

# NECO Low Vision Lab Newsletter

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## WELCOME TO THE RESOURCE ISSUE!

**There is a wide array of resources available for individuals with vision impairment.** In this issue, we will discuss information and support available from national organizations, state-specific programs and local support groups. These resources offer services such as training in daily living skills, orientation and mobility, assistive technology, access to educational materials, support networks, vocational rehabilitation, and disability determination.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

It is estimated that 12 million adults 40 years and older in the United States are living with vision impairment (VI), including more than 1 million Americans who are characterized as blind.



**The leading causes of low vision** in the United States are primarily age-related eye diseases, with [cataracts](#), [age-related macular degeneration](#), [glaucoma](#), and [diabetic retinopathy](#) being the most significant.

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# National, State and Local Organizations

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## NATIONAL

[The National Eye Institute \(NEI\)](#)  
[American Foundation for the Blind \(AFB\)](#)  
[Foundation Fighting Blindness \(FFB\)](#)  
[Prevent Blindness](#)  
[Blinded Veterans Association \(BVA\)](#)  
[Lighthouse Guild](#)  
[National Federation for the Blind \(NFB\)](#)



## STATE

[Massachusetts Commission for the Blind \(MCB\)](#)  
[Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired \(MABVI\)](#)



## LOCAL

[The Carroll Center for the Blind](#)  
[Foundation Fighting Blindness,](#)  
[Boston Chapter](#)

[The National Eye Institute \(NEI\)](#) offers information about eye conditions, materials about eye health, research news and helpful tips about living with visual impairment.

AFB's [VisionAware](#) is a free, easy-to-use informational service for adults who are blind or have low vision, their families, caregivers, healthcare providers, and social service professionals. Visitors will find tips and resources on living with blindness or low vision and information on eye diseases and disorders.



[Massachusetts Commission for the Blind \(MCB\)](#) offers social and vocational training for those who are legally blind. The commission also provides assistive technology devices and a certificate of blindness to verify legal blindness for various purposes including applying for tax exemptions.

[Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired \(MABVI\)](#) empowers individuals with low vision to continue to lead full lives. They offer vision rehabilitation, access technology training, volunteer help, counseling and peer support services. The [support groups](#) meet monthly.

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**The Carroll Center for the Blind's** services include vision rehabilitation, vocational and transition programs, assistive technology training, educational support, and recreation opportunities for individuals who are visually impaired to children, teens, adults and seniors.

## **OTHER RESOURCES**

- **IcanConnect**: provides free equipment and training for people with both significant hearing and vision loss who meet the program's disability and income eligibility guidelines.
- **Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library**: circulates more than half a million copies of accessible books, newspapers, and publications in braille, large print, and digital audio formats annually.
- **Easterseals**: offers loans of assistive technology and financial loans for obtaining devices.
- **Bookshare**: is an online library of accessible eBooks for people with print disabilities. The platform offers various accessibility features, including text-to-speech, adjustable font sizes, customizable highlighting, and braille output.
- **FFB Eye on the Cure Podcasts**: covering a range of vision-related topics.
- **WGBH Media Access Group**: offers free resources to the public such as closed caption, audio description and image description.

### **Foundation Fighting Blindness Vision Walk 2025**

Join FFB for a fun, family-friendly 5K walk supporting their mission to find treatments and cures for blinding diseases. To register, click [here](#). It will take place on Saturday, October 11. Registration opens at 9 am and the walk starts at 10:30 am. 1255 Soldiers Field Road (Artesani Park), Boston.

### **Prevent Blindness ASPECT program**

is a patient engagement program that aims to **empower individuals with vision loss and their allies to become advocates for eye health**. The program starts on **August 14** and runs through **mid-December**, meeting every **two weeks via videoconferencing**. The deadline to apply is **August 4**. You can do so [here](#).



To learn more about what we are doing at the Low Vision Lab, click [here](#), and if you would like to read our latest publications, click [here](#).

If you would like to get **more information about the lab or if you are interested in participating in research**, please contact us at: [ldmanraitc@neco.edu](mailto:ldmanraitc@neco.edu) or 617-587-5722

If you would like to **make a donation** towards the low vision program at NECO, you can do so [here](#). Make sure to chose **"Low Vision Program Support Fund"** when making the selection for which fund to support.

**THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!**

