

LOUISIANA

Blind/Visual Impairment Resources



Louisiana Blind/Visual Impairment Resources

Families Helping Families of Louisiana

P.O. Box 1068

Luling, LA 70070

Phone: (985) 446-3445 (985) 688-8101 (cell)

Fax: (985) 446-6891

E-mail: fhfla@bellsouth.net

Website: <http://www.blfhf.org/fhfcenters.php>

Organization Type: Information Centers, Parent/Family Support, State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

Families Helping Families is a coordinated network of nine resource centers, with all of the executive directors being parents of children with disabilities. Families Helping Families is recognized in Louisiana as the place to go for information and referrals, education and training and peer support for all persons with disabilities and their families. Families Helping Families also serves as a resource for professionals. Their mission is to enable and empower Louisiana families of individuals with special needs through an effective coordinated network of resources, support, and services.

The Lighthouse for the Blind

123 State Street, New Orleans, LA 70118

Phone: 504.899.4501 Toll-Free: 888.792.0163

The Lighthouse is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting independence for people who are blind and visually impaired by providing programs that focus on economic opportunity and self-reliance. In addition to a core, modern manufacturing operation that employs people with vision impairments, the Lighthouse offers a range of independent living, competitive employment, and health related services.

Low Vision Clinic

At a low vision clinic you will find professionals who specialize in vision impairment and devices to enhance poor sight. Low vision specialists are trained to evaluate a person's visual status and make recommendations to optimize his or her level of function and independence. Low vision specialists know about electronic and non-electronic magnification and can teach a person how to identify and use the right magnifying device. In addition, there are many talking, large print and tactual aids that can be discovered by visiting a low vision clinic.

The Lighthouse Low Vision Clinic is designed to work in cooperation with your eye care provider. Our goal is to help you achieve your best possible working vision. Your rehab plan may include visual skills training, recommendation / training for devices, and referral to additional education programs.

Visual Aids Store

Whatever your needs, our informed staff will help you to determine which products will help you or your loved one function with maximum independence despite vision loss

Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network

3042 Old Forge Dr.

Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Phone: (800) 270-6185 (225) 925-9500

Fax: (225) 925-9560

E-mail: info@latan.org

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

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, Information Centers, State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN), the Louisiana Tech Act Project, is a consumer-directed, consumer-responsive advocacy and systems change nonprofit agency that involves individuals with disabilities in planning, implementing and evaluating LATAN's activities. LATAN's vision is that individuals who use assistive technology are independent, satisfied with their lives, and have access to their community. LATAN assists individuals with disabilities to achieve a higher quality of life and greater independence through increased access to assistive technology as part of their daily lives. Their goal is to expand the availability of assistive technology services and devices through a comprehensive consumer-directed, consumer-responsive statewide program of technology-related assistance.

Louisiana Association for the Blind (LAB)

1750 Claiborne Ave.

Shreveport, LA 71103

Phone: (318) 635-6471 1-(877) 913-6471

Fax: (318) 635-8902

E-mail: jabowen@lablind.com

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

Contact Name: James A. Bowen, Jr., President

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Visual Impairment / Blind

The Louisiana Association for the Blind (LAB) is a private non-profit organization that provides stable employment, vocational training and rehabilitation to individuals who are blind and visually impaired in Louisiana. Their core values of respect for individual abilities, honesty, and integrity create an environment that encourages personal growth and independence. They employ people who are blind in manufacturing, administrative, training and a variety of job positions that match an individual's goals and potential. Finally, LAB is a member of the National Association for Employment of People Who are Blind and affiliated with National Industries for the Blind.

Louisiana Center for the Blind

101 South Trenton Street

Ruston, LA 71270

Phone: (800) 234-4166

E-mail: jardoin@lcb-ruston.com

Website: <http://www.lcb-ruston.com/>

Contact Name: Jewel Ardon, Technology Instructor

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Visual Impairment / Blind

The Louisiana Center for the Blind is a 24-hour residential training facility. They provide many services. They provide residential orientation and adjustment training to adults who are legally blind. Students remain in training generally from six to nine months depending upon individual needs. The full training curriculum includes Braille, cane travel, keyboarding/computer literacy, home economics, industrial arts, independent living skills, seminar, job development and college placement, and GED/remedial education. All classes emphasize the development of self-confidence and a positive attitude toward blindness. On average, the Center services approximately thirty students in the general program. Throughout their training, students live in apartments located eight blocks from the classroom facility.

