

# Blind and Visual Impaired Resources in Michigan

PREVNT- Vulnerable Adult Abuse Education & Awareness

# ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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- The Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired offers assistance to people with visual impairment and blindness. People often go to them when their eye care professionals can no longer correct their vision with glasses, contact lenses, medication or surgery.
- ABVI restores independence to those with visual impairment and blindness. They help to restore hope through providing low vision services, rehabilitation, education, and vision aids. Their expert vision professionals are dedicated to helping visually impaired thrive in a sighted world.

<https://www.abvimichigan.org/education/>

# Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

Provide services to people who are legally blind  
age 14 and up

[www.michigan.gov/bsbp](http://www.michigan.gov/bsbp)

# Michigan Bureau of Service for the Blind

The Department of  
**Labor and Economic Opportunity**

**JOB SEEKERS**   **EMPLOYERS**   **HOUSING**   **BUSINESS**   **INSIDE LEO** ▼

LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY / INSIDE LEO / SERVICES FOR BLIND PERSONS

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Services for Youth and Students

Independent Living Services for Seniors

BSBP Training Center

Business Enterprise Program

Braille and Talking Book Library

Advisory Commission

Resources

## Services for Blind Persons

### WELCOME TO THE BUREAU OF SERVICES FOR BLIND PERSONS



The Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) believes in the capacity of people who are blind or visually impaired to achieve employment and independence. BSBP provides training and other services that empower people to achieve their individual goals.

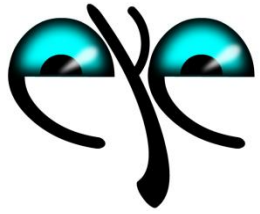
If you live in Michigan and you're blind or visually impaired, the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons will work with you to define your goals and identify appropriate training and

- Services ▼
- Publications ▼
- Documents and Reports ▼
- Contact Us ▼

# Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Provide employment services to people who are not legally blind but are visually impaired acuities of 20/70 or less.

[www.michigan.gov/mrs](http://www.michigan.gov/mrs)



# Adaptive Living Skills

The intensive five-day overnight program – often referred to as “the Mini” – offers participants a broad range of introductory level classes and instruction in:

- Orientation and mobility
- Access technology
- Braille
- Communications
- Adaptive kitchen skills
- Time and money
- Managing and administering medications
- Monitoring glucose levels
- Handwriting
- Adaptive computer software
- Low vision aids



# Michigan Department of Education/LIO

Provides tools and services to support students who are blind and visually impaired.

<https://mdelio.org/>

# Michigan Department of Education

## Michigan Department of Education – Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO)

MDE-LIO provides consultation, guidance, training, and resources to families and educational teams serving students who are Blind or Visually Impaired and/or Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Our services include:

- Workshops and events for families and educators
- Braille, large print, and digital books for students
- American Printing House for the Blind (APH) Federal Quota products and textbooks
- Professional development materials and guides for educators



UPCOMING EVENTS

[See all events](#)

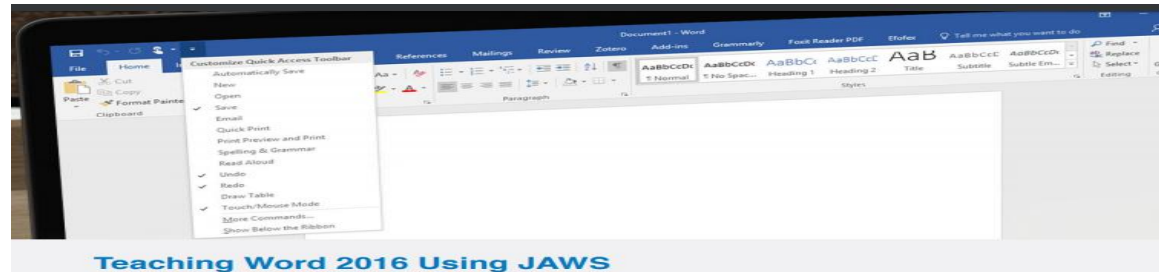


# JOB ACCESS WITH SPEECH

- (JAWS) is the world's most popular screen reader, developed for computer users whose vision loss prevents them from seeing content on a screen or navigating with a mouse. In this six-session class, participants will learn about the latest updates to JAWS and how to use it to access Microsoft Word 2016 effectively. Participants will come away with a wealth of knowledge and skills that will help them increase students' academic achievement.
- Participants will learn how to:
- Navigate Word's ribbon toolbar.
- Navigate the File tab and Backstage View.
- Customize the Quick Access Toolbar and access items on it.
- Create, edit, save, and proof documents using various JAWS commands.
- Use navigational keys to format documents and access tables.
- Determine the Access Keys for a particular task.
- Use Access Keys to activate features on the ribbon and Quick Access Toolbar.
- SCECHs are pending.
- Required Technology

# J.A.W.S

- This class will be conducted online. Participants must have reliable internet access and a computer with a camera. Participants will be provided with instructions beforehand on how to access the class. A test call will be required approximately one week before first class for individuals who have not previously taken an online MDE-LIO class.



