

WYOMING

Blind/Visual Impairment Resources



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Special Format Library *(served by Utah)*

Utah State Library Division
Program for the Blind and Disabled
250 North 1950 West, Suite A
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-7901
Phone: (801) 715-6789; (800) 662-5540 (Toll Free in Utah); (800) 453-4293 (Toll Free in all states, except Utah)
TTY: (801) 715-6721
E-mail: blind@utah.gov
Web: <http://library.utah.gov/blind.html>

Utah State Library for the Blind & Disabled

250 North 1950 West, Suite A
Salt Lake City UT 84116-7901
801-715-6789 in the SLC area
800-662-5540 Inside Utah
800-453-4293 Outside Utah
TTD 801-715-6721
Email: blind@utah.gov

The Utah State Library for the Blind and Disabled provides special public library services for people who are blind, visually disabled, physically disabled, and reading disabled. We are part of the Library of Congress network, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, which has 56 regional and 93 sub regional libraries throughout the United States.

The Utah Library for the Blind and Disabled has expanded to serve over 10,000 patrons in Utah and Wyoming with cassette, large print, and Braille service. Wyoming residents register and receive the special equipment through Wyoming Vision Consultants, and then receive books and other materials through Utah.

Additionally, twenty states (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming) contract for Braille service. People throughout the United States and Canada receive LDS (Mormon) materials through the Utah State Library for the Blind and Disabled. Over 300,000 books and magazines on recorded cassette, in Braille and large print, are circulated annually. The collection has over 14,000 Braille titles, 53,000 cassette titles and 14,000 large print titles. Catalogs and special bibliographies of the material available are provided. Books of regional interest are produced locally through a volunteer program.

Wyoming Department of Education

Services for the Visually Impaired (SVI)
2300 Capitol Avenue, Hathaway Building
2nd Floor - Cheyenne

Services for the Visually Impaired assists people of all ages who have low vision or are blind. Our goal is to provide information, education, and support to individuals with low vision in order that they may lead enjoyable and productive lives with a maximum degree of independence.

SERVICES AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Support and advice for individuals and family members to aid in the adjustment to sight loss.
- Assistance for the client to become oriented to their environment.
- Provision of educational presentations to people working with individuals who have visual impairments.
- Instruction in independent living and adaptive techniques.
- Instruction in reading and writing Braille, keyboarding and use of adaptive technology.
- Advice on high-tech equipment to assist in reading and other visually oriented tasks.
- Technical assistance for school personnel that work with students who have low vision.
- Loan of low vision aids and instruction in their use.
- Referral to other services and agencies.
- Access to special projects and resources

American Printing House for the Blind Quota Fund

The Federal Act to Promote the Education of the blind was established by Congress in 1879. This act is a means for providing adapted educational materials to eligible students who meet the definition of blindness. An annual registration of eligible students determines a per capita amount of money designated for the purchase of educational materials produced by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). These funds are credited to Federal Quota accounts, which are maintained and administered by APH and its Ex Officio Trustees throughout the country. The APH account is administered by Sheridan consultant Jerry Baker.

Conferences and workshops

Services for the Visually Impaired provide several workshops, conferences, and training opportunities each year. Please see our Upcoming Events page for more information on current educational opportunities. Trainings can also be developed to meet specific needs of individuals and agencies who are working with people with low vision by contacting your regional SVI consultant.

Lending Library

The Loan Library provides videos and books on deaf-blindness, visual impairments, Braille, life skills, communication, adjusting to loss of vision, eye conditions, mobility, and much more. Materials are available to agencies, educators, families or clients in Wyoming and are coordinated by Joanne Whitson in the Rawlins SVI office as part of the Wyoming Deaf-Blind Project.

Mobile Operations Project

Each year, the Mobile Operations Project occurs in two communities, in Wyoming. It is an opportunity for individuals with low vision to receive specialized instruction in use of low vision devices, daily living skills, computer use, and Orientation and Mobility. The goal of the Mobile Operations Project is to provide this unique training in the home community of the clients, making it more accessible and functional. This project is designed for clients with specific needs or goals in developing adaptive skills.

