screen phones; phones can be adjusted for larger font and background/font contrast.

LS&S

145 River Rock Drive
Buffalo, NY 14207
(v) 800-468-4789
(tty) 866-317-8533
Website of products list: Products for Deaf-Blind
Offers a wide variety of equipment and assistive technology.

MaxiAids

42 Executive Blvd. Farmingdale, NY 11735 (v) 800-522-6294 Website: <u>MaxiAids</u>

Offers AT and equipment for Deaf, hard of hearing, and low vision / blind persons.

myMMX db

Email: Support questions: support@mymmx.com Contact Person: Bryan yunashko (v) 773-372-3090 Website: <u>Accessible RTT and Videophone APPs - myMMX</u>

myMMX db provides accessible RTT (real-time texting) & VRS apps for DeafBlind individuals.

Maryland Department of Disabilities

Telecommunications Access of Maryland (TAM) Website: <u>Telecommunications Access of Maryland (TAM)</u> Communication Facilitator (CF) service Website: <u>Communication Facilitator Service</u>

During the video call, the communication facilitator, who is a skilled signer, copies sign language from the other video caller and provides visual information to the individual who is DeafBlind through close vision or tactile sign language. Using CFs for telehealth appointments and other virtual meetings are examples of the services the CF provides. For more information, contact Kevin Steffy at kevin.steffy@maryland.gov.

American Foundation for the Blind 1101 Wilson Blvd, 6th Floor Arlington, VA 22209 (v) 212-502-7600 Website: <u>American Foundation for the Blind</u> Website of products: <u>American Foundation for the Blind | Products</u>

The advocacy organization offers a list of common devices based on preferences.

Employment-Related Services & Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind (CLB) 8757 Georgia Ave., Suite 805 Silver Spring, MD 20910 (v) 202-454-6400 Email: <u>info@clb.org</u> Website: Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind

This program offers limited Support Service Providers / Co-Navigators – call or email for updates. Offers AT training and social support programs. Employment services include job readiness training. Serves Blind and individuals who are blind and hard of hearing.

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland (BISM)

3345 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21227
(v) 410-737-2600
(v) 888-322-4567
Email: info@bism.org
Website: Blind Industries and Services of Maryland

Eastern Shore Division 2240 Northwood Drive Salisbury, MD 21801

Western Maryland Division 322 Paca Street Cumberland, MD 21502

This program offers comprehensive independent living skills training and is a community rehabilitation program that includes limited residential services while receiving training. Serves primarily blind people and persons with vision loss who may be hard of hearing.

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) Office for Blindness & Vision Services (OBVS) 2301 Argonne Drive Baltimore, MD 21218 (v) 410-554-9277 or toll free 866-614-4780 Email: obvs.dors@maryland.gov OBVS Website: <u>OBVS</u> Request for Services Website: Request DORS Services

OBVS serves DeafBlind DORS participants and also has the Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) program, which offers short-term services and/or assistive technology equipment that supports independent living. DORS provides VR employment services for persons with disabilities exploring or actively seeking employment. Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) that explore employment for students with disabilities are also offered. The Business Enterprise Program for the Blind (BEP) trains, licenses, and provides oversight to the operation of successful retail concession, food service, and vending operations in federal and State of Maryland facilities.

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) Deaf and Hard of Hearing Unit (DHHU) Dr. Ju-Lee A. Wolsey, Supervisor 1890 North Market Street, Suite 300 Frederick, MD 21701 (v) 410-554-9485 (vp) 240-200-4601 Email: DHHU.DORS@maryland.gov DHHU Website: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Unit Request for Services: <u>Request DORS Services</u> The DHHU supports Deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind DORS participants pursuing employment. DORS provides VR employment services for persons with disabilities exploring or actively seeking employment. Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) that explores employment for students with disabilities are also offered. Most DORS participants served by the DHHU will work with Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf (RCDs).

Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA)

200 Wood Hill Rd. Rockville, MD 20850 (v) 240-800-5772 Website: <u>Jewish Social Services Agency</u> Website for Employment Services: JSSA Employment Services

Employment services include career assessments, job training, employment readiness and search, and job coaching. Human service agency that provides case management and counseling. Serves hard of hearing and low vision people. Montgomery County only.

World Services for the Blind (WSB)

2811 Fair Park Boulevard Little Rock, AR 72204 (v) 501-664-7100 Website: <u>World Services for the Blind</u>

The WSB offers VR counseling and guidance for in-person and online. DeafBlind individuals who are hard of hearing may benefit from their program.

Helen Keller National Center (Headquarters)

141 Middle Neck Road Sands Point, NY 11050 (v) 516-944-8900 x 1299 Email: <u>hkncinfo@hknc.org</u> Website: <u>Helen Keller Services</u>

Offers a comprehensive VR program, along with mental health and medical services, and advocacy for DeafBlind persons. Offers in-person services in NY. Has limited virtual services. Accepts out-of-state referrals. Maryland residents should contact the East Central Representative for a referral to the HKNC (Cynthia Ingraham <u>cingraham@helenkeller.org</u>).

