

# ARIZONA

## Blind/Visual Impairment Resources



## Arizona Blind/Visual Impairment Resources

### Arizona Blind and Deaf Children's Foundation, Inc.

3957 East Speedway Blvd., Suite 207

Tucson, AZ 85712-4548

**Phone:** (520) 577-3700

**E-mail:** [info@azblinddeafchildren.org](mailto:info@azblinddeafchildren.org)

**Website:** <http://www.azblinddeafchildren.org/>

**Contact Name:** Joseph Hayden, Chairman

**Organization Type:** Independent and Community Living, State and Local Organizations

**Disabilities Served:** Hearing Impairments / Deaf, Visual Impairment / Blind

The Foundation's mission is to invest in the future of Arizona's children and youth with vision and hearing loss. Through fundraising, program development, advocacy and grant-making, the Foundation helps bridge the gap between public education funding and access to the quality educational experiences essential to prepare Arizona students to be self-sufficient and contributing members of society. They are an organization that supports the empowerment and achievements of blind and deaf children and youth through programs and initiatives. In partnership with public and private organizations, they develop and fund quality programs that target underserved children and youth.

### Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.

3100 E. Roosevelt St.

Phoenix, AZ 85008

**Phone:** (602) 273-7411

**Fax:** (602) 273-7410

**E-mail:** [jlamay@acbvi.org](mailto:jlamay@acbvi.org)

**Website:** <http://www.acbvi.org/>

**Contact Name:** Jim LaMay, Executive Director

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

**Disabilities Served:** Visual Impairment / Blind

The mission of the Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired is to enhance the quality of life of people who are blind or otherwise visually impaired, by providing a wide range of services. These services promote independence, dignity, and full participation in all spheres of life, including at home, at work and in the community. They also educate the general public regarding the capabilities and needs of individuals who are blind and visually impaired, while serving as a resource for information about all aspects of dealing with vision loss. Finally, these services facilitate acceptance of individuals who are blind and visually impaired throughout society, while working toward equalization of opportunity. The specific services that the Center offers are: assistive technology, counseling, orientation and mobility training, rehabilitation teaching, social recreation, and social work.

## ***Arizona Industries for the Blind***

515 N. 51st Avenue  
Suite 130  
Phoenix, AZ 85043

Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) was established in 1952 to provide employment and training opportunities for Arizonans who are legally blind. Most individuals of working age who are legally blind can complete successfully for good jobs if they are given the opportunity to develop skills and increase their self-confidence.

AIB operates primarily under the AbilityOne Program. Created in 1938, this unique federal procurement program employs nearly 40,000 American who are blind or have other severe disabilities, enabling them to lead more productive and independent lives.

### **Rehabilitation Services Administration: Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)**

3221 North 16th Street, Suite 200 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-7159	Telephone: (602) 266-6752 TTY: (602) 241-1048 FAX: (602) 241-7158
400 West Congress, Suite 420 Tucson, AZ 85701-1363	Telephone: (520) 628-6810 TTY: (520) 628-6854 FAX: (520) 628-6858 Toll Free: 1-800-835-2100
419 North San Francisco, Flagstaff, AZ 86001-4631	Telephone: (928) 637-7960 TTY: (928) 774-1941 FAX: (928) 774-0184
3780 South 4th Avenue Yuman, Arizona 85365	Telephone: (928) 247-8880 FAX: (928) 726-6657
120 East 1st Street Casa Grande, AZ 85222-5202	Telephone: (520) 316-9311 FAX: (520) 316-9753

The Vision for the Vocational Rehabilitation program is persons with disabilities becoming economically independent and decreasing or eliminating their need for ongoing government supports through integrated, meaningful, and sustained work.

This is achieved through a rehabilitation process which engages applicants and clients fully in actively exploring their vocational interests, abilities, capabilities and service/process options and in making choices.

The VR Program helps people with disabilities become or remain economically independent through work.

