

NORTH CAROLINA DeafBlind Project



Do you know a child or family of a child, birth to 22, with both vision and hearing loss?

Free supports from the North Carolina DeafBlind Project may be available.

What is DeafBlindness?

DeafBlindness is the combination of functional, medical or progressive vision and hearing loss which may interfere with a child's ability to:

- communicate and interact with others;
- access information; or
- move about safely and efficiently in familiar and unfamiliar settings.

The type and severity of the combined losses differs from child to child and can have a significant impact on their development and learning. A child with DeafBlindness does not have to be totally deaf and blind. In addition to DeafBlindness, many children may also have another disability or diagnosis:

- Intellectual disability
- CHARGE syndrome
- Usher syndrome
- Sensory integration disorder
- Down syndrome, and others, etc.

What Supports Are Available?

All supports are provided to eligible children, their families and educators at no cost!

- Educational training for families, educators, and service providers
- Assistance in developing education and transition plans
- Technical Assistance for education personnel in school, home, and community settings
- Family networking opportunities through in person events, phone calls, social media, etc.
- Information and resources for community, medical, and adult services

Who is Eligible?

Children, birth to 22, with a combination of vision and hearing loss, OR with degenerative conditions that may lead to DeafBlindness may be eligible for supports from the North Carolina DeafBlind Project. Supports can begin when the child is placed on the NC DeafBlind Census. The Census is a written record of all the children with DeafBlindness in NC who are eligible for supports. It is maintained by NCDPI's Office of Exceptional Children and updated annually. For information on how to place a child on the Census, please contact one of the Project Directors below.

Getting Help Early is Important!

- Hearing and vision are essential to a child's early development.
- Learning begins at birth, but supports can start at any age.

For program information, NC Census and eligibility questions, and technical support:

Dr. Alan Chase – NCDPI

alan.chase@dpi.nc.gov or 984-236-2582

Virginia Madorin – NCDPI

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Dr. Sandra Warren – ECU Teacher Support Program

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Brittany Cutshaw – ECAC Family Support Program

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