

Coalition of Vision RESOURCES



This brochure has been developed by the Coalition of Vision Resources to educate Nebraskans and Iowans about the continuum of vision services available. Listed is contact information and background on the organizations participating. Questions may be directed to the perspective organization.

**Vision Problems
in the U.S. 2012
National Eye
Institute and
Prevent Blindness
America.**

	Iowa	Nebraska	U.S.
Vision Impairment	53,750	28,812	2,907,691
Cases of Blindness	17,249	9,193	1,288,275
Macular Degeneration (50 over)	28,304	15,045	2,069,403
Cataract	278,816	152,865	24,409,978
Diabetic Retinopathy	74,525	42,703	7,685,237
Glaucoma (age 40 and over)	26,947	15,166	2,719,379

Coalition of Vision Resources

NEBRASKA

Outlook Nebraska, Inc. (ONI)

“Opportunities for People Who Are Blind”

- Mission: To Enhance the Quality of Life of the Blind and Visually Impaired.
- ONI was formed in early 2000 to promote employment of the blind and visually impaired.
- ONI provides employment and workplace training to the blind and visually impaired in a converting operation that supplies 100 percent recycled fiber content washroom paper products to the U.S. Government and other customers.
- ONI is the largest employer of the blind and visually impaired in Nebraska, and we offer our employees a variety of positions, including leadership roles.
- ONI focuses on many aspects of the personal goals and professional advancement of the blind and visually impaired.
- ONI offers competitive wages and benefits to an underutilized, but very capable, group of Americans.

Contact Information:

4125 South 72nd Street

Omaha, NE 68127

Phone: 402-614-3331

E-mail: info@outlooknebraska.com

Website: www.outlooknebraska.org

Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCBVI)

The NCBVI provides training in non-visual (or "low vision") skills to Nebraskans that allow for living independently and full participation in life.

- Assistance in securing or maintaining employment
- Fulfill employment needs in Nebraska
- Career counseling and guidance resulting in employment
- Job-related equipment, tools, and supplies
- Educational assistance such as tuition, books, equipment and readers
- Provide transition programs to school age individuals
- Peer support and counseling
- Information and Referral
- Consultation services for agencies and community organizations which come into contact with blind and visually impaired persons

Individuals are eligible to receive services if they have a visual condition which may lead to blindness, or if their sight seriously limits their ability to engage day-to-day activities, obtaining or maintaining employment. There is no cost for our services.

Contact Information:

Phone: 1-877-809-2419

Website: www.ncbvi.ne.gov

Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- To represent the interests of Nebraska Ophthalmologists before state policy makers and to maximize influence on public policy decisions.
- To provide quality continuing medical education (CME) for Ophthalmologists and their technical



Left: With the voice output software that is installed on the palletizer, Jose Castaneda is able to independently operate this machine as it stacks the packed boxes of tissue.

Cover: Two orientation center students navigate a Des Moines mall with their canes.

and office staff in the state of Nebraska.

- To become initiators of both legislative and regulatory action aimed at affecting the practice and delivery of ophthalmic services.
- To provide education and resources to Nebraska Ophthalmologists.
- To be an advocate for ophthalmic health issues and to improve the ocular health of Nebraskans.

Contact Information:

233 S. 13th Street, Suite 1200
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: 402-474-4472

Nebraska Optometric Association (NOA)

The NOA's over 240 optometrists provide comprehensive, primary eye care throughout Nebraska. To find an optometrist, go to: www.nebraska.aoa.org.

Optometrists ensure people in their communities have access to convenient, comprehensive, primary and specialty eyecare care through:

- InfantSEE - a comprehensive eye assessment at no cost for infants in their first year.
- See to Learn - gives a no-cost vision assessment to three-year-olds.
- The Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision - the NFCV works to educate the community about the unique vision needs of children.
- Vision USA - helps low income, uninsured families by providing eye exams and spectacles at no charge.
- Healthy Athletes Opening Eyes - NOA members volunteer to conduct vision screenings at the State Special Olympics.
- Low Vision Rehabilitation - Optometrists assist those with vision loss to continue their daily activities; such as reading, using a computer, and driving. This involves prescribing and training with aids, such as magnifiers and telescopes, improving quality of life and ensuring independence.

Contact Information:

1633 Normandy Court, Suite A
Lincoln, NE 68512
Phone: 402-474-7716
E-mail: noa@assocoffice.net
Website: <http://nebraska.aoa.org>

Nebraska Lions Eye Bank, Inc.

- We take great pride in providing the highest quality of eye tissue for transplant to restore vision to those with corneal difficulties, while maintaining the utmost dignity and care of our donor and our donor families.
- We recover, evaluate, process and distribute human donor eye tissue for the purpose of transplant in the State of Nebraska.
- We are medically governed by the Food and Drug Administration and certified by the Eye Bank Association of America.