American Job Center

Career One Stop (v) 1-877-US2-JOBS / 1-877-872-5627 (tty) 1-877-889-5627 Email: info@CareerOneStop.org Website: American Job Center

Supports persons seeking employment. Has online and walk-in services sites in Maryland. Some accommodations may be provided, as well as a referral to DORS.

Federal Bonding Program

(v) 1-800-233-2258 Website: <u>Federal Bonding Program</u>

A U.S. Department of Labor program that supports felons who have difficulty finding employment due to their criminal records. The bonding program will provide employers with fidelity bonds to cover any losses by an employee with a criminal background. This may be helpful for persons who are DeafBlind and who have a criminal background.

General Resources for DeafBlind People

Helen Keller National Center (Headquarters)

141 Middle Neck Road Sands Point, NY 11050 (v) 516-944-8900 x 1299 Email: <u>hkncinfo@hknc.org</u> Website: <u>Helen Keller Services</u>

Offers comprehensive VR program, along with mental health and medical services, and advocacy for DeafBlind persons. Offers in-person services in NY. Has limited virtual services. Accepts out-of-state referrals. Maryland residents should contact the East Central Representative for a referral (Cynthia Ingraham <u>cingraham@helenkeller.org</u>).

Helen Keller Regional Network East Central Representative

Cynthia Ingraham, EdD 14440 Cherry Lane, #214 Laurel, MD 20707 (v) 240-786-6534 (vp) 240-667-7295 (mobile) 516-319-6390 Email: <u>cingraham@helenkeller.org</u> Website: <u>Helen Keller Services</u>

Provides advocacy, referrals, consultation, and awareness on behalf of the Helen Keller National Center for this region, which includes Maryland.

Metro Washington Association of the DeafBlind

A social organization established in 1984. Email: <u>president@mwadb.org</u> Website to Resources: <u>Links – Metro Washington Association of the DeafBlind</u>

Offers a list of different resources and plans occasional social gatherings.

Maryland Department of Disabilities Telecommunications Access of Maryland (TAM) Communication Facilitator Service (CFS) Website: Communication Facilitator Service

During the video call, the communications facilitator, who is a skilled signer, copies sign language from the other video caller and provides visual information to the individual who is DeafBlind through close vision or tactile sign language. Using CFs for telehealth appointments and other virtual meetings are examples of the services the CF provides. Also, has a list of Support Service Providers (SSP)/Co-Navigators. For more information, contact Kevin Steffy at kevin.steffy@maryland.gov.

Connections Beyond Sight and Sound University of Maryland

Donna Riccobono, Project Director 1220 Benjamin Building College Park, MD 20742 (v) 301-405-0482 (fax) 301-314-9995 Email: <u>donnaric@umd.edu</u> Website: <u>Connections Beyond Sight and Sound</u>

This DeafBlind project supports Maryland and DC children and young adults with DeafBlindness in their homes, schools, and communities by providing consultation, training, special programs, resources, and technical assistance to families and providers.

Maryland State Library for the Blind & Print Disabled (LBPD)

415 Park Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201
(v) 410-230-2424 and 800-964-9209
(tty) 410-333-8679
(fax) 410-333-2095
Email: reference.desk@maryland.gov
Website: Maryland State Library for the Blind & Print Disabled

Books and magazines in Large Print, Digital Talking Book Machine, and Braille delivered either through the U.S. mail or through digital download. Accessible Technology training by appointment. ADA-compliant computer workstations at some libraries.

Social Security Administration (SSA)

Apply for Social Security Benefits Website: <u>Social Security Administration | Apply</u> Locate Local Office Website: <u>SSA Office Locator</u> Assistance for Completing Application: <u>SSA | Information for Helping Others</u>

Persons who have not applied for SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) can apply for benefits in person or online.

Maryland Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)

100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 (vp) 443-453-5761 Email: <u>gov.odhh@maryland.gov</u> Website: Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

ODHH is a government office to support the welfare and advocacy for Deaf and hard of hearing people.

Maryland Access Point

(v) 1-844-MAP-LINK (1-844-627-5465)
(v) 2-1-1
Website: Maryland Access Point
County Offices List: Connect with A Local Office - Maryland Access Point

General health and human services hotline that provides referrals to different agencies and community supports.

Maryland Department of Aging

301 West Preston Street, Suite 1007
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
(v) 410-767-1100 or 800-243-3425
(fax) 410-333-7943
Website: Maryland Department of Aging List of agencies (webpage) by county

Some of the county Departments of Aging serve both seniors and persons with disabilities. They also have community resources about caregivers and other support services (like meal deliveries) whether providing direct services or making referrals.

Disability Information & Access Line (DIAL) (v) 888-677-1199 ASL Users: <u>Connect with VRS Here</u> Website: DIAL | Home (acl.gov)

DIAL helps people with disabilities get connected to COVID testing and information. DIAL also makes referrals to local community resources that support independent living, as well as transportation, housing support, disability rights, and more.

