

Oklahoma Library For The Blind & Physically Handicapped

Division of Visual Services Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

Purpose

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH) in the Division of Visual Services offers services for persons who are blind, visually impaired and those with disabilities preventing them from using standard print materials. Thousands of books, textbooks and periodicals in recorded and braille formats, and playback equipment are available through the library at no charge and are sent and returned via postage-free mail. OLBPH is a regional depository for the Library of Congress, National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The OLBPH also operates the Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Center, that provides textbooks and other instructional materials in braille and other accessible formats for students with visual impairments in kindergarten through grade 12.

Contact

Kevin Treese, Director
300 NE 18th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 521-3514
(800) 523-0288
(405) 521-4672 (TDD)
FAX: (405) 521-4582
Email: ktreese@okdrs.gov
www.library.state.ok.us

Financial Criteria

- None

Eligibility

The following persons are eligible for service:

- Residents of the United States, including territories, the District of Columbia, and American citizens living abroad;
- Blind persons whose visual acuity, as determined by competent authority, is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses, or whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees;

Other physically handicapped persons are eligible as follows:

- Persons whose visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, is certified by competent authority as preventing the reading of regular printed material;

- Persons certified by competent authority as unable to read or unable to use regular printed material because of physical limitations; or
- Persons certified by competent authority as having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent reading regular printed material in a conventional manner. This certification must be made by a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Information & Referral
- Loan of tape recorded and braille books
- Loan of cassette machines for playing talking books
- Loan of descriptive videos
- Newslines: newspapers read over the phone by computer
- Braille, tape, and large print textbooks and specialized instructional equipment for visually impaired children and youth in Oklahoma Schools

AT Devices Provided/ Covered

- Playback machines for reading talking books are loaned

Application Process

- To request an application for service, books and operating equipment, contact the Oklahoma Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped online at: <http://www.library.state.ok.us/dir/apply>

Pieces of the Puzzle

- The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicap operates The NEWSLINE® service which reads newspapers over the telephone to Oklahomans who are unable to read standard print due to blindness, visual impairment, a learning disability or the physical inability to hold or turn the pages of printed material.
- For more information about NEWSLINE®, contact the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at (405) 521-3514 in Oklahoma City or (800) 523-0288 toll free statewide.