



Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs  
John O. Pastore Center  
Hazard Building  
74 West Road  
Cranston, RI 02920

## **RHODE ISLAND SENIOR BEAT**

**BY:** Larry Grimaldi, Chief of Information & Public Relations  
462-0509 [lgrimaldi@dea.ri.gov](mailto:lgrimaldi@dea.ri.gov)

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### **SENIORS AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES HAVE RESOURCES TO GET THE INFORMATION AND HELP THEY NEED TO STAY IN THE COMMUNITY**

**CRANSTON---**Rhode Island seniors and adults with disabilities have many resources that can enhance their quality of life as they continue to live in the community. There are many state agencies and organizations that have taken up the banners of support and advocacy. Here are some of those agencies:

The Assistive Technology Access Partnership is a group of agencies that work together to reduce or eliminate barriers to access or funding for assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities of all ages. Call 421-7005, ext. 421, or go to [www.atap.ri.gov](http://www.atap.ri.gov).

The Rhode Island Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan Program provides demonstrations, training and long term loan and device reutilization services of specialized telephone equipment to qualified individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, have a speech impairment, or who suffer from neuromuscular damage or disease, that hinders them from using a standard telephone. Call 421-7005, ext. 357, or go to [www.atel.ri.gov](http://www.atel.ri.gov).

The Rhode Island Brain Injury Resource Center improves access to educational materials and resources for survivors of brain injury, family members and professionals in the field. Call 461-6599, or go to [www.biaofri.org](http://www.biaofri.org).

Persons who had a significant development disability before age 22 should call the Division of Developmental Disabilities at the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals about options for various services. Call 462-3201, or go to [www.bhddh.gov](http://www.bhddh.gov).

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The Governor's Commission on Disabilities ensures that all people with disabilities are afforded the opportunities to exercise all the rights and responsibilities afforded to citizens of this state and ensures that each person with a disability is able to reach his/her maximum potential in independence, human development, productivity, and self-sufficiency. Call 462-0100, or go to [www.disabilities.ri.gov](http://www.disabilities.ri.gov). Living in Fulfilling Environments, Inc. provides a wide range of community-based experiences and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities. Call 254-2910, or go to [www.lifeinc.ri.org](http://www.lifeinc.ri.org).

The Office of Rehabilitative Services administers the Disability Determination Services program for the Social Security Administration. This unit determines the medical eligibility of individuals with disabilities applying for cash benefits. Call 222-3182, or go to [www.ors.ri.gov](http://www.ors.ri.gov).

PARI can provide information about services, housing, or transportation for adults with disabilities. PARI also runs a Personal Care Assistant Program. Call 725-1966, or go to [www.pari-ilc.org](http://www.pari-ilc.org).

Opportunities Unlimited For People With Differing Abilities, Inc. provides support services for adults with disabilities. Services include case management, assistance with personal care, money management, and day services. Services can occur in the home or in a home operated by the agency. Call 942-9044, or go to [www.oui.org](http://www.oui.org).

Ocean State Center for Independent Living provides information about services, housing, or transportation for adults with disabilities. Call 738-1013 or 1-866-857-1161, or go to [www.oscil.org](http://www.oscil.org).

Rhode Island Hospital at 444-5485, Memorial Hospital of Pawtucket at 729-2022 or 723-2050-TTY and URI Hearing and Speech Centers in Kingston at 874-5969 or 874-4292 diagnose and treat hearing, speech, language and swallowing problems.

Relay Rhode Island/711 can connect hearing-impaired Rhode Islanders with various government agencies and also assist them in completing the call. Call 1-800-745-5555 (English-TTY) or 1-866-355-9214 (Spanish-TTY).

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The Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing administers a sign language interpreter service and provides information and referral. Call 256-1204 (V/VP), or log on to [www.cdhh.ri.gov](http://www.cdhh.ri.gov).

IN-SIGHT helps blind persons develop skills in communication, mobility, orientation, self-care and homemaking. Call 941-3322, or go to [www.in-sight-ri.org](http://www.in-sight-ri.org). Saving Sight conducts glaucoma screening programs and public information campaigns to detect and fight causes of blindness. Call 738-1150, or go to [www.savingsightri.org](http://www.savingsightri.org).

State Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides vocational rehabilitation, counseling, medical evaluation, home teaching and other services. Call 222-2300 (Voice) or 222-3010 (TTY), or go to [www.ors.state.ri.us](http://www.ors.state.ri.us).

Any resident 65 or older who does not have an ophthalmologist can receive no-cost medical eye care services through the EyeCare America Seniors Program. Call the Help Line at 1-800-222-3937, or log on to [www.eyecareamerica.org](http://www.eyecareamerica.org).

Persons who have a visual impairment or physical disability that hinders them from using traditional library materials may borrow books and magazines in large print, braille, or talking books on cassette or disc, free of charge, through Talking Books Plus. Machines and materials are shipped free directly through the U.S. mail. However, the statewide library delivery system allows homebound persons to return materials through their local public library. Call 574-9310, or visit [www.olis.ri.gov/tbp](http://www.olis.ri.gov/tbp).

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The Department of Elderly Affairs was established as a cabinet-level position in 1977 under Rhode Island General Law 42-66-1. DEA is responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive system of programs and services for Rhode Islanders ages 60 and older and for adults with disabilities. DEA is also the state's single planning and service Area Agency on Aging under the provisions of the Older Americans Act of 1965.