Social Support &/or Support Groups

Christ Church of the Deaf

1040 S. Beechfield Ave. Baltimore, MD 21229 (v) 410-242-6303 Rev. Lisa Holder Email: <u>deafumcpastor@gmail.com</u> Website: Christ Deaf United Methodist Church

The church is inclusive of DeafBlind persons, offers tactile signing during worship and limited SSPs/co-navigators for church events.

Deaf Shalom Zone

1040 S. Beechfield Ave. Baltimore, MD 21229 Lead Case Manager – Kathi Jeffries Email: <u>deafshalomzone@gmail.com</u> <u>Deaf Shalom Zone</u>

Case management provider which partners with Christ Church of the Deaf. Case management services and food distribution program for Deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind persons from Christ Church and the community.

Maryland Washington Association of the Deaf and Blind (MWADB)

Email: president@mwadb.org Maryland Washington Association of the Deaf and Blind

Hosts DeafBlind social events and shares resources. Is a chapter of the American Association of DeafBlind.

Maryland Deaf Community Center (MDCC)

P.O. Box 4131 Frederick, MD 21705 (vp) 240-560-5028 Email: <u>info@deafmdcc.org</u> Website: MDCC

A resource center for Deaf and hard of hearing people. It includes events and activities for DeafBlind people in Maryland.

Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens

Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center 1000 Forest Glen Road Silver Spring, MD 20901 Website: Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens

Has monthly social gatherings that include Deaf, hard of hearing, and Deaf people with low vision and/or visual impairments. Third Thursday, 10 am to 3 pm.

DeafBlind Camp of Maryland, Inc. 1040 S. Beechfield Ave Baltimore, MD 21229 www.DeafBlindcampofmd.org Website: Deaf-Blind Camp of Maryland | Facebook

Annual week-long camp for DeafBlind adults near Annapolis, Maryland. Provides social and recreational activities. SSPs/Co-Navigators are assigned to the DeafBlind camper. Offers scholarships as well.

Front Porch Well Connected 800 N Brand Blvd Floor 19 Glendale, CA 91203 (v) 877-797-7299 (v) 800-233-3709 Email: connections@frontporch.net Website: Front Porch

A program to connect seniors over 60 years old with disabilities, including persons who are blind or have low vision with some hearing loss to be connected via video conferencing and by phone. Offers a low vision support group and a peer support for blind persons in which hard of hearing and blind persons can participate. Other group activities are also available which may be accessible with the use of a communication facilitator. Large print, Braille, and audio are available.

Low Vision Specialists in Maryland and Virginia Sight Loss Support Group (v) 866-269-3916 info@lowvisionmd.org Website: Sight Loss Support Group of Baltimore and Beyond Provides Hope

The provider hosts a support group via Zoom. Ideal for persons with low vision and are hard of hearing.

Hadley 700 Elm Street Winnetka, IL 60093 (v) 800-323-4238 info@HadleyHelps.org Website: Hadley

An online organization that supports older adults adjust to vision loss. Has materials for use by phone, online, or by mail. Might be helpful for persons with vision loss and have hearing loss.

American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) PO Box 23 Woodbine, MD 21797 (v) 800-942-2732 Email: <u>info@deafchildren.org</u> Website: American Society for Deaf Children

ASDC offers a plethora of resources that includes camps that will accept campers with some vision loss. Check the Resources tab on the website for more information.

National DeafBlind Organizations

American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults

1800 Johnson Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
(v) 410-659-9315
Email: <u>actionfund@actionfund.org</u>
Website: <u>American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults</u>

Offers programs and services to blind and DeafBlind people mostly without cost and always with an emphasis on Braille. They emphasize the importance of independence, Braille literacy, tactile fluency, and equality for the blind.

American Association of the DeafBlind (AADB) PO Box 12222 Silver Spring, MD 20908 Email: <u>aadb-info@aadb.org</u> Website: American Association of the DeafBlind

An advocacy organization that supports the inclusion and empowerment of DeafBlind persons. Their websites has resources and information as well.

American Council of the Blind

225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 660 Alexandria, VA 22314 (v) 800-424-8666 Email: <u>info@acb.org</u> Website: <u>American Council of the Blind</u> Website of Sight and Sound Committee: <u>American Council of the Blind | Committee</u>

The ACB has the Sight and Sound Impaired Committee and an advocacy organization.

Helen Keller National Center (Headquarters) 141 Middle Neck Road Sands Point, NY 11050 (v) 516-944-8900 x 1299 Email: <u>hkncinfo@hknc.org</u> Website: <u>Helen Keller Services</u>

Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) promotes the quality of life for individuals who are DeafBlind. Offers specialized employment and rehabilitation services to individuals with combined vision and hearing loss. Maryland residents should contact the East Central Representative for a referral to the HKNC (Cynthia Ingraham <u>cingraham@helenkeller.org</u>).

National Family Association for DeafBlind (NFADB)

PO Box 1667 Sands Point, NY 11050 (v) 800-255-0411 (fax) 516-883-9060 Email: <u>info@nfadb.org</u> Website: <u>National Family Association for DeafBlind</u>

NFADB is an advocacy organization for families and their DeafBlind family members.

