

**HOW TO OBTAIN AID FOR THE BLIND
from the
NORTH CAROLINA LIONS, INC.**

The North Carolina Lions, Inc. makes available many types of aid for visually handicapped persons. Under normal conditions, the request for aid should come through the county social worker for the blind. The social worker can be located by calling the county Department of Social Services. The following kinds of aid are available.

1. **Canes.** White canes of three types are available for blind persons:
 - A. The aluminum non-folding cane in lengths of 40" to 56"
 - B. The wooden non-folding support canes in lengths of 34" to 42".
 - C. The folding canes in lengths varying from 40" to 56".The social worker plays a very important role in this service. The worker has the proper forms for making the request. The worker can determine the correct length cane needed by the blind person and can arrange for mobility instruction if needed.
2. **Scholarships.** Any high school senior who is the child of a blind parent may apply for aid in continuing their education. Scholarship applications and information may be obtained from the NC Lions, Inc. office or social workers for the blind.
3. **Camp Dogwood.** Any blind person is eligible to attend Camp Dogwood during the summer. The blind person, a Lions Club, or any outside organization may pay the fee. Complete information and applications are available from the Camp Dogwood Chairman, Camp Dogwood, or the NC Lions, Inc. office.
4. **Emergency Aid.** Emergency aid may include medical aid, food, fuel, clothing, rent or any one of dozens of other human needs, which must be met. Any Lion that knows of a blind person who needs some type of emergency aid should first attempt to contact the county social worker for the blind. If this contact cannot be made, call the NC Division of Services for the Blind at 919-733-9822. After all attempts to obtain aid from the State have been exhausted without meeting the need, call the North Carolina Lions, Inc. toll-free at 1-800-662-7401. Policy calls for the NC Lions, Inc. to become involved where the State has to leave off. NC Lions, Inc. aid is available through the unspecified services fund on a matching basis. To obtain this emergency aid, the local Lions Club should proceed as follows:
 - A. Investigate the request and determine that an unmet need exists which cannot be met with State funds.
 - B. Determine the amount of financial aid the Club can provide.
 - C. Complete the proper form for requesting matching funds.
 - D. Send the request form, any invoices obtained, and your Club check for one-half the amount of the invoice to the North Carolina Lions, Inc., PO Box 39, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673-0039. NC Lions, Inc. will then write one check to the service provider. All club checks should be made payable to North Carolina Lions, Inc.
 - E. If the proper request form, the Club check, and the invoices cannot be sent to the NC Lions, Inc. office together, or if you have questions about how to proceed, call the office for assistance.
5. **Other Aid.** Often Lions Clubs get requests for help that do not seem to fit into any of the above categories. These cases can best be handled by calling the NC Lions, Inc. office or the NC Division of Services for the Blind. Either Agency should be able to direct you to the proper source if aid is available.

**HOW TO OBTAIN AID FOR THE BLIND
FROM NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND**

The Division of Services for the Blind of the North Carolina Department of Human Resources provides a wide range of services for people across the State who is visually impaired or blind. These services are designed to prevent blindness, where possible, and to restore sight, if possible, and help people who lose their sight become self-sufficient and to develop their maximum individual capabilities.

To provide these services statewide, the Division has four regional offices, seven district offices, and social workers for the blind are located in county departments of social services across the State. In addition, it operates the Rehabilitation Center located on the Governor Morehead Campus, Raleigh, NC.

The division works very closely with Lions Clubs, organizations of the blind, civic clubs and other state and local agencies to help provide North Carolinians who are visually impaired the best services possible. The North Carolina General Assembly and the Congress of the United States appropriate funds for these services.

The following information is designed to give the people of North Carolina a brief glimpse of the services available. Persons related to or acquainted with individuals who are experiencing sight problems are urged to share this information with them.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Many persons who are blind lack the resources to meet their minimum financial requirements. The Division provides money payments (Special Assistance for the Blind) to eligible persons when Supplemental Security Income or other resources do not adequately meet their financial needs. Additional information and application forms for this program may be obtained from social workers for the blind in the county departments of social services.

MEDICAL/EYE CARE

Many citizens need medical/eye care services to restore their vision or prevent blindness and they are financially eligible to receive them through this program. This program provides eye examinations, glasses, treatment and surgery, hospitalization and other medical services necessary to restore vision and prevent blindness for eligible persons. Also available are group vision screening and eye care education programs. Additional information and/or application for this program may be obtained from the county departments of social services.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

This is a statewide program of special services for persons who are blind and visually impaired which is administered through the social workers for the blind in the county departments of social services. Included in the services are housing and home improvement services in some counties, chore services, individual and family counseling services, and adjustment services. These services may be provided by the social workers for the blind or purchased from other providers for eligible persons. Additional information and/or application for this program may be obtained from the social workers for the blind in the county departments of social services.