The Lions Eye Bank of Nebraska, Inc. has been in business for 51 years, and we were one of the first chartered Eye Banks of the Eye Bank Association of America. The Nebraska Lions were instrumental in starting the Eye Bank, and they maintain their involvement by making up 51 percent of the Eye Bank's Board of Directors.

Contact Information:

985541 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-5541
Phone: 402-559-4039

Radio Talking Book Service (RTBS)

RTBS provides information to persons who have visual or physical disabilities which prevent them from reading printed material. There are two key program areas.

The Radio Talking Book Network, founded in 1974, is Nebraska's only radio reading service. Newspapers, magazines, and books are read to a statewide audience 24 hours a day. Special radio receivers are loaned at no cost to listeners.

Textbooks are recorded for college students through the Listening Link program.

Contact Information:

Phone: 402-572-3003 (voice)
800-729-7826 (800-SAY-RTBN) (voice)
E-mail: rtbsinfo@rtbs.org
Website: www.rtbs.org

Nebraska Lions Foundation

The Nebraska Lions Foundation is supported by the Lions Clubs of Nebraska. The Foundation supports a number of services for the blind and visually and hearing impaired. This includes a Mobile Screening

Unit which travels the state providing vision and other health screenings to school children and the public.

We support the Nebraska Lions Eye Bank financially. We also support Leader Dog for the Blind and International Hearing Dog.

We provide transportation for people from Nebraska to the Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation, located on the campus of the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha; this is presented in their own article here.

Contact Information:

800 Sherman Street
Papillion, NE 68046-3783
Phone: 402-339-3364 (Voice and Fax)

Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service

The regional library serving all of Nebraska, the Talking Book and Braille Service provides free of charge:

- Audio books and magazines.
- Playback equipment.
- Braille, with an emphasis on children's and young adult's.
- Collection of recorded books and magazines about Nebraska and the Great Plains

The Nebraska Library Commission is responsible for the statewide promotion, development and coordination of library services. The Commission works with public, school, college and university, special and institutional libraries.

In addition to Talking Book and Braille Service, other primary Commission services include:

- Planning and Data Services,
- Reference and Information Services,
- Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse,
- NebraskaAccess, and Nebraska Memories.
- Continuing Education and Training, Youth Services, Librarian and Board Certification, and Library Accreditation.

Contact Information:

1200 N Street, Suite 120
Lincoln, NE 68508-2023
Phone: 1-800-742-7691
E-mail: nlc.talkingbook@nebraska.gov
Website: www.nlc.nebraska.gov

Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation

At the Weigel Williamson Center, we are dedicated to helping individuals maintain their independence, spirit, and quality of life despite irreversible vision loss. Our skilled physicians use the latest advances in technology to determine the tools, including magnifiers and telescopic devices, and training activities that are needed to assist each individual in maximizing the use of their remaining vision. Our skilled therapists provide this training in our specialized low vision house, and, in some cases, in the individual's own home. In addition to these professional services, a low vision store is also located at the Center.

Contact Information

Mailing Address: 986085 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-6085
Phone: 402-559-2463
E-mail: lowvision@unmc.edu
Website: www.unmc.edu/lowvision

IOWA

Iowa Lions Foundation

The Iowa Lions Foundation is supported by the Lions Clubs of Iowa. The foundation supports a number of services for the blind and visually impaired.

We support the Iowa Lions Eye Bank financially; we transport tissue to them for cornea transplants and research.

We are Iowa Kidsight because the foundation supports the program financially, and Lions members all over the state screen preschool children for eye problems and make referrals to eye professionals. We also support the puppy raising program for Leader Dog for the Blind.

We provide transportation for people from Southwest Iowa to the Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation, located on the campus of the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Contact Information:

2300 South Duff
Ames, Iowa 50010
Phone: 515-232-2215
Fax: 515-232-5590
E-mail: iowalions@aol.com



Certified Children's Vision Screening using the SureSight machine in a Nebraska preschool.

Iowa Lions Eye Bank (ILEB)

Since 1955, the ILEB has operated as a non-profit community based organization, dedicated to enhancing the quality of life by restoring and preserving sight through transplant and research. ILEB serves over 3 million Iowa residents and over 120 Iowa hospitals as the vital link between donors and cornea recipients, as well as a dedicated research partner in developing new and more effective prevention and treatment options for blinding eye disease. ILEB became the first eye bank in the nation to prepare grafts for Descemet's Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK) and consistently provides the highest quality of corneal tissue for Endothelial Keratoplasty (EK) as well as Laser Assisted Keratoplasty (LAK); innovative procedures that provide the best possible visual outcomes for cornea transplant patients.

There are 10 million people worldwide suffering from corneal blindness. Ninety percent of the 10 million suffering from curable cornea blindness live because of established eye banks.