National Center on DeafBlindness (NCDB) Teaching Research Institute Western Oregon University 45 N. Monmouth Avenue Monmouth, OR 97361 (v) 800-438-9376 (tty) 800-854-7013 E-mail: info@nationaldb.org Website: National Center on DeafBlindness

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

National Federation of the Blind (NFB)

Jernigan Place 200 East Wells Street Baltimore, MD 21230 (v) 410-659-9314 – Voice Email: <u>pmaurer@nfb.org</u> Website: <u>National Federation of the Blind</u>

DeafBlind Division of NFB T-Mobile IP Relay: 661-249-9715 Home: 661-868-9647 Email: <u>mmines@mauricemines.org</u> Mailing List: <u>NFB-DB Info Page</u>

NCDB is an advocacy organization that takes part in a network of projects for children and youth with DeafBlindness that includes state DeafBlind projects in every state.

Center for Deaf-Blind Persons, Inc. 8306 W. Lincoln Ave. West Allis, Wisconsin 53219 (v) 414-481-7477 voice/tty/DBC Email: info@deaf-blind.org Website: Center for Deaf-Blind Persons | Resources

Based in Wisconsin, it has an extensive list of national resources for DeafBlind persons.

Library & Reading Services

Hadley 700 Elm Street Winnetka, IL 60093 (v) 800-323-4238 Email: info@HadleyHelps.org Website: Hadley

An online organization that supports older adults to adjust to vision loss. Has materials for use by phone, online, or by mail. Might be helpful for persons with vision loss and who have hearing loss.

Maryland State Library for the Blind & Print Disabled (LBPD)

415 Park Avenue Baltimore, MD 21201 (v) 410-230-2424 and 800-964-9209 (tty) 410-333-8679 (fax) 410-333-2095 Email: <u>reference.desk@maryland.gov</u> Website: <u>Maryland State Library for the Blind & Print Disabled</u>

Books and magazines in Large Print, Digital Talking Book Machine, and Braille delivered either through the U.S. mail or through digital download. Accessible Technology training by appointment. Has ADA-compliant computer workstations.

National Federation of the Blind – Newsline

Jernigan Place 200 East Wells Street Baltimore, MD 21230 (v) 410-659-9314 – Voice Email: <u>pmaurer@nfb.org</u> Website: <u>National Federation of the Blind</u> Subscriptions to various news: <u>NFB-NEWSLINE® | National Federation of the Blind</u> Phone Option: <u>Phone Instructions | National Federation of the Blind</u>

The Newsline offers free audio and Braille services with access to newspapers and some magazines for both adults and children. Ideal for persons who are blind or visually impaired and hard of hearing who use Captel phones (captioning).

Bookshare

3790 El Camino Real #1072 Palo Alto, CA 94306 (v) 650-352-0198 Website: <u>Bookshare</u>

Books are offered in multiple formats including Braille, large font, audio books (to be used with assistive listening devices), and more.

The Metropolitan Washington Ear, Inc.

12061 Tech Road Silver Spring, MD 20904 (v) 301-681-6636 (fax) 301-625-1986 Email: <u>information@washear.org</u> Website: <u>Metropolitan Washington Ear</u> Application: Other Services

Free reading and listener services. Ideal for DeafBlind persons who are hard of hearing.

Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled Mailing address: 101 Independence Ave., SE Washington, DC 20540-4960

Street Address: John Adams Building 120 2nd St., SE Washington, DC 20002 General email: <u>nls@loc.gov</u>

Ask a Librarian: <u>nlsref@loc.gov</u> BARD Support: <u>nlsdownload@loc.gov</u> BEP Currency Reader: <u>Meaningful.Access@bep.gov</u> Braille Information: <u>braille@loc.gov</u> Music Section: <u>nlsm@loc.gov</u> Overseas Service: <u>nlsoverseas@loc.gov</u> Patron Announce Listserv: <u>nlspes@loc.gov</u> (v) 202-707-5100 (v) Toll-free: 800-424-8567

Offers a variety of library resources, some of which can be shipped, downloaded, or done by electronic means.

Orientation and Mobility

American Printing House for the Blind

(v) 800-232-5463
 Email: <u>connectcenter@aph.org</u>
 Website: <u>APH ConnectCenter</u>
 Website: <u>What is Orientation and Mobility? - ConnectCenter</u>

Offers an overview of orientation and mobility, and support for independence.

Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (ACVREP)

4380 N. Campbell Ave, Suite 200
Tucson, AZ 85718
(v) 520-887-6816
Website: <u>Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals</u>
Website: <u>COMS Certification Handbook</u>
Website: <u>Certificate Directory</u> (verify or locate O & M Specialists by state)

Provides information and education for how to become a Certified O&M Specialist (to train the use of white cane and navigation in the home and community).

Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired (AER) 5680 King Centre Drive, Suite 600 Alexandria, VA 22315

aer@aerbvi.org Website: <u>Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired</u> Website: <u>AER Orientation and Mobility</u> Website: DC-MD AER Chapter (local chapter)

AER is a professional organization for service providers for persons with vision loss. AER provides professional development via face-to-face conferences, virtual offerings and publications to strengthen the knowledge, skills and abilities of professionals within the field. DeafBlind users would likely need interpreters or tactile interpreters.