REHABILITATION SERVICES

The purpose of this program is to provide the services necessary to assist the visually impaired population in maintaining, returning to, or securing gainful employment to insure social and economic independence. The services provided include evaluation, training in vocational skills, restoration of sight through treatment and/or surgery, job placement, counseling and guidance and other services necessary to enable the individuals to engage in competitive employment and productive activities. Additional information for these services can be obtained from the Division of Services for the Blind district offices.

REHABILITATION CENTER FOR THE BLIND

A major barrier to the employment of blind and visually handicapped individuals in North Carolina is their inability to live independently. The Rehabilitation Center for the Blind provides instruction in prevocational, vocational, personal and independent living skills to severely disabled and multiply handicapped blind individuals. This training will enable them to later take advantage of vocational training, higher education and/or employment. Additional information on this center may be obtained from the Division of Services for the Blind district offices or the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind.

CONCESSION STANDS

There are some persons who are blind and visually impaired who have the skills necessary to be successful as concession stand operators. This program offers substantial job placement of these individuals. Additional information on this program may be obtained from the Division of Services for the Blind district offices.

ADDRESSES OF AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS
SERVING THE DISADVANTAGED

DIRECTORY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

Since the NC legislature enacted General Statute 62-157 and Public Law 108-364 in 2004 funding hearing adaptive technology through a tax on telephones (\$0.12 per telephone line and cell-phone service every month), and decided that this would be administrated through the Department of Adaptive Technology under the Division of services for the Blind and Hard of Hearing under the auspices of the Dept of Health and Human Services, NC Lions have discontinued their hearing programs within the state.

We can still get hearing aids through the Lions HARP and the Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Programs, but the state has a much better program. As long as the applicant DOES NOT APPLY FOR A TELEPHONE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED... he can apply for a hearing aid. (the phones cost about \$200-\$600 and the Hearing Aids cost about \$600-\$2000).

Applicants must fill out and meet the requirements on form DMA 5000 for medicaid assistance to qualify.

BOYS AND GIRLS HOMES OF NC, INC.
Bill Thompson, Director
Larry Hewitt, Dir. Of Development
PO Box 127
Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450
910-646-3083

CAMP DOGWOOD
Susan King, Prog. Mgr.
PO Box 39
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673
828-478-2135 Ext 229
800-662-7401

DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND
Eddie Weaver, Director
309 Ashe Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27606
919-733-9822
Care Line: 800-662-7030

DUKE UNIVERSITY EYE CENTER
Dr. David Epstein, Chair
Department of Ophthalmology
PO Box 3802
Durham, NC 27710
919-684-5846

ELIADA HOMES
Mark Upright, Exec. Dir.
P.O. Box 16708
Asheville, NC 28816
828-254-5356

GOVERNOR MOREHEAD SCHOOL
301 Ashe Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-733-6382

INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND
920 West Lee Street
Greensboro, NC 27402
910-274-1591

MARJORIE McCUNE CENTER
Frances Coats, Director
101 Lion Way
Black Mountain, NC 28711
828-669-8452

METROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
704 Louise Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28204
704-372-3870 ext. 101

N.C. EYE BANK INC.
3900 West Point Boulevard, Suite F
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
336-765-0932
800-552-9956

NC LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED
1811 Capitol Boulevard
Raleigh, NC 27635
919-733-4376
888-388-2460

NC SOCIETY TO PREVENT BLINDNESS
3801 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 410
Raleigh, NC 27607
919-755-5044

RALEIGH LIONS CLINIC
2100 Harrod Street
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-256-4221

UNC EYE CARE CENTER
Dr. Don Bundenz, Chair
Lion Sandy Scarlett, Develop. Dir.
130 Mason Farm Road – CB 7040
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-843-1299

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER
Dr. M.M. Slusher, Chairman
Department of Ophthalmology
Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem, NC 27157
336-748-4091

STATE OFFICE
Division of Services
for the Blind
309 Ashe Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27606
919-733-9822
Care Line: 800-662-7030

DISTRICT AND REGIONAL Division of Services for the Blind
Asheville District Office
50 South French Broad Ave
Asheville, NC 28801
828-251-6732

Charlotte District Office
5855 Executive Center Drive
Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28212
704-563-4168
800-422-1895

Fayetteville District Office
225 Green Street, Suite 500
Fayetteville, NC 27834
910-486-1582
800-422-1897

Greenville District Office
404 St. Andrews Drive
Greenville, NC 27834
252-355-9016
800-422-1877

Raleigh District Office
307 Ashe Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27606
919-733-4234
800-422-1871

Wilmington District Office
3240 Burnt Mill Drive, Suite 7
Wilmington, NC 28403
910-251-5743
800-422-1804

Winston-Salem District Office
4265 Brownsboro Road
Suite 100
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
336-896-2227
800-422-0373

REHABILITATION CENTER FOR THE BLIND
305 Ashe Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27606
919-733-5897

To Apply for a telephone or Hearing Aid:

SERVICES FOR DEAF & HARD OF HEARING
800-999-6828