Contact Information:

200 Hawkins Drive, # 11206

Iowa City, IA 52242

Phone: 319-356-2864

Website: www.iowalionseyebank.org

Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology

The Academy represents eye physicians and surgeons across Iowa. Our mission is to promote the highest quality medical and surgical eye care through public and professional education, membership services, and legislative advocacy. We implement our mission in the following ways:

- Our website includes information for the public on eye health and screening resources as well as updates for our members on important professional and legislative issues.

- We offer educational seminars for physicians, nurses, technicians, and coding/compliance professionals, based on the needs of our members.
- We represent the interests of Iowa ophthalmologists and the public with regard to vision in the State and Federal Legislatures and Regulatory Bodies.
- We collaborate with the Iowa Optometric Association, Prevent Blindness Iowa, Iowa Kidsight, and the Iowa Department for the Blind toward shared goals.

Contact Information:

Phone: 515-984-6383

E-mail: IowaAcademyOp@aol.com

Website: www.IowaEyeDocs.org

Iowa Radio Reading Information Service for the Blind and Print Handicapped, Inc. (IRIS)

IRIS exists to bring the world of information to Iowans who cannot read the printed word because of a visual impairment, physical impairment, or learning difference. IRIS provides a 24/7 audio signal of news and information to thousands of listeners across the State.

- IRIS delivers daily readings of the Des Moines Register and local papers in eight additional communities across the state.
- IRIS broadcasts readings of grocery ads, obituaries, and many national publications such as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Readers Digest, and Oprah Magazine.
- Multiple methods of delivery allow IRIS to reach our listeners wherever they live, offering our readings through FM and Digital Television signals, live web streaming, downloads and mobile access.

Contact Information:

100 E. Euclid Ave, Suite 117

Des Moines, IA 50313

Phone: 515-243-6833

Toll free (in Iowa): 877-404-4747

E-mail: iris89@netins.net

Website: www.iowaradioreading.org

Iowa Department for the Blind (IDB)

The IDB is a comprehensive state agency dedicated to providing services to blind and visually impaired Iowans.

- Vocational rehabilitation services providing help in finding or retaining a job after vision loss.
- Independent living services for seniors with vision loss or those with multiple disabilities who choose not to work.
- Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, providing access to Braille, large print and audio books and magazines. Also produces textbooks for students throughout Iowa.
- Adult Orientation & Adjustment Center, providing intensive residential training to blind and visually impaired Iowans ages 18 and older. The program provides an environment for students to build their confidence and learn the skills to keep them independent.

The IDB believes that with the proper training and encouragement, a blind or visually impaired individual can live as successful and productive a life as his or her sighted peers.

Contact Information:

524 4th Street

Des Moines, IA 50309

Phone: 515-281-1333

Toll free (in Iowa): 800-362-2587

E-mail: information@blind.state.ia.us

Website: www.idbonline.org

Iowa KidSight

Iowa KidSight is a joint project of the Lions Clubs of Iowa and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, dedicated to enhancing the early detection and treatment of vision impairments in young children (target population ages 6 to 48 months) through screening and public education.

Amblyopia ("lazy eye") is the most common vision problem in preschool-aged children. Conditions that can lead to Amblyopia are not always easy to recognize. When undetected or left untreated, Amblyopia can result in permanent vision loss that may adversely affect a person throughout life. Iowa Lions Club members provide screenings as a community service project to help detect problems early.

Contact Information:

2346 Mormon Trek Blvd. Ste. 2700

Iowa City, IA 52246

Phone: 319-353-7616

Website: www.iowaKidSight.org

Iowa Optometric Association

The Iowa Optometric Association is made up of approximately 440 optometrists that provide primary and specialty eye care to their patients. There is an optometrist's office in almost every community – visit our website at www.iowaoptometry.org and click on "Find a Doctor" to locate an optometrist near you.

Iowa Optometric Association Programs

- Diabetes education
- Pre & school aged developmental brochures
- Student vision cards for schools
- Education for all ages on eye health
- InfantSEE® (No cost assessment for infants six to 12 months – www.infantsee.org.)
- Vision USA™ - For those who qualify, VISION USA provides basic eye health and vision care services free of charge to uninsured, low-income people and their families.

Contact Information:

6150 Village View Drive, Suite 105

West Des Moines, IA 50266

Phone: 1-800-444-1772

Website: www.iowaoptometry.org

Prevent Blindness

Prevent Blindness Iowa's mission is to preserve sight and prevent blindness for a lifetime of healthy vision. The four core services provided by the organization are:

- Vision screening for preschool age children and adults
- Educational programs for all ages on various vision related topics
- Training and certification programs for health professionals
- Vision Care Outreach to help people in need obtain eye exams and glasses

Contact Information

Website: www.preventblindness.org/iowa

Phone: 515-244-4341