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) Office for Blindness & Vision Services (OBVS) 2301 Argonne Drive Baltimore, MD 21218 (v) 410-554-9277 or toll free 866-614-4780 Email: obvs.dors@maryland.gov Website: Independent Living Older Blind Website: Request DORS Services

DORS can provide orientation and mobility training with other support services to DORS participants as a part of VR employment services or in conjunction with other services such as their Independent Living Older Adult program (ILOB).

Co-Navigator / Support Service Providers

Maryland Department of Disabilities Telecommunications Access of Maryland (TAM)

Website: <u>Telecommunications Access of Maryland</u> Website: <u>Communication Facilitator Service</u>

Offers equipment, the 7-1-1 relay, training of equipment, DeafBlind relay, and advocacy. DeafBlind relay users can contact the coordinator, Kevin Steffy, at <u>kevin.steffy@maryland.gov</u>. for more information. He has a list of some co-navigators/SSPs in Maryland.

Deaf Shalom Zone

1040 S. Beechfield Ave. Baltimore, MD 21229 Lead Case Manager – Kathi Jeffries Email: <u>deafshalomzone@gmail.com</u> Website: <u>Deaf Shalom Zone</u>

Case management provider which partners with Christ Church of the Deaf. Case management services and food distribution program for Deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind persons from Christ Church and community. Offers limited Co-Navigator/SSP services in the Baltimore area.

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind (CLB)

8757 Georgia Ave., Suite 805 Silver Spring, MD 20910 (v) 202-454-6400 Email: <u>info@clb.org</u> Website: <u>Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind</u> Website: <u>Support Service Provider</u>

Their headquarters is in Washington, DC. Offers limited Support Service Providers / Co-Navigators. Offers AT training and social support programs. Employment services include job readiness training. Serves Blind and individuals who are blind and hard of hearing. Check with CLB for current availability.

National Federation of the Blind (NFB)

Website: Training Tips for Support Service Providers | NFB DeafBlind Division

The NFB has information about SSPs and also provides them for their conferences.

E-Learning & Education about DeafBlindness

Helen Keller's Learning Center

Website: Classes – Helen Keller Services

Helen Keller Services has an e-learning library for individuals, families, and professionals who work with persons who are DeafBlind. Some materials are also available in Spanish. Courses and webinars have a small fee.

University of Kentucky

Online DeafBlind Graduate Certificate (v) 833-855-3276 Website: <u>DeafBlind Certificate Program</u> Website: <u>Online Graduate Certificate (No degree) in DeafBlind</u>

University of Kentucky has an online certificate program for professionals working with persons who are DeafBlind. Program is 12 credits.

University of South Dakota South Dakota DeafBlind Program

(v) : 800-658-3080 (Voice/TTY) or 605-357-1439 Contact Person: Amy Scepaniak Email: <u>Amy.Scepaniak@usd.edu</u> Website: DeafBlind Program | University of South Dakota (usd.edu)

A 4-course college program for providers who serve DeafBlind persons under the age of 21. Through a collaboration between the University of South Dakota, the South Dakota DeafBlind Project, and the National Center on DeafBlindness, online professional development courses were created and are offered online.

Northern Illinois University DeafBlind VR Services Graduate Certificate 1425 W. Lincoln Hwy DeKalb, IL 60115 (v) 815-753-1000 Website: Northern Illinois University | Deaf-Blind Rehabilitation Services

Northern Illinois University offers an online graduate certificate program in DeafBlind Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Perkins School for the Blind DeafBlind Program 175 North Beacon Street Watertown, MA 02472 Website: Perkins e-Learning

Perkins offers free and paid online courses. Perkins is a premier school for DeafBlind children.

Eschenbach Academy Tel: 800-487-5389 Fax: 888-799-7200 info@eschenbach.com Website: Free Educational Webinars | Eschenbach Optik Vision Aids Website: Eschenbach Academy

A free e-learning platform to learn about low vision and helpful assistive technology. Webinars are available. Participants will need to register to gain access to courses.

Texas Technical Institute

Department of Special Education 2625 Memorial Circle Lubbock, TX 79409-1030 (v) 806-742-2787 Website: Texas Tech Graduate School

O&M Coordinator Contact: Nora Griffin-Shirley, Ph.D. (v) 806-834-0225 Email: <u>n.griffin-shirley@ttu.edu</u>

DeafBlind Coordinator Contact: Phoebe Okungu, Ph.D. (v) 806-834-0286 Email: <u>phoebe.okungu@ttu.edu</u>

TTI offers a hybrid graduate program in the Orientation & Mobility program (27 credits) and DeafBlindness Program (15 credit certificate).

Connections Beyond Sight and Sound

University of Maryland Donna Riccobono, Project Director 1220 Benjamin Building College Park, MD 20742 (v) 301-405-0482 (fax) 301-314-9995 Email: <u>donnaric@umd.edu</u> Website: <u>Archived Webinars - Connections Beyond Sight and Sound</u> Website: <u>Connections Beyond Sight and Sound</u>

The DeafBlind Project supports Maryland and DC children and young adults with DeafBlindness in their homes, schools, and communities by providing consultation, training, special programs, resources, and technical assistance to children and their families and providers. Connects Beyond Sight and Sound has recorded webinars and presentations on a variety of topics related to DeafBlindness.

