

**State of New Jersey  
Executive Department  
Proclamation**

**HELEN KELLER DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS WEEK  
June 21-June 27, 2020**

**WHEREAS...** Helen Keller was one of the most accomplished, respected and renowned Americans who was Deaf-Blind, and

**WHEREAS...** The combined loss of vision and hearing, one of the most severe of all disabilities, affects more than 2.4 million people in the United States, and

**WHEREAS...** It is in the interest of the State of New Jersey to encourage the full participation of Americans with multi-sensory disabilities in our economy by fostering the employment of, and promoting housing and recreational options for, people who are Deaf-Blind, all of which maximize their opportunities for an empowered, productive life in the community of their choice, and

**WHEREAS...** Today, people who are Deaf-Blind are attending college, participating in social activities, managing their everyday lives and actively engaging in their communities through employment, civic and recreational activities, and

**WHEREAS...** The below-named organizations support this effort and offer a continued commitment to expanded, inclusionary opportunities for those who are Deaf-Blind, and

**WHEREAS...** It is highly appropriate and necessary to publicize the abilities and potential of our fellow citizens who are Deaf-Blind, or severely vision and hearing impaired, and to recognize Helen Keller as a guiding example of courage, hope, determination, ability and achievement for other individuals who are Deaf-Blind, as well as the larger community,

Now, therefore, I, Philip Murphy, governor of the State of New Jersey, IN RECOGNITION THEREOF, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JUNE 21-JUNE 27, 2020 as "HELEN KELLER DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS WEEK" in New Jersey.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the State of New Jersey to be affixed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year two thousand and twenty.

Signed by:

Phillip D. Murphy, Governor  
Sheila Oliver, Lieutenant Governor

**NJ Organizations Supporting this Effort:**

Ava's Voice  
Blind Athletes Incorporated  
Deaf-Blind Community Access Network of New Jersey  
Deaf-Blind League of New Jersey

Diverse Deaf Club of New Jersey  
Eyes Like Mine  
Helen Keller National Center  
Hearing Loss Association of America – New Jersey State Association  
Malan Syndrome Foundation  
National Federation of the Blind National Deaf-Blind Division  
National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey  
Malan Syndrome Foundation  
SPAN's New Jersey Deaf Mentor Program