- Groups
- Attendees must be able to log into and participate in this class individually. This course is not conducive to group participation, and group registrations are not accepted.
- Contact Information
- Stacy Guthrie 517-241-6476 [guthries@michigan.gov](mailto:guthries@michigan.gov)

# Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund

Provides loans for assistive technology services or equipment for work or independence.

[www.mloanfunds.org](http://www.mloanfunds.org)

# Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind

- Activities for youth who are blind.  
<http://www.oubmichigan.org/>

# Caregiver Resource Network

- [www.caregiverresource.net](http://www.caregiverresource.net)



# American Foundation for the Blind

- National resource for people who are blind and their families.

<http://www.afb.org>



# National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- National network of cooperating libraries which administers a free library program of Braille and audio materials circulated to eligible borrowers by the use of postage free mail.

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



# NFB Newslite

- Free service using synthetic speech to read local and national newspapers.

<https://nfb.org/audio-newspaper-service>





# Consumer organizations

- American Council of the Blind  
<http://www.acb.org>
- National Federation of the Blind  
[www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org)



# Vendors

## Independent Living Aids, Inc.

- [www.independentliving.com](http://www.independentliving.com)

## L S & S Products

- <http://www.lssproducts.com>

## Maxi Aids

- <http://www.maxiaids.com>

## National Braille Press

- <http://www.nbp.org>

## Seedlings Braille Books for Children

- <http://www.seedlings.org>

# Leading causes of vision loss

- **Age Related Macular Degeneration**
- <http://www.amd.org>
- **Cataracts**
- [https://nei.nih.gov/health/cataract/cataract\\_facts](https://nei.nih.gov/health/cataract/cataract_facts)
- **Diabetic Retinopathy**
- <http://www.webmd.com/diabetes/tc/diabetic-retinopathy-topic-overview>
- **Glaucoma**
- Glaucoma Research Foundation  
[www.glaucoma.org](http://www.glaucoma.org)
- **Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP)**
- Foundation Fighting Blindness  
[www.blindness.org](http://www.blindness.org)

# National Eye Institute



- <https://nei.nih.gov>

# A to C

- **A**
- Age-Related Macular Degeneration
- Amblyopia (Lazy Eye)
- Anophthalmia and Microphthalmia
- Astigmatism
- **B**
- Behçet's Disease
- Bietti's Crystalline Dystrophy
- Blepharitis
- Blepharospasm
- **C**
- Cataracts
- Coloboma
- Color Blindness
- Convergence Insufficiency
- Corneal Conditions

# D to L

## D

- [Diabetic Retinopathy](#)
- [Dry Eye](#)

## F

- [Floaters](#)

## G

- [Glaucoma](#)

## I

- [Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension](#)

## L

- [Low Vision](#)

# M to R

- **M**
- [Macular Edema](#)
- [Macular Hole](#)
- [Macular Pucker](#)
- **P**
- [Pink Eye](#)
- **R**
- [Rare Diseases](#)
- [Refractive Errors](#)
- [Retinal Detachment](#)
- [Retinitis Pigmentosa](#)
- [Retinoblastoma](#)
- [Retinopathy of Prematurity](#)

# S to V

- **S**
- [Stargardt Disease](#)
- **U**
- [Usher Syndrome](#)
- [Uveitis](#)
- **V**
- [Vitreous Detachment](#)



# Screen Readers and Magnifying Computer Software

- **Ai Squared**
- [www.aisquared.com](http://www.aisquared.com)
- **Freedom Scientific**
- <http://www.freedomscientific.com>
- **NVDA**
- Free Screen Reader  
<http://www.nvaccess.org/>
- **AppleVis**
- <http://www.applevis.com>

# Low Vision Apps

## (\*\*\*Recommended by Clients)

- **\*\*Light Detector – by EveryWare Technologies (\$.99)**
- Using your iPhone camera, this app emits higher or lower sound depending on the intensity of light. Light Detector can help find any lights left on or locate windows or exits.
  