Services for Children and Youth Who are DeafBlind

American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC)

PO Box 23 Woodbine, MD 21797 (v) 800-942-2732 Email: <u>info@deafchildren.org</u> Website: American Society for Deaf Children

ASDC offers a plethora of resources that includes camps, online classes, and more.

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) Office for Blindness & Vision Services (OBVS) Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) 2301 Argonne Drive Baltimore, MD 21218 (v) 410-554-9277 or toll free 866-614-4780 Email: obvs.dors@maryland.gov Website: OBVS Website: Pre-Employment Transition Services Website: Request DORS Services

Pre-ETS services are for DORS participants who are transitioning youth where services are generally short term in nature and cover introductory topics emphasizing exploration and preparation for employment and/or post-secondary education. DORS works collaboratively with Project SEARCH (<u>www.seeconline.org/project-search/</u>), a model to support participants with significant intellectual disabilities.

Maryland School for the Blind

3501 Taylor Avenue Baltimore, MD 21236 (v) 410-444-5000 (Main) Email: <u>info@mdschblind.org</u> Website: <u>Maryland School for the Blind</u>

Serves DeafBlind students (K-12) and offers resources.

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

Website: County Schools Local School Systems

DeafBlind students who participate in education at a school in their community can receive technical assistance from Connections Beyond Sight and Sound, the DeafBlind Project for Maryland to receive recommendations and consultations.

Connections Beyond Sight and Sound

University of Maryland Donna Riccobono, Project Director 1220 Benjamin Building College Park, MD 20742 (v) 301-405-0482 (fax) 301-314-9995 Email: <u>donnaric@umd.edu</u> Website: <u>Connections Beyond Sight and Sound</u>

This DeafBlind Project supports Maryland and DC children and young adults with DeafBlindness in their homes, schools, and communities by providing consultation, training, special programs, resources, and technical assistance to children and families.

Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD)

Website: Maryland School for the Deaf

Frederick Campus: 101 Clarke Place Frederick, MD 21705 (v) 240-575-2966

Columbia Campus: 8169 Old Montgomery Rd Ellicott City, MD 21043 (v) 410-696-7449

MSD is a bilingual community of English and ASL. Students who are Deaf or hard of hearing and who have low vision may be a good fit for MSD. Contact the school for more information.

Perkins School for the Blind DeafBlind Program 175 North Beacon Street

Watertown, MA 02472 Website: <u>Perkins DeafBlind</u>

Perkins is a leading institution in blind academia. Perkins has a DeafBlind School that offers comprehensive educational services to students ages 3-22 who are DeafBlind. The education and training of the children incorporate a developmental approach, stressing language and communication development, individualized instruction, and age-appropriate curriculum in a total communication environment.

Governor's Transitioning Youth Initiative (GTYI)

Service Coordination, Inc. 5283 Corporate Dr, Suite 103 Frederick, MD 21703 (v) 301-663-8044 or 888-240-6835 Website: Governor's Transitioning Youth Initiative

The GTYI program supports students with developmental disabilities from the ages 14 to 21 and assists with their transition to DDA services (Developmental Disabilities Administration). DDA funding is life-long and should be applied for before 21 years old.

Independent Living for Older Blind

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) Office for Blindness & Vision Services (OBVS) Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) 2301 Argonne Drive Baltimore, MD 21218 (v) 410-554-9277 or toll free 866-614-4780 Email: obvs.dors@maryland.gov Website: Independent Living Older Blind Website: Request DORS Services

Short-term services for DORS participants that can include orientation and mobility training (O & M), Braille training, referrals to community services, assistive technology, and other related independent living skills for DeafBlind and blind persons who are 55 years or older.

Front Porch Well Connected

800 N Brand Blvd Floor 19 Glendale, CA 91203 (v) 877-797-7299 (v) 800-233-3709 Email: <u>connections@frontporch.net</u> Website: <u>Front Porch</u>

A program to connect seniors over 60 years old with disabilities, including persons who are blind or have low vision with some hearing loss to be connected via video conferencing and by phone. Offers a low vision support group and a peer support for blind persons. Other group activities are also available. Has Large print, Braille, & audio.

Hadley

700 Elm Street Winnetka, IL 60093 (v) 800-323-4238 Email: <u>info@HadleyHelps.org</u> Website: <u>Hadley</u>

An online organization that supports older adults to adjust to vision loss. Has materials for use by phone, online, or by mail. Might be helpful for persons with vision loss and have hearing loss.

Maryland Department of Aging

301 West Preston Street, Suite 1007 Baltimore, Maryland 21201 (v) 410-767-1100 or 800-243-3425 (fax) 410-333-7943 Website: <u>Maryland Department of Aging</u> Website: <u>List of agencies</u> by county

Some of the agencies serve both seniors and persons with disabilities. They also have resources for caregivers and other support services. They also offer referrals.