## **Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind**

1200 West Speedway Blvd.

Tucson, AZ 85745

**Phone:** (520) 770-3701

**Fax:** (520) 770-3003

**E-mail:** [dgoebel@asdb.state.az.us](mailto:dgoebel@asdb.state.az.us)

**Website:** <http://www.asdb.state.az.us/>

**Contact Name:** Samuel Ace, Coordinating Teacher of Technology

**Organization Type:** General

**Disabilities Served:** Deaf / Blind

The Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) were established as the program for educating children and youth who are deaf and blind in Arizona. Today, ASDB is a statewide agency that provides educational services to about 2000 students with visual and hearing impairments at two site-based campuses (the Tucson Campus and the Phoenix Day School for the Deaf) and through regional cooperative programs.

## **Arizona Technology Access Program**

Institute for Human Development; Northern Arizona University; 2400 N. Central Avenue, Suite 300

Phoenix, AZ 85004

**Phone:** (602) 728-9534 (602) 728-9536 (TTY) (800) 477-9921

**Fax:** (602) 728-9536

**E-mail:** [Randy.Collins@nau.edu](mailto:Randy.Collins@nau.edu)

**Website:** <http://www4.nau.edu/ihd/AzTAP/AzTAP.asp>

**Contact Name:** Randy Collins, Director

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

**Disabilities Served:** General / Non-disability Specific

The Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP) was established in October 1994, and is a part of a national network of technology-related assistance programs. The Institute for Human Development at Northern Arizona University was designated by the Governor of Arizona to serve as the lead agency and fiscal agent for the program. The mission of the AzTAP is to (a) increase access to assistive technology (AT) devices and services for individuals with disabilities and their families, and (b) facilitate the development of a consumer-responsive AT service delivery system. Program staff work with consumers, service providers, state agencies, private industry, legislators, and other interested individuals to facilitate the development of a statewide system to provide AT services. AzTAP works to address changes in laws, regulations and practices, such as the passage of a state assistive device warranty bill. They work to overcome barriers of funding, such as co-sponsoring a used computer recycling program. AzTAP also works to facilitate collaboration with state agencies, such as in co-sponsoring training events designed to inform consumers of their rights and resources available to meet their AT needs. They strive to empower individuals to advocate for themselves by networking with other disability groups for legislative advocacy, information sharing, and developing/improving

services. Finally, AzTAP works to improve the timeliness of services by developing Regional Resource Centers in AT.

## **Assistech Special Needs**

2738 N. Campbell Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85719-3141  
866-674-3549 (Voice/TTY)  
520-883-3172 (Fax)  
+1 520 883 8600 (International)  
[www.azhearing.com](http://www.azhearing.com) <sup>[1]</sup>  
[Send e-mail](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

Assistech™ carries a complete line of assistive products for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired, speech impaired, and physically challenged. They also feature products for the general public, such as medicine reminder watches and electronic language translators.

## **Braille and Talking Book Library Division**

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records  
A division of the Secretary of State  
1030 North 32nd Street • Phoenix, AZ 85008

Phone: (602) 255-5578 • 1-800-255-5578 (In State Only) • Fax: (602) 286-0444

In Arizona more than 65,000 visually and physically disabled people are eligible to use free services offered by the Arizona State Braille and Talking Book Library. The Library was designated as a Regional Library of the National Library Service by the Library of Congress in 1969, the year the Division was formed.

Talking Book Library services are available to persons who cannot hold, handle or read conventional printed material because of a visual or physical disability. Its services can be used by those with either permanent or temporary disabilities and are available to individuals or to institutions serving such persons.

### **Services include:**

- Loan of recorded books and magazines.
- Loan of equipment to play recorded material.
- Loan of braille books and magazines.
- Free mailing privileges.

