

Figure 1 Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Logo

**MCB Stakeholder Resource Guide**

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

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***“Alone We Can Do So Little;***

***Together We Can Do So Much.”***

***Helen Keller***

# Introduction to MCB

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB) provides the highest quality rehabilitation and social services to Massachusetts residents who are blind and visually impaired, leading to their independence and full community participation.

MCB was established on July 13, 1906. The organization was originally comprised of 5 people, including Helen Keller. The group functioned as a board of directors and was established as a state agency to provide services to individuals who were blind. The original agency was organized around two residential workshops for the blind, one for men and the other for women. In 1919, the Commission was incorporated into the State Department of Education and renamed the Division of the Blind. In 1966, the agency was reestablished as the separate Commission that it remains today. Currently, MCB is one of fifteen agencies in the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS).

Today, MCB serves approximately 26,000 individuals in the Commonwealth, fulfilling their critical mission in partnership with consumers, families, community agencies, healthcare providers, and employer partners. More than 75 percent of the consumers served by MCB are over the age of 65. MCB provides two principal programs for consumers, Vocational Rehabilitation and Social Rehabilitation, in addition to offering other mission critical services such as Assistive Technology (AT), Orientation & Mobility (O&M), and Vision Rehabilitation Teaching (VRT).

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services assist older students and adults to prepare for, achieve, retain, or regain employment. The VR program is federally funded with a match from the Commonwealth.

As part of the VR program, the Randolph-Sheppard Program prepares individuals who are legally blind for a career in concessional management. There are approximately 29 Randolph-Sheppard vending stands operating across the Commonwealth.

Social Rehabilitation (SR) services assist individuals who are adjusting to blindness and support maximum personal independence and living in community. SR services are targeted to children 0-13, seniors, and anyone not served by the VR programs, including consumers in the Deaf-Blind Extended Supports (DBES) unit. The SR program is funded by the Commonwealth.

Deaf-Blind Extended Supports (DBES) services are part of the SR program and provide residential and community services to consumers who are Deaf-Blind, as well as those who are legally blind with other severe disabilities.

Children’s Services are part of the SR program and are for children from birth to 13 years and include case management; information and referral (I&R); funding for afterschool socialization and recreation programs; and advocacy and technical assistance around Individualized Education Plans (IEP).

The MCB Assistive Technology (AT) program provides critical computer and adaptive equipment training to consumers to gain/retain employment. Provided primarily to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) consumers, AT services include deployment and training on usage of devices such as screen readers that turn regular computers into talking personal computers.

Provided by Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists, MCB’s Orientation and Mobility (O&M) training allows consumers to navigate within their homes, workplace, and community. Instruction begins with an assessment of the individual’s travel needs, motivation, visual and physical abilities. In addition to the white cane, MCB provides a support cane for assistance in detecting inclines and obstacles in pathways. Falls prevention training is provided to the growing elderly blind population.

MCB’s Vision Rehabilitation Teaching (VRT) services prepare individuals who are blind to perform daily living skills safely and independently in any environment. Specialized teaching services include training in activities of daily living such as cooking, kitchen organization, safety and appliance use and self-care.

## **Letter from MCB Commissioner D’Arcangelo**

Dear MCB Stakeholders,

Thank you for your commitment to our shared community. The work that we do together is vital for so many consumers and their families across the Commonwealth.

We are encouraged by our work together, and we hope that this MCB Resource Guide serves as a comprehensive handbook to maintain and cultivate continued connections in our effort to serve people who are blind and visually impaired with a multitude of supports.

MCB is continually collecting and updating information for our Resource Guide, so please contact us at [MCBinfo@mass.gov](mailto:MCBinfo@mass.gov) anytime to request changes or to submit your information for possible inclusion.

For the latest updates from MCB, go to [www.mass.gov/mcb](http://www.mass.gov/mcb) or follow us on our social media channels: [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/massachusetts-commission-for-the-blind), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/massblind), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/massblind/), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/masscommblind), and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDytDFgCKyVqlPaPf2n7GNg).

Thank you for your continued collaboration and for all that you do in partnership with MCB.

