

Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Projects Financial Resources Listing

This list is for informational purposes only. It is not comprehensive. It is a working document. To identify additional resources for consideration for addition the list, contact: Susan Bonner, Coordinator, Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project at sbonner@msb.k12.mo.us or 314-776-4320, ext. 255.

Lighthouse for the Blind (LHB Industries)

www.lhbindustries.com

Lighthouse for the Blind has the mission of helping blind and legally blind people increase their employment opportunities, independence and integration into society.

Continuing Education

Providing financial awards to individuals to assist in continuing education. Awards will be granted in the areas of adaptive equipment (to facilitate education), college tuition, and training which enables an individual to succeed in their academic endeavors.

Scholarships

The Lighthouse will be providing financial assistance to blind and legally blind children ages 7 to 17 years old, in the St. Louis Metropolitan area. The awards will be granted in scholarship form covering the tuition for attendance of one term at *Camp Barnabas* to enjoy canoeing, swimming, hiking, horseback riding, archery, rock climbing and more..

The Lighthouse will be providing financial assistance to blind and legally blind children ages 9-18 years old, in the St Louis Metropolitan area. The awards will be granted in scholarship form covering the tuition for meals, lodging, programming and materials at *Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students (SCIVIS)*. *Space Camp* is specially designed for blind and visually impaired children. The program uses space to excite and educate students in the fields of math, science and technology. Among the many benefits associated with attending *Space Camp*; teamwork, self-confidence and communication skills are taught through state-of-the-art simulations, missions, rocket building, robotics and conducting experiments on the International Space Station.

Summer Jobs for Students

Additional Programs

The *GRADS (Group Recreation and Development Support)* groups, are sponsored by Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments and supported by the Lighthouse for the Blind - St. Louis. These groups are open to children with

visual impairments ages three through high school. *GRADS* group goals: develop self-confidence, form friendships, participate in community activities, become more independent and have fun.

STARS (Specialized Technology and Adaptive Resources for Students) provides opportunities to explore and learn about adaptive technology for students who are blind or visually impaired. Training and in-depth evaluations also available. Appointments are for one-on-one with student (and parent) and a teaching professional.

The Lighthouse for the Blind and the St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired have teamed up to provide *Project STEP (Summer Technology and Employment Program)*. This program is specifically for students who intend to attend college or seek competitive employment upon graduation from secondary school.

Missouri Assistive Technology Council-Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT)

www.at.mo.gov

The Equipment Technology Consortium (ETC) is a short-term assistive technology equipment loan program for school districts and agencies in Missouri. Districts or agencies can borrow equipment on behalf of individuals with disabilities to try out the equipment before purchasing, for use during the time equipment is in repair, or for other short-term needs. Districts or agencies can borrow equipment for up to six weeks.

The Kids Assistive Technology program (KAT) can provide limited funding for assistive technology, vehicle access modifications and some home access modifications for children under age 21. The purpose of the KAT Program is to provide help when no other funding source is available, or when other funding sources are not adequate to cover the costs of the needed assistive technology or access modifications. Applications for children in families of lower income receive priority.

Show Me Loans is a low-interest loan program to enable Missourians to purchase assistive technology equipment and devices, home access modifications and vehicle access modifications for persons with disabilities in Missouri.

The AT Reimbursement Program is designed to assist school districts in covering the costs of assuring students have the assistive technology they need in order to receive a free and appropriate education under IDEA. Only school districts can apply for this program. A request must be tied to a specific student for whom assistive technology is specified in the student's IEP.

The Missouri AT Recycling Program Braillewriter Repair Service will clean and repair braillewriters including light repairs to electronic note takers. The service cost starts at \$40.00 excluding parts.

Missouri AT Recycling Program for Computer Equipment provides low cost, refurbished computer systems (CPU, monitor, keyboard and mouse) to consumers with disabilities. These computers are intended to enhance the ability to communicate with the world, to obtain information, to access government and business services and to support skill development and/or academic achievement.

Missouri AT Recycling Program for Durable Medical Equipment provides low cost, recycled walkers, crutches, canes, commodes, shower chairs, manual and power wheelchairs, positioning equipment and miscellaneous wheelchair parts, i.e., tires, cushions, arm rests, footplates. Small fees are charged to individuals with disabilities based on their ability to pay to obtain adaptive equipment from the recycling program.

The Telecommunications Access Program for Telephone (TAP-T) provides access to basic voice telephone calling (both sending and receiving) for individuals with all types of disabilities through the delivery of adaptive telephone equipment. The program provides such equipment as text telephones, voice carry over phones, phone for hearing carry over, amplified phones, Braille phones, hands-free phones and photo phones.