Talking books are books recorded on cassettes. The collection of Braille, talking books, magazines, and playback equipment is loaned to individuals who meet the eligibility criteria of the National Library Service. There is no charge for the service, including the mailing of material to and from the patron. Interested persons may contact the library for an application for service.

In addition to the National Library Service's collection of books, magazines and playback equipment and its other services, a cadre of local volunteers narrates and monitors recorded books and

magazines, repairs cassette books and playback equipment, provides home delivery to new patrons, and performs clerical and professional tasks that enable the Division to meet the highly diverse information needs of its patrons.

### **Selection**

The Arizona State Braille and Talking Book Library offer a great variety of recorded books -- both fiction and non-fiction. The non-fiction books cover topics similar to those offered in a mid-size public library and include biographies, poetry, humor, religion, and history. The fiction collection ranges from mysteries and westerns to best-sellers, romance, and suspense.

Library patrons receive bi-monthly catalogs of newly released books as well as a yearly catalog and may request specialized catalogs such as Romances, Mysteries, and Science Fiction. A Union catalog of the National Library Service is available on the Internet and instructions for using the catalog are available on cassette RC 38507.

Over 90 popular magazines in Braille or on cassette are available free of charge from the Library or are mailed directly to subscribers.

Volunteers in Arizona record several books each year that are about Arizona and the Southwest and, additionally, record other books that are of more general interest. You may call the library to request a bibliography of locally produced books or to inquire about the availability of any particular title.

The Library offers a number of Braille magazines by mail and provides Braille book service to our patrons through the Utah Regional Library. The Arizona State Braille and Talking Book Library has produced a small number of print/Braille picture books that are available to institutions serving visually impaired children.

### **Bossert Specialties, Inc. The Magnifying Center**

5130 North 19th Avenue, Suite 7

Phoenix, AZ 85015

800-776-5885 (Toll free)

602-956-6637

602-956-1008 (Fax)

[www.wemagnify.com](http://www.wemagnify.com)

E-mail: [info@magnifyingcenter.com](mailto:info@magnifyingcenter.com)

They offer a range of low vision and magnifying products, including magnifying glasses, hand-held magnifiers, reading lamps, video magnifiers for reading and writing, canes, protective eyewear, talking products, and products for people with hearing impairments.

## DataCal Enterprises

1345 N. Mondel Dr.  
Gilbert, AZ 85233  
Phone: 800-223-0123 or 480-813-3100  
E-Mail: [info@datacal.com](mailto:info@datacal.com)

For over twenty years DataCal has specialized in providing complete keyboard solutions for both businesses and consumers. Our clients, including fortune 500 companies, government agencies, healthcare providers, retail businesses and home users rely on the quality of our keyboards, templates and labels to improve their productivity and decrease errors - saving both time and cost. At DataCal, we have the expertise and creativity to design, manufacture and deliver exactly what you need - from completely custom keyboards to special-use templates to keyboard labels designed for your specific software. The key to our successful customization process lies in providing personal, professional guidance, reliable production processes using premium materials and fast turn-around. Our clients return to DataCal regularly because of our consistent quality, competitive pricing and experienced customer service.

- High quality **large print keyboards**, ideal for visual assistance and for children
- **Large key keyboards** combine large print and larger keys
- **Keyboard labels** in large print and in Braille adhere completely to top of keys and are made of durable Lexan® polycarbonate for years of use
- Keyboards and labels can be customized for your specific needs

