



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND & PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF REHABILITATION SERVICES
SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

“Helping individuals with disabilities to choose, find and keep employment”

NEWSLINE® Program

Legislation has established funding for a new service in conjunction with the National Federation of the Blind NEWSLINE© Program. This is a comprehensive newspaper reading service that is accessible through the use of any touch-tone telephone.

Lifetime learning, including detailed awareness of current events, is part of what makes us good citizens, successful employees or employers and valuable participants in community life. Without ready access to information, none of us can reach his or her potential. This program makes it possible for individuals who are blind to gain access to information in newspapers at the same time as everyone else.

- This service is available for anyone who is blind, visually impaired or print handicapped. All individuals who are blind or visually impaired are verified eligible by Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Individuals who are print handicapped need to provide medical documentation regarding disability.
- Applications are processed through Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired and secure access codes are assigned to access the National Federation of the Blind database.
- Welcome letters and instructions in use of the program are mailed within 2 days of receipt of application. The Agency’s rehabilitation teaching services are available for those who need individual instructions.
- Using a regular touch tone telephone, individuals can access more than 200 newspapers and magazines, including The Providence Journal, The New York Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, and the AARP Monthly Newsletter.
- Individuals can access the particular newspaper, section and article. Many options are available, such as changing the speed and tone of the voice, search mode, spell mode and establishment of a “favorites” list.
- The service is provided through a contract with the National Federation of the Blind. **The service is provided at no cost to the reader.**

If you are interested in receiving this service, please complete the application form and return it to the agency at the address below. Remember that the service is provided at no cost to those who are eligible!

For more information, contact:
Linda Hughes, Casework Supervisor
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
401-222-2300 x423
lindah@ors.ri.gov