Best regards,



Commissioner David D’Arcangelo

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Stakeholder Resource Information

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# ATHLETICS

|  |
| --- |
| Adaptive Sports New England |
| 89 South Street, Suite 603 |
| Boston, MA 02111 |
| 617-982-2763 |
| [info@adaptivesportsne.org](mailto:info@adaptivesportsne.org) |
| <http://adaptivesportsne.org> |
| <https://twitter.com/AdaptiveSportNE> |
| <https://www.facebook.com/AdaptiveSportsNE> |
| <https://www.instagram.com/adaptivesportsne> COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES American Council of the Blind – Bay State Council for the Blind  Watertown, MA  800-424-8666  773-572-6312  [briancharlson@comcast.net](mailto:briancharlson@comcast.net)  [info@acb.org](mailto:info@acb.org) <https://www.acb.org/>  <http://acbofma.org/>  <https://www.facebook.com/ACBOfMA/>  <https://twitter.com/ACBofMA>  Charles River Center  59 East Militia Heights Drive  Needham, MA 02492  781-972-1022  [info@charlesrivercenter.org](mailto:info@charlesrivercenter.org)  [https://www.charlesrivercenter.org](https://www.instagram.com/charlesrivercenter)  <https://twitter.com/charlesrivercen>  <https://www.facebook.com/TheCharlesRiverCenter>  <https://www.youtube.com/user/charlesriverctr>  https://www.instagram.com/charlesrivercenter  Lowell Association for the Blind  169 Merrimack Street, 2nd Fl.  Lowell, MA 01852  978-454-5704  [labinfo@lowellassociationfortheblind.org](mailto:labinfo@lowellassociationfortheblind.org)  <http://www.lowellassociationfortheblind.org>  <https://twitter.com/lowellblind>  <https://www.linkedin.com/company/lowell-association-for-the-blind/>  <https://www.facebook.com/LowellAssociationfortheBlind>  https://www.youtube.com/user/lowellassocblind  National Federation of the Blind  22 Cottage Park Ave. Unit 8  Cambridge, MA 02140  617-752-1116  aruell@comcast.net  <https://www.nfb.org>  <https://twitter.com/nfb_voice>  https://www.facebook.com/NationalFederationoftheBlind  <https://www.youtube.com/user/NationsBlind>  Polus Center for Social & Economic Development, Inc.  6 North Main St.  PO Box 773  Petersham, MA 01366  978-368-1550  <https://www.poluscenter.org>  <https://www.facebook.com/thepoluscenter>  <https://www.instagram.com/poluscenter>  Seven Hills Foundation  81 Hope Ave  Worcester, MA 01603  508-755-2340  [info@sevenhills.org](mailto:info@sevenhills.org)  <https://www.sevenhills.org>  <https://twitter.com/SevenHillsFound>  <https://www.linkedin.com/company/seven-hills-foundation> https://www.facebook.com/SevenHillsFoundation  https://www.youtube.com/user/sevenhillsfoundation  https://www.instagram.com/seven.hills.foundation  The Carroll Center for the Blind  770 Centre Street  Newton, MA 02458  617-969-6200  [info@carroll.org](mailto:info@carroll.org)  <https://carroll.org>  <https://twitter.com/CarrollCenter>  https://www.linkedin.com/company/carroll-center-for-the-blind  https://www.facebook.com/carrollcenter  https://www.youtube.com/user/CarrollCenter4Blind  https://www.instagram.com/thecarrollcenter  Work, Community, Independence  136 Beaver Street  Waltham, MA 02452  508-284-4034  [info@wearewci.org](mailto:info@wearewci.org)  <https://wearewci.org>  <https://twitter.com/wearewci>  <https://www.linkedin.com/company/wci---work-community-independence>  https://www.facebook.com/wearewciwaltham  <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCas1MkP0IlZg9PTmS7vjcFA>  https://www.instagram.com/wearewci |

# COUNSELING/SUPPORT GROUPS

|  |
| --- |
| Advocates  1881 Worcester Road  Framingham, MA 01701  508-628-6300  [info@advocates.org](mailto:info@advocates.org)  <https://www.advocates.org>  <https://twitter.com/Advocates_Inc>  <https://www.linkedin.com/company/advocates-inc>  <https://www.facebook.com/AdvocatesInc>  https://www.instagram.com/advocatesinc  Sight Loss Services  900 MA-134 |
| South Dennis, MA 02660 |
| 508-394-3904 |
| [info@sightloss.org](mailto:info@sightloss.org) |
| [http://sightloss.org](http://sightloss.org/) |
| <https://www.facebook.com/SightLossServicesInc> |

# EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

|  |
| --- |
| Institute for Community Inclusion - UMass Boston |
| 100 Morrissey Blvd. |
| Boston, MA 02125 |
| 617-287-4300 |
| [ici@umb.edu](mailto:ici@umb.edu) |
| [https://www.communityinclusion.org](https://www.communityinclusion.org/) |
| <https://twitter.com/ICInclusion> |
| MassHire  340 Main Street, Suite 400  Worcester, MA 01608  508-373-7628  [info@masshirecentralcc.com](mailto:info@masshirecentralcc.com)  <https://masshirecentralcc.com>  <https://twitter.com/masshirecenter>  <https://www.linkedin.com/company/masshirema>  https://www.facebook.com/masshirecenter  MassHire Boston Career Center |
| 1010 Harrison Avenue |
| Boston, MA 02119 |
| 617-541-1400 |
| [contact@masshirebostoncareerctr.org](mailto:contact@masshirebostoncareerctr.org) |
| Opportunity Works |
| Ten Opportunity Way |
| Newburyport, MA 01950 |
| 978-374-5281 |
| [info@opportunityworks.net](mailto:info@opportunityworks.net) |
| <http://opportunityworks.net>  <https://twitter.com/OpportunityWor1>  Work Inc.  25 Beach Street  Dorchester, MA 02122  617-691-1500  [info@workinc.org](mailto:info@workinc.org)  <https://www.workinc.org>  https://twitter.com/WORKInc  <https://www.linkedin.com/company/work-inc./>  <https://www.facebook.com/WORKIncDorchester>  https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5COF8Ea3fqKT-VK3vAi8KQ |

# LEGAL

|  |
| --- |
| AARP Massachusetts |
| One Beacon Street, Suite 2301 |
| Boston, MA 02108 |
| 617-305-0561 |
| [info@aarp.org](mailto:info@aarp.org) |
| [https://states.aarp.org/massachusetts](mailto:info@aarp.org) |
| <https://twitter.com/aarpma> |
| <https://www.facebook.com/AARPMA> |
| <https://www.youtube.com/user/aarpma> |
| Choice Benefits America |
| 45 Alpine Lane #38 |
| Chelmsford, MA 01824  617-719-3210  Pre-Trial Solutions, Inc.  200 High Street  Boston, MA 02110  617-542-2005  [solutions@pretrialsolutions.com](mailto:solutions@pretrialsolutions.com)  <https://www.pretrialsolutions.com> LIBRARY/LITERACY |
| AIM Library  3 Randolph Street  Canton, MA 02021  781-562-0461  [info@aimlibrary.org](mailto:info@aimlibrary.org)  <https://www.aimlibrary.org>  National Braille Press  88 St. Stephen Street  Boston, MA 02115  617-266-6160  [info@nbp.org](mailto:info@nbp.org)  <https://www.nbp.org>  <https://twitter.com/braillepress>  <https://www.facebook.com/NationalBraillePress> <https://www.youtube.com/user/NationalBraillePress> https://www.instagram.com/nationalbraillepress  Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library |
| 175 North Beacon Street |
| Watertown, MA 02472 |
| 617-972-7249 |
| [library@perkins.org](https://www.youtube.com/c/PerkinsVision) |
| [https://www.perkins.org/library](https://www.instagram.com/perkinsvision) |
| https://twitter.com/perkinsvision |
| https://www.linkedin.com/company/perkins-school-for-the-blind |
| https://www.facebook.com/OfficialPerkins |
| https://www.youtube.com/c/PerkinsVision |
| https://www.instagram.com/perkinsvision |