## Foundation for Blind Children

Rose Mofford Center; 1235 E. Harmont Drive  
Phoenix, AZ 85020

**Phone:** 1-(800) 322-4870

**Fax:** (602) 678-5803 (602) 678-5819

**E-mail:** [info@seeitourway.org](mailto:info@seeitourway.org)

**Website:** <http://www.the-fbc.org/>

**Organization Type:** General

**Disabilities Served:** Visual Impairment / Blind

The Foundation for Blind Children is the only agency of its kind in Arizona and is an essential resource to families and children with blindness or low vision. Without FBC, blind children would not get the opportunities that should be available to every child - to learn, play sports, participate fully in the world around them and become successful, productive adults. FBC provides a comprehensive system of services, which optimizes the blind, or visually impaired child's development and which provides many opportunities to lead a meaningful and productive life--starting with infancy, through preschool, elementary and secondary education throughout college and adulthood. Many of their children graduate from college, pursue successful careers and lead lives filled with enriching possibilities. <br> The mission of the Foundation for Blind Children is to help blind and visually impaired children, adults and their families lead lives of independence and dignity through mastery of their environment. This will be accomplished through education, training, counseling, communication and technology.

## **Navajo Nation Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation**

P.O. Box 1420

Window Rock, AZ 86515

**Phone:** (928) 871-6338 (866) 341-9918

**Fax:** (928) 871-7865

**E-mail:** [osers@navajo.org](mailto:osers@navajo.org)

**Website:** <http://www.osers.navajo.org/>

**Organization Type:** State and Local Organizations

**Disabilities Served:** General / Non-disability Specific

The Navajo Nation Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation (NNOSERS) collaborates with Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration (ARSA) and San Juan Independent Living Center. This collaborative effort began in 1997, when staff from ARSA, NNOSERS, San Juan CIL, and the American Indian Rehabilitation Research and Training Center initiated a pilot training workshop to improve independent living service delivery to American Indian consumers and thus provide a foundation for better employment outcomes. An evaluation after nine months showed that 89% of active participants had improved or increased their level of IL services to American Indian consumers.

## **Sun Sounds of Arizona**

2323 W. 14th St

Tempe, AZ 85281

Local Telephone: (480) 774-8300

Email: [bill.pasco@riomai.maricopa.edu](mailto:bill.pasco@riomai.maricopa.edu)

Sun Sounds of Arizona provides audio access to information to people in the Southwest who cannot read print because they have a disability. Service can be accessed three ways: on the radio, on the web, and on the phone.

## **Technology Access Center of Tucson (TACT)**

4710 East 29th Street

Tucson, AZ 85711

**Phone:** (520) 745-5588 (x1265)

**E-mail:** [tact1@qwestoffice.net](mailto:tact1@qwestoffice.net)

**Website:** <http://uacoe.arizona.edu/tact/>

**Organization Type:** Assistive Technology, State and Local Organizations

**Disabilities Served:** General / Non-disability Specific

Technology Access Center of Tucson (TACT) is a grassroots organization formed in partnership with people with disabilities, families and professionals. TACT provides timely, inexpensive, objective, state-of-the-art information about assistive technology (AT). TACT provides individuals with disabilities an opportunity to explore technology that may enhance their independence, productivity, recreation and social opportunities according to their individual needs and interests. TACT's services include: AT Assessments, Community Presentations, Center Orientations, Loan of AT Equipment, Information and Referral, Individualized Research Packets, AT Demonstrations, Adapted and Lending Library, AT Vendors Show, and more.

RSA Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired has identified the need for students with sensory impairments to be provided Comprehensive Services at an earlier age to become successful. The Comprehensive Services are for students with the primary disability of blindness. Comprehensive Adjustment Programs will be available starting the summer after freshman year, based upon client need.

Comprehensive Adjustment Programs include training in:

1. Mobility
2. Communication
3. Personal and Home Management
4. Self-Advocacy
5. Career Exploration
6. Orientation and Adjustment to Blindness/Visual Impairment
7. Rehabilitation Teaching
8. Assistive Technology
9. College Sampling
10. Job Readiness

Services provided will assist with successful transition from high school to post high school vocational services.

RSA collaborates with Colorado Center for the Blind, Foundation for Blind Children, Lion's World Services for the Blind and Southern Arizona Association for Visually Impaired (SAAVI) to provide Comprehensive Services.

Services will move students forward towards meaningful WORK!

