

# Grants-in-Aids for Blind or Partially Sighted Persons

A Lighthouse Center for Education Resource



The organizations listed within have indicated that they provide grants-in-aid or low interest loans for persons with visual impairments who wish to purchase adaptive equipment, such as personal reading machines or talking computers equipment.

Lighthouse International is not affiliated with these organizations. If you have questions about your eligibility for any of the grants, please contact the organization directly.

Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
(213) 663-1111

The Braille Institute provides financial subsidies for electronic equipment. These funds are limited to those who are employed or have a hire date for employment, and are residents of Southern California.

DRAGnet  
DRAGnet  
Attn: Placement  
110 Van Buren Street, N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55413  
(612) 378-9796

DRAGnet is a non-profit organization that provides refurbished computers at 50% of the used retail rate and can create payment plans for people with disabilities nationwide. DRAGnet also trains customers, either on site or by telephone. Tutorials on cassette are also available.

Foundation for the Advancement of the Blind Equipment Grants  
Foundation for the Advancement of the Blind  
4058 Moore Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90066  
(310) 301-0344

This foundation provides funds for persons with visual impairments who want to purchase assistive devices. To qualify, the applicants must specify what equipment they are interested in, how much the device will cost, and how they plan on using the device. The applicant must also be a U.S. citizen.

Lions Clubs Assistance  
International Association of Lions Clubs  
300 22nd Street  
Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842  
(800) 747-4448

Many Lions Clubs provide vocational assistance to persons who are legally blind. The international office refers requests for equipment or other assistance to the appropriate district offices.

National Federation of the Blind  
National Federation of the Blind  
Contact: Curtis Chong  
1800 Johnson Street  
Baltimore, MD 21230  
(410) 659-9314

Provides low interest loans for the purchase of adaptive equipment.

Opportunities for the Blind  
Opportunities for the Blind, Inc.  
Attn: Grant Committee  
P.O. Box 510  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
(301) 475-1689  
(800) 884-1990

This organization provides funding for aids and adaptive equipment to persons who are blind. To qualify, the applicant needs to be a U.S. citizen who wishes to purchase equipment that will assist him or her in achieving employment or educational goals.

Social Security Disability Insurance  
(SSDI) Benefits  
Social Security Administration  
6401 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21235  
800-772-1213

For information about eligibility requirements and benefits for workers who have become disabled or visually impaired, please contact the above address.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  
Social Security Administration  
6401 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21235  
800-772-1213

Contact the above address to learn more about the eligibility requirements and benefits for persons who are visually impaired or disabled. Recipients must also have limited financial resources.

### Assistive Technology Programs

There are assistive technology programs in each state that may provide one or more of the following services: assistance in obtaining funds for assistive devices and services; equipment demonstration center; equipment exchange and recycling program; financial loan program for the purchase of assistive technology and services; and mobile van outreach service.

### State Agencies for the Blind

In each state, there is a state agency for the blind that addresses the needs of people who are blind or partially sighted. These services may

also be referred to as "state departments" or "state commissions". State services require official documentation declaring that a person is legally blind (20/200 visual acuity or worse). Once a person has been declared legally blind, they become eligible for certain services. These services may or may not include funding for adaptive equipment.

#### For More Information

To learn more about what services are provided in your state, we recommend that you contact your state agency directly. To locate the agency for the blind and partially sighted in the state where you live, contact the Lighthouse Information and Resource Service at (800) 829-0500 (voice menu option for "information") or e-mail [info@lighthouse.org](mailto:info@lighthouse.org).



**LIGHTHOUSE**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

Visit us on the Web at [www.lighthouse.org](http://www.lighthouse.org)

Lighthouse International • 111 East 59th Street • New York, NY 10022-1202  
(800) 829-0500 • (212) 821-9200 • Fax (212) 821-9705 • TTY (212) 821-9713

Lighthouse International is a leading resource worldwide on vision impairment and vision rehabilitation. Through its pioneering work in vision rehabilitation services, education, research and advocacy, Lighthouse International enables people of all ages who are blind or partially sighted to lead independent and productive lives. Founded in 1905 and headquartered in New York, Lighthouse International is a not-for-profit organization, and depends on the support and generosity of individuals, foundations and corporations.