- **\*\*\*HeyTell – by Voxilate (free)**
- HeyTell is a cross between walkie-talkies and texting. Allows you to send and receive voice messages with other Hey Tell users with the press of a button.
  
- **\*\*\*Chime – by Blacktree (free)**
- It has the option to chime on the quarter, half or hour and there are different alerts to choose from.

# Low Vision Apps Continued

- **\*\*\*Voice Brief – by Dong Baik (\$2.99)**
- This app does work well for some of our clients but it is a bigger sized app and takes up quite a bit of memory if you use it. Voice Brief can read your email, Twitter feed, weather, stock prices, RSS and Facebook feeds. This app is fully configurable and the voices are natural and clear.
- **List Recorder by Sixth Mode Solutions (\$.99)**
- Must have sight assistance to set this app running. Allows users to record and organize lists using audio or text. List Recorder is designed to integrate with VoiceOver as well as Braille displays. Replay, sort, delete or email recordings with ease using custom gestures and motions.
- **\*\*\*Feeddler RSS Reader Pro –by C.B. Liu (\$4.99)**
- It caches articles for off line reading and allows you to star, unstar, mark all as read and much more. You can add notes and post to Facebook.

# Continued

- **Chime – by Blacktree (free)**
- This app has the option to chime on the quarter, half or hour and there are different alerts to choose from.
- **VisionSim –by Braille Institute (free)**
- This app turns on the camera of the iPhone with filters in the lens. It distorts the image on the screen to mimic the selected eye condition to allow users to experience simulated eye condition.
- **Scanner Radio Deluxe by GordonEdwards.net LLC**
- If you hear sirens approaching and are curious as to what the emergency is, you now have an inside tool. Just turn on your iPhone and you can use Scanner Radio to listen in on your local emergency bands. Informative and interesting.

- **\*\*\*RxmindMe Prescription/Medicine Reminder and Pill Tracker – by RxmindMe, LLC (free)**
- Reminder app that sends you alerts you when it is time to take your medication and also will keep track of how many pills you have left and when to re-order. It also has a medication database included. This is VoiceOver friendly.

- **Glucose Buddy – Diabetes Helper 3.5.5 with Blood Pressure and Weight Tracking –by OneAppOneCause (free)**
- This app allows users to manually enter their numbers, exercise and food consumption into a log that is uploaded to a private account at GlucoseBuddy.com. The online web site also has other features such as an A1C estimator.
- **Ariadne GPS – by Giovanni Ciaffoni (\$4.99)**
- This is a voice controlled GPS. Settings and alerts can indicate street crossing, favorite points, and bus stops. Alerts include sound, voice and vibration. Works anywhere Google Maps are available.

- **\*\*\* NantMobile Money Reader (free)** Available from the App Store.
- Announces the denomination of paper money. This one works well but our clients prefer using the ibill reader through the U.S. Currency Reader Program which is free if legally blind. (The Mac version of the NantMobile app remains with it's older name: LookTel Money Reader)

- **\*\*\*Learning Ally Audio –By Learning Ally (free)**
- Provides access to Learning Ally’s library of more than 65,000 audiobooks and is considered the best source for K-12 and college level textbooks. A Learning Ally membership is required and is free to those with print disabilities, including visual impairments and dyslexia.
- **iDigital Big Alarm Clock HD –by SixAxis LLC (free)**
- Displays a big digital clock on your iPhone/iPad that’s readable even from a distance.



- **Zoom Reader – by Ai Squared (\$19.99)**
- In combination with your iOS device's built-in camera, ZoomReader lets you magnify and read printed text by first taking a picture of an object like a book or menu, then converts the image into text using state-of-the-art Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology.

- **Easy Reader with LED light –by KaMotion Software Utilities (free)**
- Uses the built in camera to enlarge objects and provide LED illumination.
- **Magnifying Glass with Light –by Falcon in Motion LLC (free)**
- Uses the built in camera to enlarge objects and provide LED illumination.

- **\*\*\*Be My Eyes – by Be My Eyes (free)**
- Good app that uses the built in camera. Users can be connected to sighted helpers for help in identifying objects or getting around through a live audio-video feed.
- **\*\*\*TapTapSee–(free)**
- A mobile camera app designed for iOS and Android users. The app utilizes the iDevice’s camera and VoiceOver functions to photograph objects and identify them out loud for the user.