# MEDICAL

|  |
| --- |
| Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) |
| 10 Lincoln Square |
| Worcester, MA 01608 |
| 508-373-5830 |
| [info@mcphs.edu](mailto:info@mcphs.edu) |
| <https://www.mcphs.edu> |
| https://twitter.com/mcphsboston |
| <https://www.linkedin.com/company/massachusetts-college-of-pharmacy-and-health-sciences> |
| https://www.facebook.com/MCPHSUniversity |
| https://www.youtube.com/user/MCPHStv |
| https://www.instagram.com/mcphsadmission |
| Massachusetts Eye and Ear |
| 243 Charles Street |
| Boston, MA 02114 |
| 617-523-7900 |
| info@masseyeandear.org |
| https://www.masseyeandear.org |
| https://twitter.com/MassEyeAndEar |
| <https://www.linkedin.com/company/massachusetts-eye>-and-ear |
| https://www.facebook.com/MassEyeAndEar |
| <https://www.youtube.com/masseyeandear> |
| Massachusetts Health Institute |
| 2 Center Plaza, Suite 200 |
| Boston, MA 02108 |
| 617-371-3999 |
| [ehealth@masstech.org](mailto:ehealth@masstech.org)  https://www.mehi.masstech.org |
|  |
| Massachusetts Society of Optometrists |
| 48 Auburn Street |
| Auburn, MA 01501 |
| 508-875-7900 |
| [info@maoptometry.org](mailto:info@maoptometry.org) |
| [https://www.maoptometry.org](https://twitter.com/massoptom) |
| New England College of Optometry |
| 424 Beacon Street |
| Boston, MA 02115 |
| 617-266-2030 |
| [info@neco.edu](mailto:info@neco.edu) |
| <https://www.neco.edu> |
| <https://twitter.com/NECO424> |
| <https://www.linkedin.com/company/new-england-college-of-optometry> |
| https://www.facebook.com/NewEnglandCollegeofOptometry |
| https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7TGBzdrTGtyPGJvw6AVpxQ |
| New England College of Optometry (Center for Eye Care) |
| 930 Commonwealth Ave |
| Boston, MA 02215 |
| 617-396-8595 |
| [eyecare@neco.edu](mailto:eyecare@neco.edu) |
| New England Eye Center  Tufts Medial Center, Biewend Bldg., 9-11 Fl., 260 Tremont St.  Boston, MA 02116  617-636-4677  [info@neec.com](mailto:info@neec.com)  <https://www.neec.com>  <https://www.facebook.com/New-England-Eye-Center-299723704064756/>  Schepens Eye Research Institute |
| 20 Staniford Street |
| Boston, MA 02114 |
| 617-912-0100 |
| development@meei.harvard.edu |
| [http://schepens.harvard.edu](http://schepens.harvard.edu/) |

# MISC.

Avila Textiles, Inc.

620 Spring St.

North Dighton, MA 02764

508-828-5882

[info@avilatextilesinc.com](mailto:info@avilatextilesinc.com)

<http://www.avilatextilesinc.com>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/avilatextiles>

<https://www.facebook.com/avilatextiles>

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Harvard University

10 Garden Street

Cambridge, MA 02138

617-496-9416

[info@radcliffe.harvard.edu](mailto:info@radcliffe.harvard.edu)

<https://twitter.com/radinstitute>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/radcliffe-institute-for-advanced-study-at-harvard-university>

<https://www.facebook.com/RadcliffeInstitute>

<https://www.youtube.com/radcliffeinstitute>

https://www.instagram.com/radcliffe.institute

# READING SERVICES

|  |
| --- |
| Audible Local Ledger, Inc. |
| 681 Falmouth Road, Deer Crossing A-27 |
| Mashpee, MA 02649 |
| 508-539-2030 |
| info@AudibleLocalLedger.org |
| <http://www.audiblelocalledger.org>  Audio Journal  799 W Boylston Street  Worcester, MA 01606  508-797-1117  [info@audiojournal.org](mailto:info@audiojournal.org)  <https://audiojournal.org> |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Berkshire Talking Chronicle |
| 208 West Street |
| Pittsfield, MA 01201 |
| 413-442-1562 |
| [info@ucpwma.org](mailto:info@ucpwma.org) |
| http://ucpwma.org/assistive-technology-at/at-resources |
| https://twitter.com/BerkshireTC |
| National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Newsline  1800 Johnson Street  Baltimore MD 21230 410-659-9314  866-504-7300  [nfb@nfb.org](mailto:nfb@nfb.org)  <https://www.nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-newsline>  Talking Information Center |
| 130 Enterprise Drive |
| Marshfield, MA 02050 |
| 781-834-4400 |
| [general@ticnetwork.org](mailto:general@ticnetwork.org) |
| [https://ticnetwork.org](https://www.instagram.com/ticnetwork) |
| https://twitter.com/ticnetwork |
| https://www.facebook.com/ticnetwork |
| <https://www.instagram.com/ticnetwork>  Valley Eye Radio 44 Hampden Street  Springfield, MA 01103  413-747-7337  [info@valleyeyeradio.org](mailto:info@valleyeyeradio.org)  <https://valleyeyeradio.org> |

