

Programs serving Minnesotans who are deafblind

Program	Age	Eligibility	What's Offered	Funder	Contact Information
DeafBlind Consumer Directed Services (DBCDS)	Any age	Adults and families with children who are deafblind, live in Minnesota and can make independent decisions, manage budget plans appropriately, complete agreements & reports promptly, and work with case managers effectively.	Long-term services and supports, e.g., support service providers, training, equipment	Minnesota Department of Human Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division grant	Consumer Directions Incorporated Christy Leach christy@yourfse.com 612-272-5233
Technology and Training Access Program (TTAP)	Any age	Adults and families with children who are deafblind, live in Minnesota and need technology or other equipment and/or training to become more self-sufficient.	Equipment and/or training to help improve or maintain an individual's independence	Minnesota Department of Human Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division grant	Consumer Directions Incorporated Christy Leach christy@yourfse.com 612-272-5233
iCanConnect Minnesota, The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program	Age 6 and up	People with low income who have significant dual sensory loss (hearing and vision). iCC application has additional definition of deafblind and qualifications.	Electronic communication devices, software, and accessories for access to distance communication	Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010	Perkins School for the Blind Heather Anderson heather.icanconnect@gmail.com 612-990-3834

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Children, Youth and Family Services Program (CYFS)	Birth-21	People under the age of 21 living in the state of Minnesota with some combination of hearing and vision loss.	Intervener services, support, information, referral, training and advocacy for the parents of children who are deafblind	Minnesota Department of Human Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division grant	DeafBlind Services Minnesota (DBSM) Kim Johnson, Children, Youth and Family Services Manager kjohnson@dbsm.org 612-843-3401
Adult Community Services Program (ACS)	Age 22 and up	Adults with medically verified hearing loss and vision loss that makes it hard to gather information from the environment, who would benefit from compensatory strategies and skills to access that information.	Support Service Providers for adults	Minnesota Department of Human Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division grant	DeafBlind Services Minnesota (DBSM) Matthew Priebe, Adult Community Services Manager priebem@dbsm.org 612-843-3426
Adult Community Services Program (ACS)	Age 18 and up	CADI-eligible adults with vision and/or hearing loss as a primary disability. Currently only available in the seven-county Twin Cities Metro area.	Independent living skills instruction & supports	Medicaid Waivers (CADI)	DeafBlind Services Minnesota (DBSM) Paul Deeming, Home and Community-based Waivered Services Lead PaulD@dbsm.org 612-843-3442 v/tty 612-440-4566 VP

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MN DeafBlind Project	Birth-21	<p>Must meet state special education criteria for both deaf/hard of hearing and blind/visually impaired through the IEP process.</p> <p>For birth-age 3, must have identified both hearing and vision loss on the IFSP.</p>	Information, resources and support for educational teams and families; intervener training series; workshops about deafblindness for schools and families; networking.	US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) grant	<p>MN DeafBlind Project Ann Mayes, Statewide DeafBlind Specialist ann.mayes@metroecsuo.org, 612-638-1527</p> <p>Brandy Johanson Sebera, Family Engagement Coordinator Brandy.johanson.sebera@metroecsuo.org 612-638-1505</p> <p>Deanna Rothbauer, Project Coordinator deanna.rothbauer@metroecsuo.org, 612-638-1531</p>
State Services for the Blind, Workforce Development Unit (WDU)	Age 14 and up	<p>People who want to work, and have a significant vision loss, defined as:</p> <p>Central visual acuity of 20/60 or less in the best corrected eye</p> <p>Absence of 1 full quadrant of binocular visual field</p> <p>Progressive loss of visual acuity</p>	A variety of counseling, work related training, job skills, and job placement services.	State and Federal	<p>DEED SSB Workforce Development Unit Sara Kreiling, Rehabilitation Counselor Supervisor Sara.L.Kreiling@state.mn.us</p>

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State Services for the Blind, Senior Services Unit (SSU)	Older adults or any age if retired or unable to work	People who have a severe visual impairment that: makes it hard to work, have feasible independent living goals, are 18 years of age or older, and whose school district is not legally obligated to provide them independent living services.	Counseling, training and referrals to help older adults adapt to vision changes and improve their quality of life and ability to live independently.	State and Federal	DEED SSB Senior Service Unit Ed Lecher, Unit Supervisor Edward.lecher@state.mn.us 651-539-2324
ProTactile and other Communication Systems	Any age	People who are deafblind, interpreters, interveners and support service providers.	Training on Protactile and other communication systems.	Minnesota Department of Human Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division grant	ASL Interpreting Services Erin Bunting, Grant Manager erin@aslis.com 763-478-8963
Greater Minnesota LaunchPAD	Birth-21	Students (ages 0-21) who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing who live in Greater Minnesota and attend a Minnesota public school.	Culturally affirmative psychological assessments for students who are deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing.	Minnesota Department of Human Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division grant	Metro ECSU Greater Minnesota LaunchPAD Deanna Rothbauer, Grant Manager deanna.rothbauer@metroecsu.org , 612-638-1531
Helen Keller National Center	Age 14 and up	People who have a combined hearing and vision loss. Depending on service, may also need to meet state criteria and the Helen Keller Act of 1967 eligibility for services.	Pre-employment transition services for ages 14-21, independent living skills and work-related training, job skills and job placement services.	State and Federal	Helen Keller National Center John Filek, Regional Services Coordinator John.Filek@hknc.org

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Rehabilitation Services (Rehab)	Any age	Participants typically have funding from State Services for the Blind (SSB) to take Rehab classes.	Training for people adjusting to vision loss. Training may include Orientation & Mobility, Braille, Cooking, Keyboarding and Technology skills and supports.	State Services for the Blind (SSB)	Vision Loss Resources (VLR) Lauren Greeley, Rehabilitation Services Manager Lauren@vlrw.org 612-843-3438

Additional resources

You can contact Minnesota Department of Human Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division.

Phone: 800-657-3663 voice or preferred relay service

Videophone: 651-954-1514

Email: dhs.dhhsd@state.mn.us

Web: mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing