

Riderwood Low Vision Support Group Resources Document

This document contains a list of resources for individuals who have low vision or have become blind and want to explore ways to maintain their independence. This is not an exhaustive list of resources, and it is always recommended that you speak with an eye specialist regarding your specific vision disorder and needs.

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Riderwood Campus Resources

RWV Low Vision Support Group –

This group meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm in the Chesapeake Room in the Lower Level of Montgomery Station. The group format is open discussion which allows residents to share their struggles, receive support from each other, share resource information and learn new ways to cope with vision changes. The group also hosts speakers throughout the year. The group also has a “Trading Post” from time to time which includes donated items that are in good condition and are no longer used by residents or their friends and family.

Riderwood Village Ophthalmologist –

Visionary Eye Doctors –

Riderwood office Phone: 301-896-0890

There are both an ophthalmologist and an optometrist on staff at the Riderwood office across from the Riderwood Medical Center in Village Square to help support your vision needs and questions.

RWV Outpatient Therapy –

Phone: 301-572-8372

Talk with your primary care physician regarding a referral for outpatient therapy on campus. A therapist can assist with identifying the areas in which your vision impacts your independence and can make appropriate recommendations to help with your independence.

Riderwood's Talking Bulletin –

The talking bulletin airs daily on channel 1971 at 2:30 am, 8 am, 12:30 pm, 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm. You can also view/listen on demand at:

[Link to Riderwood Talking Bulletin](#)

Riderwood Medical Center Mental Health Support –

Phone: 301-572-8340

Individual therapy is available which can help you process and learn strategies to cope with the changes you are experiencing with your vision, aging and other issues that may impact your psychosocial wellbeing.

There is also a non-Riderwood therapist specializing in support to those with issues relating to vision loss. Her contact information is:

Nina Glasner – Phone: 301-585-9122 or 301-602-5484

Off-Campus Medical Eye Support

University of Maryland Ophthalmology Group (Dr. Sarah Ullah) –

Phone: 667-214-1111

Location: 5900 Waterloo Road, Suite 230, Columbia, MD 21045

Website: <https://www.umms.org/find-a-doctor/profiles/dr-sarah-parveen-ullah-md-1982947230>

Dr. Ullah specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma. Dr. Ullah is deeply committed to serving the state and improving eye care for its residents. Her active memberships in the Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, the American Glaucoma Society, the Chandler Grant Glaucoma Society, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology reflect her dedication to advancing the field locally and nationally.

Maple Lawn Eye Care Center –

Phone: 301-490-2020

Location: 7625 Maple Lawn Blvd, Suite 125, Fulton, MD 20759

Website: <https://www.maplelawneyecarecenter.com/>

Provides low vision care defined as examination, diagnosis and treatment of partial sight that is not otherwise correctable medically, surgically or with regular eyeglasses or contact lenses.

The Retina Group of Washington –

Phone: 844-749-3627

Website: <https://www.rgw.com>

Closest Locations: Silver Spring, Rockville, Columbia and Greenbelt

Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute –

General Phone: 410-955-5080

Website: <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/wilmer>

Closest Locations:

Bethesda: Phone: 240-482-1100

Westmoreland Building, 6430 Rockledge Drive, Suite 600, Bethesda, MD 20817

Columbia: Phone: 410-91-4330

Medical Pavilion at Howard County, 10710 Charter Drive, Suite 310, Columbia MD 21044

Wilmer Eye Institute provides comprehensive, high-quality, responsibly priced state-of-art eye care in accessible, support caring and user-friendly environments. The Institute provides specialty care for comprehensive eye care, cornea/cataract/external eye diseases, cosmetic services, glaucoma, laser vision correction, neuro-ophthalmology, ocular immunology, oculoplastics, PACE Patient Access Center for Eye, adult strabismus, retina, ocular surgery, and vision rehabilitation.

Brewer & Marshall Opticians-

Phone: 301-937-3677

Location: 10490 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705

Vision Rehabilitation Services

Prevention of Blindness Society (POB) of Metropolitan Washington –

Phone: 202-234-1010

Location: 415 2nd Street NE, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20002

Website: <http://www.youreyes.org>

POB is dedicated to the improvement and preservation of sight and quality of life by providing services and education to champion healthy vision and innovation to everyone in our area.

POB also has a Low Vision Resource Center –

Phone: 301-951-4444

Location: 4948 St. Elmo Ave, Suite 209, Bethesda, MD 20814

At the Center you can meet with a Resource Navigator in person to receive expert advice, learn about available resources and try out different visual aid technologies. Visits are by appointment only.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs –

Blind and Low Vision Rehabilitation Services

Phone: 202-461-7317

If you are a veteran you may qualify to receive services and devices free of charge.

Low Vision Specialist of Maryland and Virginia –

Phone: 1-866-269-3916

Website: <https://lowvisionmd.org/>

Closest locations: Bethesda, Columbia, Rockville

Provide help for those who are legally blind or have severe vision loss by improving functional vision for daily activities that we once thought to be impossible.

Also provide House Calls in your home.

House Calls: We provide in-home eye care anywhere in Maryland and Virginia, offering both comprehensive routine eye exams and advanced low vision evaluations in private homes, senior living communities, and assisted living residences. Before any visit is scheduled, we provide a complimentary record review and a personal phone consultation with the doctor to determine whether a house call is clinically appropriate and which type of evaluation will be most beneficial.

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind –

Local Silver Spring Phone: 240-737-5100

Location: 8757 Georgia Ave, Suite 805, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Website: [Link to Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind](#)

They provide orientation and mobility white cane training, teach independent living skills do case management and more.

NOTE: To arrange for a specialized Low Vision Examination, ask for **Kathy Gross**. She will provide you with information regarding the special exam and will schedule your appointment with one of the specialists.

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) –

Phone: 410-554-9442

Location: 2301 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218

Website: <https://dors.maryland.gov/consumers/Pages/default.aspx>

DORS can provide an evaluation of your needs and determine if you are eligible for services related to your low vision and/or other disability. DORS Office for Blindness and Vision Services OBVS provides a number of different services for those who are visually impaired. One example of one of their services is helping individuals with Assistive Technology like screen reading software, magnifiers and other low vision aids.

National Eye institute –

Phone: 800-680-2578 or 301-496-5847

Email: 2020@nei.nih.gov

Location: Information Office, 31 Center Drive, MSC 2510, Bethesda, MD 20892-2510

Website: <https://www.nei.nih.gov/>

Provide information regarding eye conditions and clinical trials

Lions Low Vision Centers –

Phone: 410-955-0580

Location: PO Box 1714, Baltimore, MD 21203

Provide research and rehabilitation to minimize disability caused by low vision and blindness through professional staff including physicians, optometrists, research scientists, rehabilitation therapists and ophthalmic technicians.

Marie Dixon Low Vision Occupational Therapist –

Phone: 410-650-6885

Location: 6055 Cedar Wood DR, Columbia, MD 21044

Technology and Training

Torres Foundation –

Phone: 301-407-2424

Email: info@torresfoundation.org

Website: <https://torresfoundation.org/training-services/>

The Torres Foundation provides training on assistive technology products for blind and low vision computer users, specifically on using JAWS, ZoomText, Fusion to work with Outlook, Word, Excel, Internet browsers as well as several other windows applications. They also provide Apple iPhone and iPad training to learn the basics of texting, emailing, and calling with the benefit of Voiceover screen reader as well as with voice recognition technology. In addition, training is provided on a wide variety of popular apps that provide the visually impaired with a high degree of mobility, independence and empowerment at home as well as in their community. Training can be provided one-on-one or in a group and sessions can be conducted on site or remotely using Zoom or other conference calling software.

Foundation Fighting Blindness –

Phone: 1-800-683-5555

Location: 6925 Oakland Mills Road, Suite 701, Columbia, MD 21045

Website: <https://www.fightingblindness.org/>

The Foundation's mission is to drive the research toward prevention, treatments and cures for people affected by blinding diseases including age-related macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, Usher syndrome, Stargardt disease, Leber congenital amaurosis and more.

For a relatively complete list of assistive technology tools please see the document attached as an addendum at the end of this list. If you wish to download the resource list yourself scroll part way down this web page: <https://www.fightingblindness.org/low-vision> and click on the green download button.

Hadley Institute for the Blind & Visually Impaired –

Phone: 800-323-4238

Website: [Link to Hadley Institute Website Training](#)

Create a free account on their website to access a variety of training videos with audio accompaniment.

Senior Tech Pro –

Phone: 301-337-0028

Email: phil@seniortechpro.net

Website: <https://www.seniortechpro.net/>

Provide in-person and remote/virtual services to include teaching sessions and troubleshooting for computers and software, phones, TVs and streaming.

Low Vision Equipment and Services

Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program-

Phone: 800-552-7724 or 410-767-7253

Video phone: 410-801-9618

Website: <https://mdod.maryland.gov/tam/Pages/TAM-Home.aspx>

The Maryland Accessible Telecommunications program provides Maryland residents with an opportunity to apply for and receive free telecommunications equipment to independently make or receive calls. The Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT) program offers a wide variety of solutions and tools from amplified phones to captioned telephones to tablets so you have the necessary support for day-to-day communications.

Independence Now -

Phone: 301-277-2839

Location: 12301 Old Columbia Pike, Suite 101, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Website: <https://www.innow.org/atlibrary/>

Independence Now advocates and embodies independence and

equality for all people with disabilities. One of their services is their Community Assistive Technology (AT) Lending Library which gives the community members access to AT devices that they want to see or borrow. All equipment housed at Independence Now is sanitized after viewing or borrowing by a consumer. We can also provide device demonstrations in-person or virtually. Consumers can pick up device loans or they could be shipped to their residence.

If you would like to reserve an item, or have any other questions about our lending library, contact **240-898-2188** or jclark@innnow.org.

[Check out video demonstrations of items in our AT Lending Library on YouTube!](#)

Products in our AT Lending Library have been purchased with grant money from the [Maryland Technology Assistance Program \(MDTAP\)](#).

Learning Sight & Sound Made Easier-

Phone: 800-468-4789

Website: <https://lssproducts.com/>

Specializes in products for the blind, visually impaired, deaf and hard of hearing. You will find a great collection of low vision aids, hearing helpers, daily living aids, and information designed to help you or a loved one regain independence. Adjusting to life-altering changes can be difficult, but in the case of vision or hearing loss, LS&S can help you find useful products that will make a difference in your life.

MaxiAids Products for Independent Living –

Phone: 800-522-6294

Website: <https://www.maxiaids.com/category/vision-and-blind>

Offers the lowest prices on the largest selection of low vision products for the blind and visually impaired. Our low vision devices include Braille items, canes, calendars, talking watches, computer products, magnifiers, music players/recorders, specialty sunglasses, and much more. Our Company has tools for the blind and those with low vision. We have everything you need to help you live a more active, healthy and independent lifestyle.

Independent Living Aids, LLC –

Phone: 800-537-2118

Website: <https://independentliving.com/vision/>

Independent Living Aids offers tools for the low vision and visually impaired user. These tools for daily living include a wide range of talking products such as talking watches, talking personal scales, talking calculators, and talking clocks. We also have a very wide range of magnifiers in a wide range of magnification powers, from 2X - 14X. Reading glasses in high power strengths and electronic magnifiers (video magnifiers) are also included in this category.

Teltex Assistive Technology Products and Services –

Phone: 888-515-8120

Website: <https://teltex.com/>

Amazon.com –

Website: [Link to Low Vision Aids on Amazon](#)

The Carroll Store –

Phone: 617-969-6200 extension 240

Toll free: 800-852-3131

Website: <https://carroll.org/store/>

Low vision, blindness and hearing product catalogs

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually impaired-

Phone: 305-856-2288

Website: <https://lighthousehop.org/>

The Low Vision Store -

Phone: 800-871-8780

Address: 2200 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55114

Website: <https://thelowvisionstore.com>

Low Vision Identifying Button –

Order an identifying button that may help inform others of your low vision impairment:

Websites: <https://www.braillebookstore.com/low-vision-button.2>
<https://www.cafepress.com/+low-vision+buttons>

American Foundation for the Blind –

Website: <https://www.afb.org/blindness-and-low-vision/using-technology/assistive-technology-products>

Independence Now, Inc. – Community Assistive Technology Lending Library –

Phone: 240-898-2118

Email: jclark@innow.org

Website: <https://www.innow.org/atlibrary/>

For questions regarding services contact 301-277-2839 or email info@innow.org

Assistive Technology Vendors

Integration Technologies Group –

Phone: 703-698-8282

Email: pat.zawasky@itgonline.com

Website: <https://accessibilityproducts.net/>

Eschenbach –

Phone: 800-487-5389

Email: info@eschenbach.com

Website: <https://eschenbach.com/products/new-products.asp>

Vomatech –

Phone: 1-855-424-4396

Website: <https://vomatech.com/services.html>

VOMA Technologies & Training specializes in Assistive Technology Training and Employment Network and serving Delaware, Virginia, Washington D.C and Maryland.

OrCam –

Local phone - 703 698-8282

General phone - 630-642-9810

Website: <https://www.orcam.com/en-us/low-vision>

Local distributor: 2745 Hartland Road, Merrifield, Virginia 22043

OrCam leverages AI for handheld and wearable assistive solutions, catering to the visually impaired and those with reading challenges.

Reading Materials for the Visually Impaired

Metropolitan Washington Ear –

Phone: 301-681-6636

Email: info@washear.org

Location: 12061 Tech Rd, Silver spring, MD 20904

Website: <https://washear.org/application-for-service/>

Free services to access newspaper, magazines and other services through audio. Complete the applications and send in to initiate services. If you are registered with the National Library Service for the Blind (audio books) then you are automatically eligible for this service once you complete the application. If not, you will need to have a professional (PCP, eye doctor or social worker) complete a certification of disability.

National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Newslite –

Phone: 866-504-7300

Website: <https://nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-newslite>

After you sign up for NFB-NEWSLINE, you will be able to access it in any of the following ways.

- iOS Mobile App 3.0 with KNFB Reader Basic
- Phone - For more information, please visit the [NFB-NEWSLINE phone instructions](#) page.
- Amazon Alexa - For more information, please visit our [Alexa instructions](#) page or check out [our training video](#) on YouTube.

- IOS Mobile App - Download the free ["NFB-NEWSLINE Mobile" app in the Apple App Store](#).
- Website - Visit nfbnewslineonline.org to access NFB-NEWSLINE online.
- Email - Please call us at 1-866-504-7300 to set up your NFB-NEWSLINE email service.
- Portable players - Access NFB-NEWSLINE through many popular digital talking book players like Portable, plug and play, wireless download for Victor Reader Stream 2nd Generation and easily navigate sections and articles with the use of DAISY-standard formatting.
- Visit nfbnewslineonline.org to learn more.

If you are a current subscriber, you do not need to create a new account or obtain new codes to use additional methods. Your current codes will allow you to access NFB-NEWSLINE using any method you choose. If you've forgotten your codes, please call us for assistance. For more information, please call us at 866-504-7300 or 410-659-9314, extension 2317, or email us at nfbnewsline@nfb.org.

Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled –

Phone: 410-230-2424 or 1-800-964-9209

Location: 415 Park Avenur, Baltimore, MD 21201

Librarian: John Owen

Library Code: MDIA

Email: referencedesk@maryland.gov

Website: <https://msla.maryland.gov/pages/lbpd.aspx>

Free audio book service for individuals with low vision. Complete the application and have your PCP (Primary Care Provider), eye doctor or social worker sign it and send it in. You will be sent a free audio player and will have access to audio books and large print materials.

Maryland State Library Agency Technology User Group –

Phone:

Website: <https://msla.maryland.gov/Pages/Technology-User-Group.aspx>

The Technology User Group is an informal discussion group that meets to explore new technologies and services that assist people who are blind or print-disabled, as well as older applications with new functions that support nonvisual use. People of all technological skill levels are welcome. Meetings are held virtually via teleconference. Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, beginning at 10 a.m. EST.

Join the ZOOM meeting ID and Link: Meeting ID: 656 203 7293

[Link to MD State Library Tech User ZOOM meetings](#)

Call in: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 656 203 7293# Participant ID: #

For more information contact:

Jerry Price at phone # 410-230-2446 or email at

jerry.price1@maryland.gov

Low Vision Apps & Tools Help Desks

Microsoft Disability/Accessibility Answer Desk – 800-936-5900

Apple Disability/Accessibility Answer Desk – 877-204-3930

Freedom Scientific (JAWS/ZoomText/Fusion) Desk – 800-444-4443

Hadley Institute Help Desk – 1-800-323-4328

American Academy of Ophthalmology App Recommendations

Article on 30 Apps, Devices and Technologies for People with Vision Impairments

Website: <https://www.aao.org/eye-health/tips-prevention/low-vision-impairment-apps-tech-assistive-devices>

List of apps described in the article:

Built-in tools on Apple and Android devices

If you already have a smartphone or tablet, built-in tools such as large font and high contrast are waiting to help you access many capabilities on your device.

If you're an Apple user:

- [VoiceOver](#) is a screen reader that provides a description of everything happening on your screen.
- [Siri](#) is a voice recognition system that lets you send messages, place phone calls and more.

If you're an Android user:

- Apps that run on the Android operating system use a built-in screen reader called [TalkBack](#).
- Android devices also use [Google Assistant](#), a “virtual helper” powered by artificial intelligence. Google Assistant lets you perform a wide variety of actions on your phone or tablet using voice commands.

Daily tasks and object identification

- [Seeing AI](#) (iOS, free) – This app can narrate the world around you. Simply point your phone or iPad camera at something, and Seeing AI will tell you what it is, out loud. It can help read currency, name colors and even decipher handwritten cursive.
- [Lookout](#) (Android, free) – Provides spoken feedback about things around you. Lookout uses the camera and sensors on your device to recognize text, people and objects.
- [Be My Eyes](#) (Android and iOS, free) – This app connects visually-impaired people with sighted volunteers through a live video call. Volunteers “lend their eyes” to help with short, simple tasks such as reading a street sign or troubleshooting technology. For security reasons, do not ask volunteers to read personal information such as mail containing your address, financial or credit card information.
- [Envision AI](#) (free/paid, iOS/Android) Reads text, describes surroundings, identifies objects and connects users with sighted helpers.

- [Google Lens](#) (free, iOS/Android) Recognizes text, objects and images via camera.
- [Lookout by Google](#) (free, Android) Reads text, barcodes and identifies objects
- [Aira](#) (Android and iOS, \$29 to \$199 per month) – Connects highly trained agents to people with vision impairment for assistance with daily tasks, including mobility tasks such as giving directions, navigating around obstacles in a path and describing an environment in real time. You can sign up for 30 to 300 minutes of help per month. A note about confidentiality: Aira agents signs a confidentiality agreement stating that they will not share customers' personal information. Security measures are in place so that Aira agents can help customers with tasks such as personal finance. Aira may be used at no cost in some airports, national attractions, universities and partnering shopping centers such as Walgreens, Wegmans, AT&T and Target.
- [LookTel](#) (iOS, \$9.99) – Uses the camera of your iOS device to instantly identify and read aloud the denomination of paper money.
- [TapTapSee](#) (Android and iOS, free) – Lets you photograph objects and have them identified aloud.
- [Light Detector](#) (iOS, free) – Helps you identify when lights are switched on at home, where windows are and whether curtains are open or closed. This app works by transforming any natural or artificial light source it encounters into sound.
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Magnification

- [Brighter and Bigger](#) (Android and iOS, free) – This reading glasses tool uses your camera’s light and features adjustable magnification to help people who have trouble reading fine print.

Reading

- [KNFB Reader](#) (Android and iOS, \$99.99) – This voice-to-text tool lets you take a picture of any text—books, recipes, product labels—and have it read back to you or converted to braille.
- [Audible](#) (Android and iOS, \$14.95 per month plus downloads) – Provides downloadable audiobooks, periodicals, newspapers and more. Their collection currently includes 200,000+ books.
- [Kindle app](#) (Android, iOS, PC and Mac, free) – An e-reader app that allows you to download books. Books can be purchased and directly downloaded from Amazon, or downloaded from your library app into the Kindle app. The free Kindle app can be downloaded onto many iOS and Android devices.
- [Bookshare](#) (Android and iOS, \$50 per year) – An online library for people with low vision. Currently, the Bookshare collection contains nearly 850,000 titles, downloadable in a choice of formats including ebooks, audio, braille, and large font. Membership requires verification of your print disability, and includes free downloads.
- [BARD Mobile](#) (Android and iOS, free) – A talking book library that offers access to tens of thousands of titles. You must first enroll in the National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Print Disabled

at the Library of Congress. Note that this program may only be available in the United States.

- [Overdrive](#) (Android and iOS, free) – A service that lets you borrow both audio and text eBooks through your library or school.
- [NFB-Newsline](#) (iOS, free) – A service offered by the National Federation of the Blind allowing people with print disabilities to phone in and listen to newspapers, magazines, and other news sources.
- [The MD evReader](#) (Android and iOS, free) – This app presents text from eBooks in a scrolling stream across the screen, in a similar way to a news ticker. The app is designed for those people who use Eccentric Viewing (EV) and/or steady eye strategies for reading.
- [Blind Abilities](#) (Android and iOS, free) – Blogs and podcasts covering accessibility, technologies, devices and job opportunities for the blind and visually impaired.

Navigation and transportation

- [Soundscape](#) (iOS, free) – Designed for use with stereo headphones, this app provides 3D audio cues about surroundings in real time. It can be used in conjunction with GPS navigation.
- [Nearby Explorer](#) (Android and iOS, free) – This app combines GPS navigation, turn-by-turn directions in pedestrian and vehicle modes, points of interest, and transit data.

- [RightHear](#) (Android and iOS, free) – A spatial orientation app built for people with low vision. RightHear provides navigation and points-of-interest information using audio guidance.
- [Blindsquare](#) (iOS, \$39.99) – A GPS app that describes the environment and announces points of interest and street intersections as you travel.
- [Uber](#) and [Lyft](#) (iOS and Android, free) – Both apps have a [partnership with Aira](#) that lets visually impaired riders use Aira agents to help initiate and manage rides. Uber also supports wireless Braille display.
- [Moovit](#) (iOS and Android, free) – Through a [collaboration with Aira](#), visually impaired Moovit users can have live help to navigate bus, rail, subway and other public transportation routes in a number of cities around the world.

Shopping

- [Blind Bargains](#) (Android and iOS, free) – Lets you search the web to identify the hottest deals available on talking products, braille printers, accessible gadgets and other products for the visually impaired.
- [Talking Calculator](#) (iOS, free) and [Voice and Talking Calculator](#) (Android, free) – Provide a fully voice-operated calculator that reads numbers, formulas and answers aloud.

Socializing

- [Facing Emotions](#) (Android, free) – A facial recognition app that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to identify seven different emotions

by turning them into sounds that you can hear. The app must be used together with [Huawei's Mate 20 Pro](#)

- [Instagram](#) (Android and iOS, free) – This popular social media app now includes an alternative text feature that lets users add and hear rich descriptions of photos as they browse. This feature works together with the device's screen reader.
- [YouTube](#) for Android has expanded its voice command features for video navigation.
- [Pandora](#) (iOS and Android, \$9.99 per month) recently added a "Hey Pandora" voice command for a variety of tasks.

Additional Apps for Low Vision

NVDA Screen Reader for Windows) – Website:

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

Dolphin Screen Reader – Website:

<https://yourdolphin.com/ScreenReader>

Read Aloud Extension for Google Chrome browser – Website: [Link to add Read Aloud extension to Google Chrome Browser](#)

GoodMaps Explore (free/iOS/Android) – Indoor and outdoor navigation with audio guidance

BlindSquare (Paid – iOS - \$39.99) GPS navigation app designed specifically for blind and low vision users

Voice Dream Reader (Paid – iOS \$9.99 one time)

Specialty Apps for Exploration & Learning

Merlin Bird ID (free – iOS/Android) Identifies birds by sound and images

iNaturalist (free – iOS/Android) Identifies plants, animals, insects and birds and connects users to a global community

Photomath (free – iOS/Android) Helps users understand and solve math homework by reading printed or handwritten equations with the camera and providing step-by-step explanations, Works well with screen readers and audio support.

Khan Academy (free iOS/Android) Accessible learning platform offering lessons in math, science, reading, history and more. Content is largely screen-reader friendly and videos include audio explanations and transcripts.

Quizlet (free/paid – iOS/Android) flashcards and study tools that work well with screen readers when using accessible sets. Especially helpful for vocabulary, definitions and exam prep.

Brainscape (free/paid – iOS/Android) Flashcard app using space repetition to improve retention. Compatible with VoiceOver and TalkBack when using text-based cards.

Speechify (free/paid – iOS/Android) Text-to-speech app that reads textbooks, worksheets, PDFs, articles and web content aloud – useful across all subjects.

Duolingo (free/paid – iOS/Android) Language learning app with strong audio support and screen-reader compatibility. Lessons rely heavily on

listening and speaking, making it accessible for many users with vision impairment.

Wearables

Meta/Ray-Ban Smart Glasses (Available - \$299-\$459)

Camera equipped smart glasses with built-in speakers, microphones and Meta AI. Supports hands free photo/video capture, voice commands, messaging, object capture and real-time AI assistance.

Generation 1 and Generation 2 models. Available through major retailers.

ALEYE by Hapware (Pre-order- \$99 - \$100 deposit)

Assistive wearable system that translates nonverbal social cues (facial expressions, body language, gestures like nods or waves) into distinct haptic feedback patterns on a wristband.

- Designed for people who are blind, low vision or neurodivergent
- Uses camera-equipped smart glasses (such as Meta Ray-Bans)
- Real-time feedback (<0.25 seconds)
- Customizable cues and environment presets via mobile app
- Estimated shipping: late 2026

Ally Solos AI Smart Glasses (Envision) (Pre-order – approx. \$699)

AI-powered smart glasses offering hands-free assistance for reading text, recognizing objects and people and describing surroundings.

- Open-ear audio and onboard camera

- Voice-controlled AI assistant
- Early launch price has ranged – (\$399 - \$499)
- Estimated shipping – late 2025

Recommended Books

- Vision Loss: Strategies for Living with hope and Independence by Peggy R. Wolfe (Kindle Edition) [Link to book - Vision Loss by Peggy R Wolfe on Amazon](#)
- Macular Degeneration Audio Guide by Dr. Jeff Blanco
- There's No Vision Like Low Vision: Living with and Serving Those with Macular Degeneration and Stargardt Macular Dystrophy (Kindle Edition) [Link to book - There's No vision Like Low Vision \(Macular Degeneration, Stargardt and Macular Dystrophy](#)
- Macular Degeneration: The Complete Guide to Saving and maximizing Your Sight by Lylas G. Mogk & Marja Mogk (Kindle Edition) [Link to book - Macular Degeneration by Lylas and Marjas Mogk on Amazon](#)

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