**Freebies for People with Vision Loss**

Resource Roundtable

October 18, 2022

**Hadley**

[www.hadley.edu](http://www.hadley.edu)

800-323-4238

Practical help, connection and support free of charge to anyone with a visual impairment, their families and professionals supporting them. Workshops, discussion groups, podcasts, and easy access to learning experts. You don't need to come to Hadley. Hadley's help comes to you; online, on the phone or through the mail.

**Bookshare**

[www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org)

650-352-0198

Online digital library. **Free membership f**or all visually impaired currently enrolled Hadley learners living in the United States. Discounted membership for non-U.S. Hadley learners.

**iCanConnect**

[www.icanconnect.org](http://www.icanconnect.org)

800-825-4595

Provides communications technology and training free of charge to low-income people of all ages who have combined vision and hearing loss. (Includes mobile devices, phones, and computers)

**National Federation of the Blind (NFB)**

Free White Cane Program

[www.freecane.nfb.org](http://www.freecane.nfb.org)

410-659-9314

Free straight fiberglass cane (not folding) to any blind individual in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto. Requests can be made as often as every six months.

NFB Free Slate and Stylus Program

[www.freeslate.nfb.org](http://www.freeslate.nfb.org)

410-659-9314

Free plastic, four-line, twenty-eight cell slate along with a saddle stylus for writing braille. Requests can be made as often as once per year.

**American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults**

Free Braille Calendar

[www.actionfund.org](http://www.actionfund.org)

410-659-9315

6” x 6.6” pocket calendar. Features on page per month, and personal day page, and a listing of major holidays. Can request up to 3 braille calendars.

**National Eye Institute**

[www.nei.nih.gov](http://www.nei.nih.gov)

[Free or low-cost eyecare](https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/healthy-vision/get-free-or-low-cost-eye-care)

301-496-5248

List of free or low-cost eye care. Eye exams, eye glasses, cataract surgery and more. Specific requirements like low income or a higher risk of certain eye diseases.

**Free Matter for the Blind**

[USPS What is Free Matter for the Blind?](https://faq.usps.com/s/article/What-is-Free-Matter-for-the-Blind-or-Other-Physically-Handicapped-Persons)

Allows eligible individuals to send and receive mail for free. Includes 14-point or larger documents, braille, and audio resources. Also see [VisionAware Free Matter for the Blind Postal Regulations](https://visionaware.org/everyday-living/essential-skills/reading-writing-and-vision-loss/postage-freemail/)

**iBill**

[U.S. Currency Reader Program](https://www.bep.gov/services/currency-accessibility/us-currency-reader-program)

844-815-9388

Small and compact device. Runs on a triple-A battery, which is included.  To use the currency reader, insert a U.S. bill into the reader and press the button.  Tells the denomination.

**Veterans**

[VA Blind and Low Vision Rehabilitation Services](https://www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/vision-care/blind-low-vision-rehab-services/)

800-698-2411

Blind Rehabilitation Services (BRS) serves Veterans and active duty Service members with vision loss that cannot be corrected with regular eyeglasses and who are having difficulty with one or more tasks. Devices, training and support.

Blind Veterans Association

<https://bva.org/membership/>

800-669-7079

[Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST)](https://www.va.gov/martinsburg-health-care/programs/visual-impairment-services-team-vist/)

800-698-2411

Find your VIST coordinator or case manager responsible for coordinating your services.

**CVS Spoken RX**

<https://www.cvs.com/content/pharmacy/spoken-rx>

Call or visit your local CVS pharmacy to sign up.

Smart tagged prescription label that works with app to read your prescription information aloud.

**Audio Description (AD) of Movies and TV**

[Audio Description Project](https://adp.acb.org/ad.html#:~:text=Audio%20description%20is%20a%20means,text%2C%20and%20other%20visual%20content)

Spoken description of the visuals happening on screen. Describes facial expressions, gestures, body language, and activity. Voice used is a real person. AD is also in theaters and museums.

**Blind Services**

[VisionAware Info on Vision Rehabilitation Services](https://visionaware.org/everyday-living/essential-skills/vision-rehabilitation-services/)

[VisionAware Dirctory of Serices](https://visionaware.org/directory/browse)

or Call APH ConnectCenter at 800-223-5463 to locate services in your area.

**National Library Service (NLS)**

<https://www.loc.gov/nls/>

888-657-7323

Free library program of braille and audio materials. Provides player (for dtb cartridges) and eReaders (braille display) free. Also [BARD](https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/bard-access/) which is the Braille and Audio Read Download Program -- downloadable as compressed audio or formatted ebraille files. See [Hadley Workshops on BARD and NLS Talking Books](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhadley.edu%2Flearn%3Ftopic_id%3D14%23subtopic_books&data=05%7C01%7Cstevenk%40hadley.edu%7Cc59875738a2a48abe9e308da34edcf9e%7Ce0898367d7ee4c09badbf5a4e1130868%7C1%7C0%7C637880493262676538%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=StHPi945Iw5tqUNVrl9jtdbKy2c10mP62sbOxcwr6zc%3D&reserved=0).