The Telecommunications Access Program for Internet (TAP-I) provides to Missourians who cannot use traditional computer equipment, the adaptive computer equipment necessary for basic access to the internet and e-mail. The program provides such equipment as screen enlargement software, screen readers, adaptive keyboards or alternative pointing devices such as trackballs or rollerballs. The TAP-I program provides consumer support during the selection and initial usage of the adaptive equipment.

Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Services (MACDDS)
www.macdds.org

The Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Services (MACDDS) is comprised of 45 county boards (Senate Bill 40 Boards) with total expenditures exceeding \$117.6 million a year, providing local services for more than 46,000 people with developmental disabilities. Senate Bill 40 Boards are local county boards for mentally retarded and developmentally disabled adults founded by Mentally Retarded Citizens of Missouri in 1968. The tax levy, approved by local voters, provides funding for residential, developmental disabilities. Members also invest over \$8 million in partnership with the state Department of Mental Health - Division of MR/DD in the Medicaid Waiver. MACDDS is dedicated to ensuring that quality community supports are available for people along with vocational and other related programs and services.

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education-Division of Special Education

www.dese.mo.gov

The High Need Fund was established pursuant to Section 162.974, RSMo, to provide funding support for districts with “High Need Students.” These students are special education students whose educational costs exceed three times (3x) the district’s current expenditure per Average Daily Attendance (ADA.). Reimbursement to districts under the High Need Fund for qualifying students is made without regard to disability or placement.

Missouri School for the Blind-Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project provides an array of technical assistance activities that increase family support services, parent education and parent networking and technical assistance and training to service providers.

Readers for the Blind Program (RBP)

Any legally blind citizen of Missouri who regularly attends a public school district, a special school district, a Missouri college, university, technical or professional school that is legally authorized to grant degrees, other than an institution established for the regular instruction of the blind, may apply to Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB) for RBP services. Public schools educating such students should submit applications to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Division of Special Education (DSE) for processing, approval and payment.

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education-Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

www.dese.mo.gov

The Independent Living Waiver is designed to provide home and community-based services. Requires prior authorization by DVR through the Local Centers for Independent Living.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services-Special Health Care Needs

<http://www.dhss.mo.gov/SHCN/>

The Hope Program provides assistance for children birth to age 21 who meet financial and medical eligibility guidelines. This program focuses on early identification of children with special needs; funding for preventive, diagnostic and treatment services; and provision of service coordination activities for families. Service coordination is provided through 13 contracts and by SHCN staff located in regional offices throughout the state.

The Healthy Children and Youth (HCY) Administrative Case Management Program assists families in meeting their child's needs to function at an optimal level. Assistance is provided for:

- Access to screening services
- Follow-up on referrals to additional medical providers
- Establishment of a medical home
- Service plan development
- Follow through on the treatment plan

Treatment is determined by the primary care provider. As a part of the Administrative Case Management role, the SHCN staff assists in securing the following services:

- Home health services
- Private duty nursing
- Personal care service
- Advanced personal care services
- HCY Case Management through Local Public Health Agencies

This program is available to all Medicaid eligible children (birth to age 21) residing in Missouri who are in need of medically necessary services from Medicaid providers.

The Physical Disabilities Waiver (PDW) Administrative Case Management Program provides home and community-based services to a limited number of individuals with serious and complex medical needs who have reached the age of 21 and are no longer eligible to receive these services through the HCY program. The waiver provides a cost effective alternative to placement in an intermediate care facility (ICF-MR).

Missouri Department of Mental Health-Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

<http://www.dmh.missouri.gov/mrdd/progs/program.htm>

Missouri's Autism Program

The Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities established Missouri's autism program in 1991. The program provides support services to families and persons with autism residing in their own home.

First Steps

First Steps provides early intervention services to families with young children (ages birth to three) with disabilities.

Home and Community-Based Waiver

This waiver is used as the primary source of funding for people who live in the community but need residential services.

Community Support Waiver

This waiver has the same services and uses the same service definitions as the Comprehensive (Home and Community-Based) Waiver with two exceptions: the waiver will not pay for residential habilitation (group home) or individualized supported living services, and each service has a maximum dollar limitation with an individual cost cap of \$22,000 annually.

Network of Care

Network of Care is a highly interactive, single information place where consumers, community-based organizations and municipal government workers all can go to easily access a wide variety of important information. The resources in this "virtual community" include a fast, comprehensive Service Directory; links to pertinent Web sites from across the nation; a comprehensive, easy-to-use Library; a political advocacy tool; community message boards; and many others.

Network of Care eLearning is an online education resource for government agencies as well as the general public. States and counties can manage their employee training and development process of both online and classroom courses, while the general public may access an extensive catalog of online courses.

Regional and Habilitation Centers

The Division operates Habilitation Centers and Regional Centers that provide or purchase specialized services. The Regional Centers based in eleven principal sites and supported by numerous satellite locations, are the primary points of entry into the system. Regional Centers provide assessment and case management services, which include coordination of each individual's "person centered plan." A Regional Center may refer an individual to a Habilitation Center. Habilitation Centers primarily serve individuals who are severely disabled, behaviorally disordered, court-committed, or medically fragile. The primary mission of the Habilitation Centers is to provide residential support and treatment services to people referred by the Regional Centers.

Sarah Jian Lopez Medicaid Waiver

The Sara Jian Lopez Medicaid Waiver allows access to funding for appropriate care and support for children with developmental disabilities so they may continue living at home with their families.

Self Directed Services

When a consumer or family chooses to hire, train, supervise and schedule their own workers who are not licensed professionals, U.S. Department of Labor rules prohibit the workers from being treated as independent contractors and require the workers be treated as employees. This means the worker must have an employer.

The consumer or family who wants to direct their own personal assistant services becomes the employer of record for the workers they hire. The fiscal intermediary provides all necessary payroll functions for the employer of record (the consumer or family) and acts as a liaison with various regulatory and governmental agencies.

Missouri Department of Social Services-Division of Family Support-Rehabilitation Services for the Blind

<http://www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/rsb/>

Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB) provides services to people with varying degrees of visual impairment, ranging from those who cannot read regular print to those who are totally blind.

Blind Pension

The Blind Pension program was established in 1921 and is financed entirely by state funds. This program provides assistance for blind persons who do not qualify under the Supplemental Aid to the Blind law and who are not eligible for Supplemental Security Income benefits. Each eligible person receives a monthly cash grant of \$541, as well as state funded medical assistance.

Business Enterprise Program

Self-employment opportunities are provided to legally blind persons. The program includes vending facility operations in public buildings, in private industry, and in roadside rest areas of the interstate highway system.

Prevention of Blindness

Diagnostic services and needed eye care are provided to medically indigent persons in order to prevent blindness. Vision screening and glaucoma testing clinics are provided for early detection of eye pathology that could lead to blindness.

Supplemental Aid to the Blind

The Supplemental Aid to the Blind (SAB) program is operated in Missouri in conjunction with a totally state-supported blind pension program. Through the SAB program, the state provides blind persons who meet certain requirements with reasonable subsistence in accordance with the standards developed by the Family Support Division.

Missouri Department of Social Services-Division of Medical Services-Medicaid

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/medicaid.asp>

Medicaid is available only to certain low-income individuals and families who fit into an eligibility group that is recognized by federal and state law. Medicaid does not pay money to an individual or family; instead, it sends payments directly to health care providers. Medicaid is a state administered program and each state

sets its own guidelines regarding eligibility and services. Many groups of people are covered by Medicaid. Even within these groups, though, certain requirements must be met. These may include age, whether pregnant, disabled, blind, or aged; income and resources (like bank accounts, real property, or other items that can be sold for cash); and U.S. citizenship or a legal immigration status. The rules for income and resources vary from state to state and from group to group. There are special rules for those who live in nursing homes and for disabled children living at home. A child may be eligible for coverage if he or she is a U.S. citizen or a lawfully admitted immigrant, even if the parents are not (however, there is a 5-year limit that applies to lawful permanent residents). Eligibility for children is based on the child's status, not the parent's. In general, persons should apply for Medicaid if income is low and there is a match with one of the descriptions of the Eligibility Groups.

MR/DD Waiver offers services to certain individuals who are Medicaid eligible and who might otherwise require placement in an ICF/MR (Intermediate Care Facility).

State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)

www.cms.hhs.gov/home/schip.asp

The State Children's Health Insurance Program enables states to provide health insurance to children from working families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid, but too low to afford private health insurance. The program provides coverage for prescription drugs, vision, hearing and mental health services.

Social Security

www.ssa.gov

Under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program, an adult child (a person age 18 or older) may receive monthly benefits based on disability or blindness if:

- He or she has an impairment or combination of impairments that meets the definition of disability for adults; and
- the disability began before age 22; and the adult child's parent worked long enough to be insured under Social Security and is receiving retirement or disability benefits or is deceased.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) makes monthly payments to people with low income and limited resources who are 65 or older, or blind or disabled. A child under age 18 can qualify if he or she meets Social Security's definition of disability for children, and if his or her income and resources fall within the eligibility limits.