

MONTANA

Blind/Visual Impairment Resources



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American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center

The University of Montana Rural Institute: Center for Excellence in Disability Education, Research and Services; 52 Corbin Hall, The University of Montana

Missoula, MT 59812-7056

Phone: (866) 424-3822

E-mail: jclay@ruralinstitute.umt.edu

Website: <http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/>

Contact Name: Julie Anna Clay, Director

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center (AIDTAC) strives to support American Indians and Alaska Natives in their efforts to improve employment opportunities and vocational rehabilitation outcomes wherever they live in the United States. They are committed to helping tribes build their capacity to develop and implement culturally appropriate laws and policies, cross-cutting infrastructure, and direct program services. AIDTAC operates the following training and technical assistance components:

- * Information Dissemination and Outreach Training
- * Intensive Training and Technical Assistance
- * Technical Assistance with Resource Development and Program Implementation
- * National Tribal and Non-Tribal Agency Network
- * American Indian Disability Leadership Development

Low Vision Montana

P.O. Box 664

Helena, MT 59624

Phone: (406)-444-3159

Fax: (406)-444-0266

E-mail: cbriggs@mt.gov

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

Contact Name: Christie Briggs

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

Disabilities Served: Visual Impairment / Blind

Low Vision Montana is a non-profit organization that provides options and enhances opportunities for people who have low vision or are blind. The organization has a referral service where individuals can access agencies and community resources that can assist in living a more independent life. Low Vision Montana's mobile unit will house low vision aids that can be evaluated by consumers as well as offer eye exams by professionals. Peer support groups are also coordinated through the organization.

Montana Disability Services Division

Department of Public Health and Human Services; Cogswell Building, Rm. C-314; 1400 Broadway
Helena, MT 59620 -0901

Phone: (406) 444-3622

E-mail: shwagner@state.mt.us

Website: <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/index.shtml>

Contact Name: Sharon Wagner, Section Supervisor

Organization Type: State and Local Agencies

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

The mission of the Disability Services Division (DSD) of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services is to provide services that help Montanans with disabilities to live, work and fully participate in their communities. The division provides or contracts to provide a wide variety of services for Montanans of all ages who have physical, mental, or developmental disabilities.

Our mission is to promote work and independence for Montanans with disabilities. Blind and Low Vision Services Program provides a broad range of services through three programs to assist eligible individuals with visual disabilities in finding or maintaining employment and increasing independence. These programs are (1) Vocational Rehabilitation, (2) Visual Medical, and (3) Older Blind.

Blind and Low Vision Services (BLVS) Visual Medical Program

These medical services are available to people who need eye treatment to prevent blindness, restore sight, or provide other appropriate eye treatment where loss of vision cannot be prevented or sight restored.

Services include:

- Diagnosis
- Surgery and treatment
- Hospitalization
- Prosthetic appliances
- Transportation
- Follow-up exams

To be eligible you must:

- have an eye condition that needs medical attention in order to prevent blindness, restore sight or treat an eye condition due to blindness.
- not qualify for medical assistance through another state or federal program.
- be in financial need (according to state guidelines) due to the anticipated costs of the procedure.

To access these services, contact one of the four Montana Blind and Low Vision teams.

Billings Blind and Low Vision Services

2121 Rosebud Drive, Suite C

Billings, MT 59102
1-888-279-7532 (toll-free consumer line)
(406) 248-4801 (voice)
(406) 247-2585 (TTY)
(406) 245-2456 (fax)

Butte Blind and Low Vision Services

700 Casey Street, Suite B
Butte, MT 59701
1-888-279-7531 (toll-free consumer line)
(406) 496-4925 (voice/TTY)
(406) 782-8728 (fax)

Great Falls Blind and Low Vision Services

201 1st Street So, Suite 2
Great Falls, MT 59405
1-888-279-7527 (toll-free consumer line)
(406) 454-6060 (voice)
(406) 454-6080 (TTY)
(406) 454-6084 (fax)

Missoula Blind and Low Vision Services

2675 Palmer, Suite A
Missoula, MT 59801
1-888-279-7528 (toll-free consumer line)
(406) 329-5400 (voice/TTY)
(406) 329-5420 (fax)

Blind and Low Vision Services (Central Office administrative)

111 Sanders Suite 307
PO Box 4210
Helena, MT 59604-4210
1-877-296-1197 (toll-free consumer line)
(406) 444-2590 (voice/TTY)
(406) 444-3632 (fax)

Montana School for the Deaf & the Blind (MSDB)

3911 Central Ave.
Great Falls, MT 59405
Phone: (406) 771-6000
Fax: (406) 771-6164
E-mail: info@msdb.mt.gov
Website: <http://msdb.mt.gov/>

Organization Type: Schools and School Districts

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

The purpose of the campus-based education program at the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB) is to provide, by the use of specialized methods and systems, an education for children who are deaf/hard of hearing and visually impaired that is comparable with the education provided to individuals

within the public school system. Their ultimate goal is to help their students become independent and self-sustaining citizens. MSDB provides educational programs for children who are deaf and blind from birth through age 21 and employs trained teachers of the deaf and the blind who are highly skilled, knowledgeable, and experienced in their fields. Staffing also includes a full-time school psychologist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, orientation and mobility instructor, audiologist, and two speech pathologists.

Montana Talking Book Library

1515 EAST 6th AVE. PO BOX 201800
Helena, MT 59620

Phone: (406)-444-2064

Fax: (406)-444-0266

E-mail: cbriggs@mt.gov

Website: http://msl.state.mt.us/talking_book_library/

Contact Name: Christie Briggs

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, Disability/Disorder Specific, State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: Learning Disabilities, Mobility Impaired, Visual Impairment / Blind

The Montana Talking Library (MTL) is a regional library of the National Library Service of the blind and physically handicapped. This is a free service available for eligible Montana residents who are not able to use standard print materials due to a visual, physical, or reading disability. You can receive free mail loan of recorded books, Braille embossed books, and playback equipment. The MTL assists individuals, other libraries, nursing homes, schools, and institutions in providing library services to eligible individuals.

Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council

222 North 32nd; Suite 401
Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 252-2550

Fax: (406) 254-6355

E-mail: belcourt@wtp.net

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

Contact Name: Gordon Belcourt, Executive Director

Organization Type: State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council provides information for Native Americans about various issues. The Council provides health information including resources for people with disabilities.

Montech @ University of Montana

Rural Institute On Disabilities, 634 Eddy Avenue
Missoula, MT 59812

Phone: (406) 243-5751 1-(877) 243-5511

Fax: (406) 243-4730

E-mail: montech@ruralinstitute.umt.edu

Website: <http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/>

Contact Name: Gail McGregor

Organization Type: Advocacy and Law, Assistive Technology, Independent and Community Living, Parent/Family Support, University-Affiliated Programs

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Communication and Speech, Deaf / Blind, Developmental Disabilities, Health Impairments, Learning Disabilities, Mental Health Impairments, Mental Retardation, Mobility Impaired, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Neurological Disorders, Spina Bifida, Visual Impairment / Blind, Orthopedically Impaired, Bipolar Disorder, Apraxia of Speech, Dyslexia

MonTech provides free, confidential information about assistive technology devices and services for Montanans of all ages. While we do not diagnose or prescribe assistive devices or services, we use our computerized databases of manufacturers and service providers to give callers up-to-date information on what is available to meet individual needs, descriptions of products and services, current prices (when available), and locations and phone numbers of suppliers.

Native American Disability Technical Assistance Center

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Missoula, MT 59812-7056

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E-mail: jclay@ruralinstitute.umt.edu

Website: <http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/>

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