- **NantMobile Money Reader– by IPPLEX (free)**
- NantMobile Money Reader instantly recognizes currency and speaks the denomination, enabling people experiencing visual impairments or blindness to quickly and easily identify and count bills. Point the camera of your iOS device at a bill and the application will tell you the denomination in real-time. Twenty one currencies are supported: the US

# Dictation Commands for macOS and iOS

- **Free**
- Dictation for the Mac and for iOS has changed the way we input text on our machines and phones. Because of this, we need to have commands to add punctuation and capital letters. We have searched the web and have compiled a list of these commands here and they work for both macOS and iOS. These will also work in VoiceMail Transcription and apps like Just Press Record. [iaccessibility.net/index.php/2016/12/11/dictation-commands-for-macos-and-ios/](http://iaccessibility.net/index.php/2016/12/11/dictation-commands-for-macos-and-ios/)
- **\*\*\*Voice Dream Reader—(\$14.99)**
- Auto-scrolling and full-screen, distraction-free view helps the reader focus.
-

## WHO IS AT RISK?

Elder abuse can occur anywhere – in the home, in nursing homes, or other institutions. It affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures, and races. Based on available information, women and “older” elders are more likely to be victimized. Dementia is a significant risk factor. Mental health and substance abuse issues – of both abusers and victims – are risk factors. Isolation can also contribute to risk.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT ABUSE?

Report your concerns. Most cases of elder abuse go undetected. Don't assume that someone has already reported a suspicious situation. The agency receiving the report will ask what you observed, who was involved, and who they can contact to learn more. You do not need to prove that abuse is occurring; it is up to the professionals to investigate the suspicions.

**REPORTING** is confidential and you may remain anonymous. Making a report in instances of neglect or abuse is the right thing to do...and its easy don't be afraid. Elders have a right to be safe! To report suspected abuse in the community Adult Protective Services (APS) is here to help.

**IN CASES OF IMMEDIATE DANGER, CALL 911**

### VULNERABLE

A condition in which an adult is unable to protect himself or herself from abuse, neglect, or exploitation because of a mental or physical impairment or advanced age

### EMOTIONAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

- Unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior, such as withdrawal from normal activities, unexplained changes in alertness, etc.
- Isolate elder (doesn't let anyone into the home or speak to the elder)
- Verbally aggressive or demeaning, controlling, overly concerned about spending money, or uncaring

### FINANCIAL ABUSE/EXPLOITATION

- Lack of amenities victim could afford
- Vulnerable elder/adult “voluntarily” giving uncharacteristically excessive financial reimbursement/gifts for needed care and companionship
- Has control of elder's money but is failing to provide for elder's needs
- Vulnerable elder/adult has signed property transfers (Power of Attorney, new will, etc.) but is unable to comprehend the transaction or what it means

**NO EXCUSE**  
FOR Elder Abuse

**1-855-444-3911**

NLSM-Elder Law & Advocacy Center  
Blind & Visually Impaired Resources in

### NEGLECT / SELF NEGLECT

- Lack of basic hygiene, adequate food, or clean and appropriate clothing
- Lack of medical aids (glasses, walker, teeth, hearing aid, and medications)
- Person with dementia left unsupervised
- Person confined to bed is left without care
- Home cluttered, filthy, in disrepair, or having fire and safety hazards
- Home without adequate facilities (stove, refrigerator, heat, cooling, working plumbing, and electricity)
- Untreated pressure “bed” sores (pressure ulcers)

### PHYSICAL/SEXUAL ABUSE

- Inadequately explained fractures, bruises, welts, cuts, sores or burns
- Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases

### ABANDONMENT

- Lack of social connectedness
- Desertion by family, community or agency
- Left unattended in a public facility or waiting room