### **Colorado Center for the Blind**

2233 W. Shepperd Avenue

Littleton, Colorado 80120

800-401-4632

E-mail: [ccb@cocenter.org](mailto:ccb@cocenter.org)

Web site: [www.cocenter.org](http://www.cocenter.org)

### **Lion's World Services for the Blind**

2811 Fair Park Blvd

Little Rock, Arkansas 72204

800-248-0734

E-mail: [training@lwsb.org](mailto:training@lwsb.org)

Web site: [www.lwsb.org](http://www.lwsb.org)

### **Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired**

3767 E. Grant Road

Tucson, Arizona 85716

520-795-1331

E-mail: [reception@saavi.us](mailto:reception@saavi.us)

Web site: [www.saavi.us](http://www.saavi.us)

## Arizona Association of Blind Students

Arielle Silverman, President  
5895 E. Onyx Ave.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85253  
602-502-2255  
[Arielle.silverman@asu.edu](mailto:Arielle.silverman@asu.edu)

## Sources of Custom-Produced Books

### Gilbert

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*Braille Plus, LLC*  
*P.O. Box 1104*  
*Gilbert, AZ 85297*  
*(480) 782-0223*  
*(480) 782-0267 fax*  
*Contact: Abby Chancellor*

*Braille:* literary, foreign language; spiral binding; computer-produced; can accept material in print or disk

*Other information:* commercial, fee for service, guarantee 100 percent accuracy

### Peoria

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*Recorded Recreational Reading for the Blind*  
*9447 North 99th Avenue*  
*Peoria, AZ 85345*  
*(602) 933-0985*  
*Chairperson: Alma Weatherly*

*Recording:* general, local news and recreational material; open-reel masters; 4-track cassette duplication

*Other information:* accepts no assignments outside state

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*RFB&D Recording Studio*  
*Sun Cities Studio*  
*9449 North 99th Avenue*  
*Peoria, AZ 85345*

(602) 977-6020  
(602) 933-8087 fax  
*Studio director: Sue Aguilera*

*Recording:* educational texts for students in kindergarten through postgraduate studies; 4-track cassette duplication *Other Information:* see NJ-6 for national headquarters and more details

## Phoenix

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*Desert Volunteer Braille Guild*  
*Director, Arizona Instructional Resource Center*  
*c/o The Foundation for Blind Children*  
*1235 East Harmont Drive*  
*Phoenix, AZ 85020*  
*(602) 331-1470 or*  
*(602) 678-5810*  
*(602) 678-5816*  
*Executive director: Chris Tompkins*  
*Director: Inge Durre*

*Braille:* literary, textbooks, math, French, Spanish; thermoforming; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (MicroBraille, Pokadot, Ed-It PC, and text conversion for MegaDots and Duxbury)

*Large print:* general, math, music, textbooks, computer science, foreign languages; spiral binding; by digital copying and enlarging

*Other information:* accepts no assignments outside state, sponsors transcribing classes, maintains book-master collection, offers paper and brailon exchange

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*RFB&D Recording Studio*  
*3627 East Indian School Road*  
*Suite 108*  
*Phoenix, AZ 85018*  
*(602) 468-9144*  
*(602) 553-0226 fax*  
*Chairperson: Barbara Meek (602) 252-5800 (w)*  
*Executive director: Emily Chappell*  
*Studio director: Marsha Mulcahy*

*Recording:* educational texts for students in kindergarten through postgraduate studies; 4-track cassette duplication *Other information:* see NJ-6 for national headquarters and more details

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*Trinity Braille Ministry  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
3104 West Glendale Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85051  
(602) 973-1415*

*Chairperson: Beth Appleby (Mrs. Robert W.)  
3337 West Palmyra Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85051  
(602) 973-1415*

*Braille:* literary, music, United Methodist literature; thermoforming; spiral binding; embossing

*Other information:* sponsors transcribing classes, maintains book-master collection