The Gatling Group

7928 Ferrara Drive

New Orleans, LA 70123-4433

Phone: (504) 905-6179

Fax: (504) 833-9778

E-mail: ken@thegatlinggroup.com

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

Contact Name: Ken Magee

Organization Type: General, Assistive Technology, Disability/Disorder Specific, Information Centers

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific, Brain Injury and Stroke, Cerebral Palsy, Communication and Speech, Deaf / Blind, Developmental Disabilities, Health Impairments, Learning Disabilities, Mobility Impaired, Multiple Disabilities, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Neurological Disorders, Orthopedically Impaired

The Gatling Group is an Assistive Technology consulting company, founded in 1996, which specializes in working with individuals of any age, or disability. The firm is an authorized trainer, evaluator, and provider for the State of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. They build, sell, and repair computers, laptops, and assistive technology software and equipment. As a Microsoft Certified Professional and a JAWS for Windows trainer, they provide software training on all of the Microsoft Windows and Office products as well as JAWS for Windows, OpenBook, Kurzweil, and Dragon Naturally Speaking.

State Library of Louisiana

Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Telephone: (225) 342-0035 or Toll-free: (800) 543-4702

Fax: (225) 342-6817

Email: sbph@state.lib.la.us

Hours of Service: 8:00am - 5:00pm Monday through Friday exclusive of state holidays.

Function and Mission:

Free library services are available to any Louisiana resident who is unable to read standard print materials due to a permanent or temporary visual or physical disability. Books and magazines in large print, Braille and recorded cassettes as well as descriptive videos are loaned to people of all ages who cannot read because they are visually impaired, legally blind, reading-disabled or unable to hold a book or turn pages. There is no cost to the user for postage, shipping or the repair and maintenance of special equipment needed to play the recorded cassettes. Services are also available to schools with eligible students and to institutions with eligible patients, clients or residents.

Over 70,000 titles in a broad range of subjects, both fiction and non-fiction can be borrowed. Louisiana Summer Reading Program materials and Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award titles are also available in alternate formats for young people ages four through 18. The Louisiana Voices Audio Book Production Program records Louisiana-related books and magazines on special format audiocassette tapes for distribution to users registered for Special Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Volunteer narrators and audio technicians produce audio books of local and regional interest in the Louisiana Voices studio located at the State Library of Louisiana.

NLS Digital Download for the Blind

Margaret C. Harrison
Coordinator Of Outreach Services
(225) 342-4942
mharriso@state.lib.la.us

Angela Cinquemano
Louisiana Voices Program Manager
(225) 219-1696
lavoices@state.lib.la.us

Emma K. Schroth
Children and Teen Services Librarian
(225) 342-9563
sbphkids@state.lib.la.us

WRBH

3606 Magazine Street New Orleans, LA 70115
504-899-1144 Fax: 504-899-1165

WRBH 88.3 FM, Radio for the Blind and Print Handicapped, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is the only full-time reading service on the FM dial in the United States. At WRBH, our mission is to turn the printed word into the spoken word so that the blind and print handicapped receive the same ease of access to current information as their sighted peers.

Regional Centers for Assistive Technology

The Louisiana Assistive Technology Initiative (LATI) has established regional centers to improve outcomes and results for children and youth with disabilities through the use of assistive technology, to access school programs and curriculum, and to increase the capacity of school districts to provide assistive technology services by making training and technical assistance available to teachers, therapists, administrators, paraprofessionals and parents.