Maryland Department of Health Community Personal Assistance Services 201 W. Preston Street Baltimore, MD 21201-2399 (v) 410-767-1739 (v) 1-877-463-3464 Website: Community First Choice Website: Medical Assistance - Maryland Department of Human Services

The Community Personal Assistance Services program is a Medical Assistance program that offers older adults and people with disabilities with in-home care services when activities of daily living are difficult on their own. Persons must be financially eligible. If approved for the CPAS program following a nurse evaluation, individuals will be assigned a Service Planner (case manager) to plan services to support difficulties with activities of daily living, including nurse monitoring. In some circumstances, family members can be paid for providing the services. Individuals must be recertified annually. <u>Click here (PDF)</u> for a flier.

American Sign Language / Pro-Tactile / Intervener

Sign School

Website: Sign School

Sign School is a free interactive platform with a dictionary, a sign of the day, a downloadable app, games, topics and other learning tools.

Start ASL

916-C W. Burbank Blvd. Burbank, CA 91506 | (v) 510-402-5461 Website: <u>Start ASL</u>

Start ASL offers online courses including one free class, an online dictionary, and Deaf culture. Other resources are also offered. Formal classes can also be arranged.

Pro-tactile Language Interpreting

National Education Program Research and Resource Center with Deaf Communities (RRCD)

Richard Woodcock Education Center Western Oregon University 345 N Monmouth Ave Monmouth, OR 97361 Email: <u>pli@wou.edu</u> Website: <u>Online Learning - PLI</u> Website for Certificate Program: Certificate Programs - PLI (protactilelanguageinterpreting.org)

Western Oregon University offers a certificate program in Pro-tactile Language Theory along with free modules to learn about PTASL (Pro-tactile ASL). Unfamiliar with PTASL, watch this short video by Quartz or read this blog by the Perkins School for the Blind.

Open Hands, Open Access (OHOA): DeafBlind Intervener Learning Modules Intervener Training

National Center on Deafblindness Teaching Research Institute Western Oregon University 45 N. Monmouth Avenue Monmouth, OR 97361 (v) 800-438-9376 (tty) 800-854-7013 E-mail: <u>info@nationaldb.org</u> Website: <u>Open Hands, Open Access (OHOA): Deaf-Blind Intervener Learning Modules</u> Website: <u>NFB | Interveners</u>

Interveners are utilized to work with DeafBlind students, typically in educational settings for grades K-12. This online training program is free for individuals. <u>Click here</u> for Intervener Competencies which includes an overview of the modules.

ASL Connect through Gallaudet University

(vp) 202-730-2792 Website: <u>ASL Connect | Gallaudet University</u>

Online ASL courses through ASL Connect. Tuition fees are required.

Transportation

Lyft

Website: Lyft's commitment to accessibility

Lyft is a self-pay transportation service that is similar to a Taxi service. It is accessible for persons with disabilities including Deaf and blind riders.

Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Maryland Mass Transit MobilityLink

(v) 410-539-5000
(v) Toll Free: 1.866.RIDE MTA (1-866-743-3682)
(tty) 410-539-3497
(v) Mobility Certification office: 410-764-8181
Email: MTACertification@mdot.maryland.gov
Website: Mobility | Maryland Transit Administration
Website: Disability Reduced Fare Program | Maryland Transit Administration

The MobilityLink program is a certified transit service that provides door-to-door service for persons with disabilities. <u>Click here (PDF)</u> for a complete guide about paratransit services. This service is for persons who are unable, for example, to go independently to a bus stop or train station. <u>Click here (PDF)</u> for the application. If receiving O&M training, this may be another area to consider being trained (using MobilityLink). For persons able to ride independently and do not need paratransit services, the Maryland Transit Administration offers discounted disability fares. See the link above.

Uber

Uber ASSIST Website: <u>Accessibility | Uber</u> Website: Resources for Riders with Disabilities

Uber is a self-pay transportation service, similar to a Taxi service. The Uber ASSIST program is a special program through Uber, a transportation company. Service animals are permitted in these vehicles. Learn more about accessibility from clicking one of the links above.

Filing Complaints / Advocacy / Legal / Abuse

National Association of the Deaf (NAD)

8630 Fenton Street, Suite 202 Silver Spring, MD 20910 (vp) 301-587-1788 (Purple/ZVRS) (vp) 301-328-1443 (Sorenson) (vp) 301-338-6380 (Convo) (tty) 301-810-3182 (fax) 301-587-1791 Website: <u>National Association of the Deaf</u> Website: <u>How to File a Complaint</u>

The NAD is a national Deaf advocacy organization. They provide a list of different entities to learn about the complaint process and how to do so.

Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) P.O. Box 527 Burtonsville, MD 20866 Website: Maryland Association of the Deaf

The purpose of MDAD is to preserve, protect, and promote the civil, human, and linguistic rights of Deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind individuals in the state of Maryland. Occasionally, MDAD will advocate for community-wide equity.