# REHABILITATION

|  |
| --- |
| Mass Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired |
| 200 Ivy Street |
| Brookline, MA 02446 |
| 617-738-5110 |
| mabvi@mabcommunity.org |
| <https://www.mabvi.org> |
| https://twitter.com/TheMABVI |
| https://www.facebook.com/mabvi |
| https://www.youtube.com/user/themabvi |
| Massachusetts Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Network |
| MA |
| 617-817-3230 |
| district33alions@gmail.com |
| https://www.lovrnet.org/district/md33 |
| <https://twitter.com/lovrnet> |
| <https://www.facebook.com/Lions-Low-Vision-Rehabilitation-Network-LOVRNet-402059116813935> |

# RESIDENTIAL/INDEPENDENT LIVING

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Community Systems Inc | |
| 3 Cedarhill Park Drive | |
| Plymouth, MA 02360 | |
| 508-833-0945 | |
| info@csi-ma.org | |
| Deaf Inc |
| 215 Brighton Ave |
| Boston, MA 02134 |
| 617-254-4041 |
| info@deafinconline.org |
| [https://www.deafinconline.org](https://www.deafinconline.org/) |
| [https://communitysystems.org](https://communitysystems.org/) | |
| New England Villages | |
| 664 School Street | |
| Pembroke, MA 02359 | |
| 781-293-5461 | |
| [info@newenglandvillage.org](https://www.facebook.com/NewEnglandVillage) | |
| https://newenglandvillage.org | |
| https://www.facebook.com/NewEnglandVillage | |
| https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbrA6KoZnaDi\_dRIVJmvjVQ | |

# SENIORS

|  |
| --- |
| Massachusetts Councils on Aging |
| 116 Pleasant Street, Suite 306 |
| Easthampton, MA 01027 |
| 413-527-6425 |
| info@mcoaonline.com |
| https://mcoaonline.com |
| https://facebook.com/masscouncilsonaging |

# YOUTH

|  |
| --- |
| New England Consortium for Deafblind Technical Assistance and Training (NEC)  175 North Beacon Street  Watertown, MA 02472  617-972-7517  [info@perkins.org](mailto:info@perkins.org)  <https://www.perkins.org/services/nec>  <https://twitter.com/perkinsvision>  <https://www.linkedin.com/company/perkins-school-for-the-blind> <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialPerkins>  <https://www.youtube.com/c/PerkinsVision>  <https://www.instagram.com/perkinsvision>  Our Space, Our Place |
| 1481 Tremont Street |
| Boston, MA 02120 |
| 617-459-4084 |
| president@ourspaceourplace.org |
| [http://www.ourspaceourplace.org](http://www.ourspaceourplace.org/) |
| https://www.facebook.com/ourspaceourplace |

|  |
| --- |
| Partners for Youth with Disabilities |
| 5 Middlesex Ave. Suite 307 |
| Somerville, MA 02145 |
| 617-556-4074 |
| [info@pyd.org](mailto:info@pyd.org) |
| <https://www.pyd.org> |
| https://twitter.com/PYDboston |
| https://www.facebook.com/pydboston |
| https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ALXsI7RVZfxzoWv7No1Xg |
| Perkins School for the Blind |
| 175 North Beacon Street |
| Watertown, MA 02472 |
| 617-924-3434 |
| [info@perkins.org](mailto:info@perkins.org) |
| https://www.perkins.org |
| https://twitter.com/perkinsvision |
| [https://www.linkedin.com/company/perkins-school-for-the-blind](https://www.instagram.com/perkinsvision) |
| https://www.facebook.com/OfficialPerkins |
| https://www.youtube.com/c/PerkinsVision |
| https://www.instagram.com/perkinsvision |