

Deaf-Blind Living Well Services (DBLWS)

What is deafblindness?

A deaf-blind person is anyone who has a combined hearing and vision loss.

What is a Support Service Provider (SSP)?

SSPs link individuals who are deaf-blind to their environment by:

- being a human guide
- facilitating communication (but not as an interpreter)
- providing information about their surroundings (example: a layout of a room)

After receiving 16 hours of training, SSP's can help a deaf-blind person with reading and sorting mail, running errands, grocery shopping, clothes shopping, attending organizational meetings, participating in community and social activities, and taking a walk around a park. SSP's are not attendants, care takers or teachers.

Why do we need a Support Service Provider program?

Deaf-blind persons can be isolated, suffer from depression, and not have the same opportunities as others to participate in their community, society and their own lives. SSP's empower a deaf-blind person to become independent and to maintain that independence. SSP's do not make decisions for a deaf-blind person. When SSP's provide information in a non-bias way, facilitate communication, assist in navigating; the deaf-blind person then can make informed choices and decisions.

Who benefits from the DBLWS state-wide SSP program?

Individuals who qualify as deaf-blind, who are over the age of 18 years old and who can be responsible for their personal affairs.

For more information about the Deaf-Blind Living Well Services or about becoming an SSP, please contact Marsha Drenth at DBLWS@cilcp.org or video phone at 717-255-0124 or text 469-583-1975.