Maryland Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)

100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 (vp) 443-453-5761 Email: <u>gov.odhh@maryland.gov</u> Website: Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

ODHH is a government office and receives complaints about sign language interpreters and agencies. Persons can contact ODHH for their Google form. ODHH often will provide advocacy for community-wide barriers or concerns.

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM)

1500 Union Ave, Suite 2000 Baltimore, MD 21211 (v) 410-727-6352 (v) 1-800-233-7201 (tty) 410-235-5387 (fax) 410-727-6389 Website: Disability Rights Maryland

DRM is formerly the Maryland Disability Law Center. They provide advocacy services and free legal services to persons with disabilities.

Maryland Legal Aid (MLA)

500 E. Lexington Street Baltimore, MD 21202 (v) 410-260-1392 Website: <u>Maryland Legal Aid</u> Website: <u>List of MLA Offices by County</u>

Provides free or low-cost legal services including advocacy for the rights of Marylanders including persons with disabilities.

Maryland Guardianship

Website: <u>Maryland Guardianship | Maryland Courts (state.md.us)</u> Website: <u>Guardians of Disabled Persons Training Program | Maryland Courts</u>

A resource for DeafBlind individuals who need an appointed guardian through the courts, perhaps individuals who have multiple disabilities.

Maryland Courts

- List of free and low-cost legal aids and services for different needs. Includes a listing about disability rights.
- ADA Coordinators by county (requesting accommodations for a court hearing).
- Expungement of Criminal Records

Adult Protective Services (APS)

(p) 800-917-7383

Website: Maryland Information <u>Adult Protective Services - MD Department of Human Services</u> Website: National Information <u>Help In Your Area - NAPSA</u> Website: Project Safe <u>Project SAFE (Stop Adult Financial Exploitation) - MD DHS</u>

For some DeafBlind individuals, they may fall under the "vulnerable adult" category and signs of abuse, neglect, or self-neglect should be reported. Callers can call anonymously when reporting abuse or neglect for adults. **Project Safe** is a coalition among 16 agencies and organizations and is a program to stop financial exploitation.

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Deaf Services (vp) 855-812-1001 (v) 800-799-SAFE (7233) (text) Text "START" at 88788 Website: <u>Domestic Violence Deaf Services | The National Domestic Violence Hotline</u>

Deaf services for survivors who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard of hearing who experience domestic violence. A Communication Facilitator may be able to assist with requesting support.

Hearing Aids / Audiology / Cochlear Implants Info

Maryland Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 (vp) 443-453-5761 Email: gov.odhh@maryland.gov Website: Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resource Guide: <u>Resource Guide: Insurance and Financial Assistance on Hearing Aids,</u> Cochlear Implants, and Audiology Services

ODHH is a government office to support the welfare and advocacy for Deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind people. ODHH has created a resource guide that includes a list of some providers, insurance considerations, and financial assistance related to hearing aids and cochlear implants.

VRS / TRS Relay

Maryland Relay

Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT) (v and tty) 800-552-7724 or 410-767-7253 (vp) 410-801-9618 Email: <u>MAT.Program1@maryland.gov</u> Website: Maryland Accessible Telecommunications

- Information about Maryland Relay: <u>About Maryland Relay</u>
- Information on Relay Service Options: <u>Stay Connected with MD Relay Options</u>
- Information on Braille TTY: Braille TTY
- Information on Voice or Hearing Carryover: <u>HCO (Hearing Carry-Over)</u>
- Information on Relay Conference Captioning: <u>Maryland RCC</u>
- Information on Captioned Telephone: <u>Captioned Telephone</u>
- Video Webinar on Universal Telecommunications Access Platform: <u>Universal</u> <u>Telecommunications Access Platform webinar - NASRA (youtube.com)</u>
- Apply for MAT equipment: Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Application
- Internet-Based Relay Providers (IP Relay): Federal Internet-Based Relay Providers
- Video Relay Service Providers: FCC Video Relay Service Providers
- Communication Facilitator Service: <u>Communication Facilitator Service</u>

The various Video Relay Services (VRS) and Traditional Relay Service (TRS) providers offer limited services and accessibility options for Deaf, hard of hearing and DeafBlind individuals.

- If individuals use Braille devices, then the Braille TTY through the Traditional Relay may be an option.
- If the individual has some residual vision, then the VRS may be an option, perhaps with the use of a large screen.
- For individuals with residual sight and hearing who can use their voice, then a large screen captioned telephone (Captel) may be useful.

A couple of these options may also work with internet-based relay (TRS). Contacting and making an appointment with the MAT program for demonstrations and device options may be helpful.

MAT (Maryland Accessible Telecommunications) is a department under TAM (Telecommunications Access of Maryland), which is affiliated with the Maryland Department of Disabilities. To explore the Communication Facilitator for tactile signers and/or to become a CF, contact Kevin Steffy <u>kevin.steffy@maryland.gov</u>.

myMMX db

Email: Support questions: <u>support@mymmx.com</u> Contact Person: Bryan yunashko (v) 773-372-3090 Website: <u>Accessible RTT and Videophone APPs - myMMX</u>

myMMX db provides accessible RTT (real-time texting) and VRS apps for DeafBlind individuals.