



Figure 1: Logo of the Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Professional and Service Organizations for the Visually Impaired

This information was archived in September 2012 from a previous version of the GDABVI website. We have done our best to update the website links but we will not be able to offer future updates. We apologize for any inconvenience and welcome your call to our office for any search assistance you may need (313) 272-3900.

Professional Medical Associations and Organizations

National:

Here is a list of links to Web resources relating to the eye health, eye safety and various eye disorders that may help in the prevention visual impairment or blindness.

- [American Academy of Ophthalmology](#)
- [American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus](#)
- [American Diabetes Association](#)
- [American Optometric Association](#)
- [Foundation Fighting Blindness](#)
- [Glaucoma Research Foundation](#)
- [Macular Degeneration Support](#)
- [National Eye Institute](#)
- [National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation \(NOAH\)](#)
- [National Organization for Rare Disorders](#)
- [Prevent Blindness America](#)

Michigan:

The [Visually Impaired Center](#) in Flint provides services to individuals in Genesee, Lapeer and Shiawassee Counties who are legally blind or visually impaired.

VIC assists adults in coping with vision loss through the following programs:

- Counseling and support groups
- Connection to community resources and consumer advocacy
- Instruction in techniques to cope with everyday tasks
- Communication skills: Braille, large print, use of low vision aids
- Education for diabetics with visual impairments
- Instruction in ambulating safely in the home and community
- Instruction in the use of the white cane for independent travel
- Information and training in the use of computer technology

VIC assists children and youth through the following programs:

- Career exploration and work experience
- Exposure to adaptive computer technology
- Parent education, advocacy and support

For further information, contact the Visually Impaired Center at 810-235-2544, <http://www.vicflint.org/>

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North American Resources

[American Council of the Blind \(ACB\)](#) is the nation's leading membership organization of blind and visually impaired people. It was founded in 1961 and incorporated in the District of Columbia.

[American Health Assistance Foundation](#) is a nonprofit charitable organization that has dedicated over 30 years to funding research on age-related and degenerative diseases, educating the public about these diseases, and providing emergency financial assistance to Alzheimer's disease patients and their caregivers. Their web site includes links on [glaucoma](#) and [macular degeneration](#).

[American Foundation for the Blind](#) is a national non-profit agency involved with development of public policy and the establishment of services for people who are blind or visually impaired. "The cause Helen Keller championed."

[Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired \(AER\)](#) is an international membership organization dedicated to rendering all possible support and assistance to the professionals who work in all phases of education and rehabilitation of blind and visually impaired children and adults.

[Blind Industries and Services of Maryland](#) provides quality services, training, and stable employment opportunities to blind adults while maintaining their core values of honesty, integrity, trust, teamwork, Independence, Open Communication, Pride in Accomplishment, Personal and professional growth, belief in the capabilities of blind people, dignity and self-esteem.

[Blind Related Links](#) website contains a host of links to Internet resources of interest to the blind and visually impaired, arranged by category. Many of these links will be of interest to rehabilitation and related specialists as well.

[Braille Institute](#) has worked for over 90 years to eliminate barriers to a fulfilling life caused by blindness and severe sight loss. They offer classes, training and a wide variety of other services and activities free of charge. They serve Central and Southern California through five regional centers. Their Mobile Solutions van brings help and hope to people in outlying areas

[Canadian National Institute for the Blind \(CNIB\)](#) is the principal source of services for the blind and visually impaired in Canada. CNIB provides talking book service, access to adaptive equipment and other services to visually impaired people in Canada. Their web site has a variety of information on CNIB and other services.

[Clovernook Center](#) is located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Its mission is to provide individualized training and opportunities for people who are visually impaired, particularly those with additional disabilities, to enable the attainment of an optimal quality of life.

[Lighthouse International](#) is a leading resource worldwide on vision impairment and vision rehabilitation. Through its pioneering work in vision rehabilitation services, education, research and advocacy, Lighthouse International enables people of all ages who are blind or partially sighted to lead independent and productive lives.

[Michigan Commission for the Blind](#), an agency within the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, is dedicated to providing opportunities to blind and visually impaired individuals to achieve independence and employment. The commission's programs and services include the Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Independent Living Program, Business Services, Youth Services, Deaf-Blind Services, and the Business Enterprise Program. Training and other services are provided in-home, at week-long Mini Adjustment Seminars around the state, and at the residential MCB Training Center in Kalamazoo. Services are funded by federal and state funding, and no fees are charged to those receiving services. For more information, call 1-800-292-4200 (voice) or 1-888-864-1212 (TTY) toll-free in Michigan.

[National Federation of the Blind \(NFB\)](#) was founded in 1940 with the goal of helping the blind to help themselves. Their web site has information on many of NFB's activities. NFB also operates a computer bulletin board system called NFB-Net.

[Click here](#) to make a Telnet connection to NFB-Net.

[Click here](#) for the web-based resources of the NFB-Net Bulletin Board.

Resources Outside North America

[Alliance for Equality for Blind Canadians](#) is a democratically structured, registered Canadian Charity. The NFB:AE is the only organization in Canada specifically licensed by the federal government to serve primarily as a vehicle for public education about blindness throughout Canada.

[Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand](#) ensures that blind and vision-impaired citizens speak for themselves with Government, service providers, and the community in general. They do this through communication, advocacy, and peer support.

[Royal National Institute of Blind People](#) is the principal source of services for the blind and visually impaired in the United Kingdom.

[Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind](#) is New Zealand's primary provider of vision-related services to blind, deaf-blind and vision-impaired people.

[Vision Australia](#) is a not-for-profit organization and Australia's leading provider of blindness and low vision services. They provide the equipment and training that enables people who are blind or have low vision to live their lives to the full.

General Disability Organizations and Resources

Often people with a visual impairment have other conditions as well. Also, many organizations and resources that might interest blind or visually impaired people serve people with multiple disabilities. That is why we are

assembling this collection of resources for people with multiple impairments.

Resource List

[AbilityHub](#) helps people find information on adaptive equipment and alternative methods available for accessing computers. They cater to a wide range of disabilities.

[AbilityNet](#) is a British non-profit which aims "to extend support on computing to disabled people as widely as possible."

[CanDO.com](#) is designed to be a one-stop resource for all types of information needed by people with a wide range of disabilities.

[Institute on Independent Living](#) serves self-help organizations of disabled people who work for equal opportunities, self-determination and self-respect. They provide information, training materials and technical assistance on personal assistance, advocacy, accessibility, legislation and peer support.

[National Center for Accessible Media](#) develops strategies and technologies to make media accessible to millions of Americans, including people with disabilities, minority language users, and those with low literacy skills.

[Social Security Administration](#) provides benefits to people of retirement age, the Social Security Administration offers a variety of programs for people with disabilities throughout the United States.

[Trace Research and Development Center](#), based at the University of Wisconsin, is dedicated to various issues of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

[WebABLE](#) is a one-stop resource for all kinds of disability-related Internet resources. WebABLE! is a production of WebABLE! Solutions, whose mission is to stimulate education, research and development of technologies that will ensure accessibility for people with disabilities to advanced information systems and emerging technologies.