Regional Center Lending Library

LATI operates a short-term loan program to assist school systems in conducting AT assessments and/or recommending assistive technology for students. This affords the student an opportunity to try the technology before it is purchased for his or her use. Lending Library periods are limited to four weeks. This program is not designed to provide long-term loans. The loan period will consist of thirty calendar days, exclusive of school holidays. Computers are not available through the loan program. Assistive technology hardware/software is provided only to students with disabilities, at the request of the local AT staff.

Regional AT staff will process requests for technology loans, ensure the proper working condition of devices, and provide adequate training in the use of the devices. It is the responsibility of the LEA AT staff to pick up the device and return it in proper working condition to their regional AT center. The LEA accepts responsibility for the device in instances of neglect, abuse, or theft.

Once the loan period has ended, the assistive technology hardware/software will be returned to the assistive technology regional center within 3 days past the 30-day loan period. If the device is not returned within that time, the LEA will be contacted for remittance of the device. If the device is lost, damaged, or malfunctioning, the LEA will be held responsible and accountable financially for the repair or replacement of the device. The assistive technology regional center will be responsible for maintaining records of loans.

[Region 1 Assistive Technology Center](#)

Renee Spratt, M.Ed.
Assistive Technology Facilitator
Region 1 Assistive Technology Center
8342 Highway 23
Belle Chasse, LA 70037
rspratt@ppsb.org
504-595-6071

Katherine Shea, CCC-SLP , M.Ed.
Assistive Technology Facilitator

Region 1 Assistive Technology Center
8342 Highway 23
Belle Chasse, LA 70037
kshea@ppsb.org
504-595-6071

Region 2 Assistive Technology Center

By Phone
225.687.5400, Ext: 183
225.687.7390 (FAX)

By Mail
Region II Assistive Technology Center
58060 Plaquemine Street
Plaquemine, LA 70764

Region 3 Assistive Technology Center

611 North Burnside Avenue
Gonzales, LA 70737

Phone: 225.391.7278
225.391.7279
Fax: 225.621.2525

Region 4/6 Assistive Technology Center

Phone: 318-487-5488
Fax: 318-487-5511

Region IV
Phone: 337-234-7187

Region VI/IV
Coordinator
Charlotte Ducote
charlotte@atanswers.com

Region VI Facilitator
DeWayne LaCaze
dewayne@atanswers.com

Region IV
Tammy Dupre
tammy@atanswers.com

Technician
Greg Beavers
greg@atanswers.com

Office Manager
Diane Sallinger
diane@atanswers.com

[Region 5 Assistive Technology Center](#)

Region V Assistive Technology Coordinator Kay Bolen

Email kay.bolen@cpsb.org
Work Phone 337-217-4120 ext. 1023
Office Location 600 S. Shattuck Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Region V Assistive Technology Facilitator Anissa Fontenot

Email anissa.fontenot@cpsb.org
Work Phone 337-217-4120 ext. 1035
Office Location 600 S. Shattuck Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601

[region 7 Assistive Technology Center](#)

2500 Viking Dr.
Bossier City, Louisiana 71111

Fax: 318.549.6126

Kristie Harvill
318.549.6113

Timothy Daniels
318.549.6163

[Region 8 Assistive Technology](#)

_Region VIII
Assistive Technology Center
Telephone: 888-368-9727
Fax: 318-368-9774

P.O. Box 308
1206 Marion Hwy.
Farmerville, LA 71241

Sources of Custom-Produced Books

Hammond

Louisiana Braille Transcribing Services
13077 Shannon Lane
Hammond, LA 70401
(504) 345-0640
Dunnams@i55.com
Director:
Sandra A. Dunnam

Braille: literary, math, textbooks, Spanish; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (Duxbury); embosser (ET, Transend)

Other Information: maintains master collection

New Orleans

The Lighthouse for the Blind in New Orleans
123 State Street
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504) 899-4501
President:
Regis Barber

Braille: literary, textbooks; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (Duxbury); embosser (Thiel)

Braille coordinator:
Carole Romano

Recording: general, textbooks, computer science; cassette masters; 2-track cassette duplication

Large print: general; spiral binding; by computer

Other Information: maintains book-master collection