## Research Participation Request: Ableism as a Mechanism of Physical and Mental Health Inequities Among Children with Visual Impairment

The below research participant solicitation is being provided for informational purposes only. The National Federation of the Blind has no involvement in this research, but we believe that it may contribute to our research mission.

## Research Title: Ableism as a Mechanism of Physical and Mental Health Inequities Among Children with Visual Impairment

Being conducted by: NIH - National Eye Institute – administered by Texas Tech University

## Purpose of the Study

Children who are blind or visually impaired (CBVI) experience high rates of physical and mental health disorders, which may be driven by ableism. Ableism harms people with disabilities, such as CBVI, by excluding them from full participation in society, but the specific impact of ableism on the physical and mental health of CBVI has not been examined. This virtual study conducted across the United States seeks to identify the role of ableism in driving physical and mental health inequities within CBVI to reveal how ableism gets under the skin and results in poor health outcomes for these vulnerable children.

## Role of the Participants and Anticipated Length of the Study

Total time commitment for the participant will be around 3-4 hours. During the testing session, after informed consent and assent are obtained, participants will complete a variety of self-report survey instruments, psychological tests of intellectual ability /academic skills / cognitive functions, and clinical interviews related to mental health symptoms. Caregivers and youth will complete self-report and interview measures simultaneously with two members of the research team. At the end of the session, participants’ physical activity and sleep data will be assessed via an accelerometer device (the wActiSleep-BT monitor; Actigraph Corp, 2023), which will be worn on the participants’ nondominant wrist continuously for 14 days.

## Proposed Participant Compensation

Yes, Each dyad which provides informed consent/assent and is thus enrolled in the study will be offered $150.00 in gift cards for their participation. Youth who elect to wear the accelerometer will be provided an additional $100.00 in gift cards following receipt of the accelerometer device by the research team (using prepaid mailers and/or in-person return for local participants).

## Link or Instructions for Participants to Enter the Study

The following link will take parents/guardians who are interested in learning more to our website: <https://www.youthviewresearch.org/>

If any parents/guardians are interested in beginning enrollment, they can click the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/whalaby>

## Contact the following individual with any questions

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