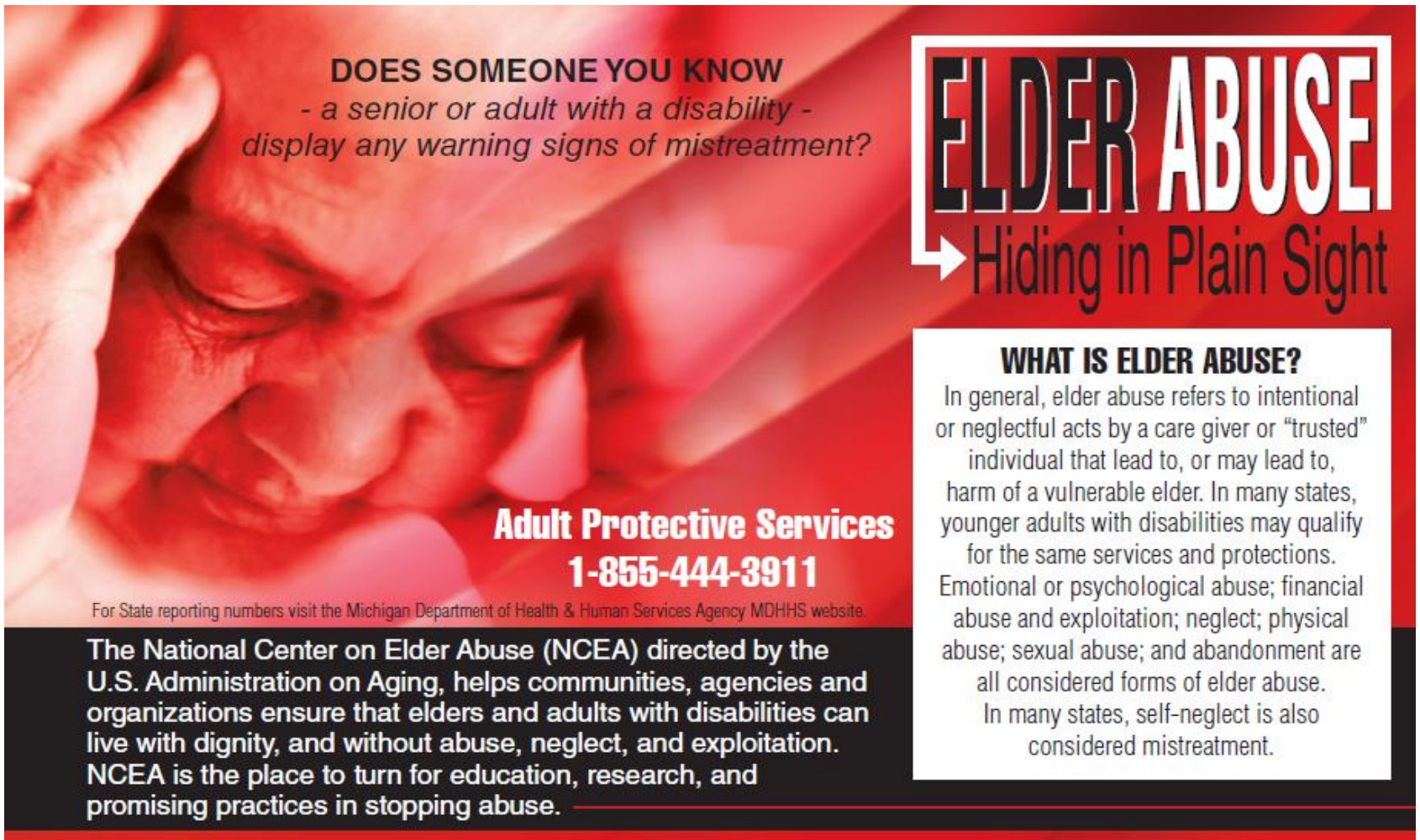
DAAA REGION 1A  
THE DETROIT SENIOR SOLUTION  
1333 Brewery Park Blvd. Ste. 200  
Detroit, MI 48207  
**313.446.4444**



*If you or others experience abuse or neglect in a long term care facility (e.g. nursing home, assisted living facility), The Michigan Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is here to help.*

**Call 1-866-485-9393 Toll Free**

# PREVNT – Elder Abuse- Report It!



**DOES SOMEONE YOU KNOW**  
*- a senior or adult with a disability -  
display any warning signs of mistreatment?*

**ELDER ABUSE**  
Hiding in Plain Sight

**Adult Protective Services**  
**1-855-444-3911**

For State reporting numbers visit the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Agency MDHHS website.

**The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) directed by the U.S. Administration on Aging, helps communities, agencies and organizations ensure that elders and adults with disabilities can live with dignity, and without abuse, neglect, and exploitation. NCEA is the place to turn for education, research, and promising practices in stopping abuse.**

**WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?**  
In general, elder abuse refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a care giver or “trusted” individual that lead to, or may lead to, harm of a vulnerable elder. In many states, younger adults with disabilities may qualify for the same services and protections. Emotional or psychological abuse; financial abuse and exploitation; neglect; physical abuse; sexual abuse; and abandonment are all considered forms of elder abuse. In many states, self-neglect is also considered mistreatment.