

NEWSLINE

I. LEGAL AUTHORITY:

RI General Laws Chapter 504-2004-H8527 AS AMENDED, enacted 7/7/04
AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS:
ADAPTIVE TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM COMMITTEE

II. POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE:

The Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) shall administer and promote a program to provide telephone access to the text of newspaper programs to residents who are blind, deaf/blind, visually impaired or reading impaired with a single party telephone line.

III. PROCEDURES:

- A. Telephone access to the text of newspaper programs shall be provided through a contract with the National Federation of the Blind's NEWSLINE.
- B. NEWSLINE shall be promoted to individuals who are blind, visually impaired, deaf/blind or reading impaired through individual contact with agency consumers, public service announcements, and community outreach activities.
- C. Applications for NEWSLINE will be processed by the agency, which will determine eligibility for this program. Individuals registered for the service utilize a telephone line to access the toll-free telephone number.
- D. Individuals eligible are:
 - 1. Persons whose visual acuity, as determined by competent authority, is 20/60 or worse in the better eye with corrective lenses, or whose widest diameter of visual field is not greater than 20 degrees or
 - 2. Persons certified by a competent authority as having a reading disability resulting from an organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent their reading printed material in a normal manner.
 - 3. Persons who live in the state of Rhode Island.