



NC Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Journey into the DeafBlind World

June is DeafBlind Awareness Month
Theme: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

June 2021

Did you know?

- **“DeafBlind” is used to describe people with various degrees and types of BOTH losses, hearing and vision.**
- **People can become DeafBlind at any age. Causes can include illness, injury and/or genetics.**
- **Can and do lead productive lives especially when they have the training and support to maximize their independence.**
- **Use a variety of communication methods, depending on the age of onset, the degree and type of hearing and vision loss and the communication environment they are in.**
- **According to the 2019 statistics from the Helen Keller National Center, approximately 84,000 people in North Carolina are DeafBlind.**

A DIVERSE DeafBlind Community



Delegates from the 2020 North Carolina Deaf-Blind Associates (NCDBA) conference. NCDBA prides itself for being all-inclusive with a board and membership including DeafBlind and hearing/sighted individuals with different communication modalities, racial and ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientation and identities, ages, education and employment.

To learn more, visit their website at: www.ncdba.org

SOURCE: Photo courtesy of DSDHH

Be An Ally

- Always identify self when speaking.
- Tap their upper arm to get their attention.
- Recognize each DeafBlind person is unique and ask for their preferred way of communicating.
- Provide a qualified sign language interpreter upon request.
- Adjust lighting or seating arrangements upon request.
- Inform of changes in environment such as furniture placement, closures, obstacles, and possible hazards.
- Ensure written materials are available in accessible formats.
- Include text descriptions and audio/visual transcripts for photos and videos.
- Stay informed about events, training opportunities and resources by contacting your local DSDHH Regional Center to subscribe to their newsletter and monthly event calendars.
[NC DSDHH regional center](#)

DeafBlind and COVID-19

- The scope of the outbreak and its new normal have posed unique challenges to daily life for DeafBlind Individuals.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFojVq5luAo>

- DSDHH COVID-19 and Hearing Loss Resources

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dsdhh>

DeafBlind Services in NC

- **Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH)**
[Find one of the seven DSDHH regional centers near you](#)
 - **Two Deaf-Blind Services Specialists**
 - **Peer support and Self-Advocacy Training**
 - **National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP/iCC) www.iCanConnect.org**
- **Division of Services for the Blind (DSB)**
 - **Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living Services**
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dsb>
- **NC Deaf-Blind Project**
<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/disability-resources/deaf-blind>
 - **Support for children, families and schools**
 - **ECU Teacher Support Program**
 - **Exceptional Children Assistance Center (ECAC)**

Contact us

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