Montgomery Trust Fund for the Blind

Roy Montgomery left a portion of his estate to the State of Wyoming for the purpose of alleviating the condition of the visually impaired in order that their lives be made more productive, pleasant, comfortable and enjoyable. Interest from the Trust is may be used each year to fund grant applications for adaptive equipment or specialized training.

The Trust must be the last source of funding available and the individual or group applying must be a client of Services for the Visually Impaired and must meet the qualifications and requirements of the Montgomery Trust Fund Review Board.

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress, administers this free program that loans recorded, large print and Braille books and magazines, and specially designed playback equipment to residents of the United States who are unable to read or use standard print materials because of learning disability, a visual impairment or physical limitations. This program is available through all of the regional offices of Services for the Visually Impaired.

Summer School for the Visually Impaired

The Summer School for the Visually Impaired is held at the Allen H. Stewart Lions Camp on Casper Mountain. Separate weeklong sessions are held for youth and adults. The following classes are offered: computers, adaptive daily living, Braille, music, Orientation and Mobility, issues of visual impairment, and craft and hobby classes. In addition, the Summer School provides a wonderful opportunity to meet other individuals who have visual impairments and develop a higher level of independence.

WY Rendezvous

This statewide gathering takes place two times each year and is a unique opportunity for children who have visual impairments, their families and teachers to get together for a day of fun, learning and sharing. The day is typically filled with recreation, games, educational opportunities, and time for discussion.

OFFICE LOCATIONS AND TERRITORIES

Services for the Visually Impaired has 6 regional office, these offices are staffed by a consultant professionally trained in various aspects of serving individuals with low vision.

Casper – (Natrona, Converse, Niobrara, Platte and Goshen counties)

Consultant: Leo Urbanek

539 S. Payne

Casper, WY 82609

Phone : (307) 265-8818 or (307) 234-9741 **Fax:** (307) 577-6785

E-mail: lurban@educ.state.wy.us

Cheyenne – (Albany and Laramie counties)

Consultant: (Position Open) Temporary Coverage - Joanne Whitson
Room 144

Hathaway Building

Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: (307) 777-7274 or (307) 777-7256 **Fax:** (307) 777-6234

E-mail: jwhits@educ.state.wy.us

Powell – (Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park and Washakie counties)

Consultant: Gary Olson

1201 E. 7th

Powell, WY 82435

Phone: (307) 754-2033 **Fax:** (307) 754-7168

E-mail: golson@educ.state.wy.us

Rawlins – (Carbon, Sweetwater and Uinta counties)

Consultant: Joanne Whitson

Carbon Building - Room 325

Rawlins, WY 82301

Phone: (307) 324-5333 **Fax:** (307) 324-3743

E-mail: jwhits@educ.state.wy.us

Riverton – (Fremont, Lincoln, Sublette and Teton counties)

Consultant: Barb Engelbrecht

320 W. Main St.

Riverton, WY 82501

Phone: (307) 856-5652 **Fax:** (307) 777-2557

E-mail: bengel@educ.state.wy.us

Sheridan – (Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan and Weston counties)

Consultant: Temporarily Staffed – Gary Olson

2161 Coffeen Ave. – Suite 603

Sheridan, WY 82801

Phone: (307) 672-6129 **Fax:** (307) 672-3761

E-mail: golson@educ.state.wy.us

Source of Custom-Produced Books

Marvin Billings, Education Consultant
Wyoming Department of Education
Visually Handicapped Services
144 Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7274
MBilli@educ.state.wy.us
www.k12.wy.us

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities

Wyoming Accessibility Center
University of Wyoming
Dept 4298, 1000 E University Avenue
Laramie, WY 82071

WATR Email: watr@uwyo.edu

Toll Free: (888)-989-9463