**Voice Reader Speech Center App**

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/voice-reader-speech-central/id1127349155>

800-MY-APPLE

Text to speech app. Available on the App Store for iPhone, iPad, Apple Watch, and Apple TV. You can read text, web sites, and books from Bookshare among other things.

**Old Time Radio**

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

[Message for blind visitors](http://www.mysteryshows.com/a-message-for-blind-visitors.mp3)

Over 48,000 old time radio shows available for listening online or download. Send an email to [webmaster@mysteryshows.com](mailto:webmaster@mysteryshows.com)

and explain that you're blind and request free membership. You’ll be sent a link to get into the club area to enjoy the shows.

**Council of Citizens with Low Vision International (CCLVI)**

<https://cclvi.info/>

844-460-0625

Publications, online resources and Let’s Talk Low Vision Zoom Programs including game nights, peer support, coffee chats, and more.

**Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund (MBTF)**

Free braille calendar

<https://www.mi-braille.org/programs.php>

517-780-5096

4”x6” plastic spiral Braille and Large Print calendar free of charge.

**En-Vision America**

Prescription Labeling

<https://www.envisionamerica.com/>

800-890-1180

ScripTalk talking labels, ScripTalk prescription reader, large print labels and Braille labels with translation into 17 languages.

**National Park Access Pass**

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/accessibility/access-pass.htm>

Free, lifetime pass - available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States that have been medically determined to have a **permanent disability**(does not have to be a 100% disability) **-**that provides admittance to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by five Federal agencies.

**Seeing AI App**

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/seeing-ai/id999062298>

Free app for iPhones/iPads that audibly describes what’s in front of the camera. Use it to read text, identify money, colors, pictures and more. See [**Hadley Seeing AI Workshops**](https://hadley.edu/workshops/seeing-ai-app-series)**.**

**Be My Eyes App**

<https://www.bemyeyes.com/>

Connects people needing sighted support with volunteers and companies through live video around the world. From reading instructions, distinguishing colors, navigating unfamiliar locations and more. For iOS or Android.

**Hoopla**

Your public library at your fingertips

<https://www.hoopladigital.com/>

Contact your local library.

Borrow and enjoy audiobooks, eBooks, comics, movies, TV, magazines, or music everywhere you have a screen-your computer, your phone, your car, even your TV. All you need is a library card.

**Libby App**

Digital content from your library

<https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby>

Contact your local library.

Library reading app. Borrow ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, and more from your local library for free.

**Braille Workshops with Hadley**

[www.hadley.edu](http://www.hadley.edu)

800-323-4238

Free online and offline materials to learn braille by sight or touch. Includes braille reading and writing. By touch includes Braille for Everyday Use, Numbers, Punctuation, and Contractions. Also workshops on producing braille and techniques for better reading.

[Hadley Embracing Braille Discussion Group](https://hadley.edu/discussion-groups/embracing-braille)

**Playaway**

Pre-loaded products

<https://playaway.com/audiobooks>

877-893-0808

Pre-loaded audio books that give library patrons portability. No Internet or downloads needed.

**Lutheran Braille Workers**

Free Braille Bibles

Scripture Calendar

Large print calendar

<https://www.lbwloveworks.org/>

800-925-6092

Christian materials and Bibles in braille are freely provided in English, Spanish, and 14 other languages. 8.5” x 11” scripture calendar featuring a Bible verse and tactile graphic for each month. 18-point large print calendar.

**Blind Bibles International**

Free Bibles

<https://www.biblesfortheblind.org/>

800-522-4253

Bibles in braille, large print, and audio formats at no cost or low cost.

**American Council of the Blind (ACB)**

Community Events

<https://www.acb.org/acb-community-events>

800-424-8666

Conference calls on a wide range of topics including games, crafting, exercises, and much much more.

**Identification Card**

Check with your state’s Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to obtain a free identification card if you no longer have a driver’s license.

<https://www.findlaw.com/traffic/drivers-license-vehicle-info/state-dmv-offices.html>

**Eyes-Free Fitness**

[Eyes- Free Fitness You Tube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSJCXbR__C7IztG4us-8Hjw)

[Metro Blind Sport's Eyes-Free Fitness](https://www.metroblindsport.org/audio-exercise-programs/)

Meditation, balance, yoga, cardio workouts and more for those with vision loss.