

## TECHNOLOGY TIPS AND SOLUTIONS FOR LIVING WITH LOW VISION/BLINDNESS

Assistive Technology consists of products, equipment and systems that enhance learning, working and daily living for people with disabilities. Cleveland Sight Center has staff members who are RESNA (Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America) Certified Assistive Technology Professionals on-staff at the agency.

The Assistive Technology world covers a wide range of devices and technology for a variety of vision needs. If you are in need of adaptations for your specific vision impairment, specialists can help you navigate what you're specifically looking for. It's tempting to look online for ideas and purchase what looks useful, however, you may spend money on something that isn't the ideal solution for YOU.

Are you looking for a new device to help you live well with vision loss? Are you looking for help with how to go about this?

- We recommend first being seen by your Low Vision Ophthalmologist to address any medical needs your eyes may have.
- Next, if applicable, visit CSC's [Low Vision Clinic](#) and have the Low Vision Optometrists determine a prescription for glasses that can maximize your vision.
- Your third step would be an Assistive Technology assessment. If you need help reading, using the computer, using a smartphone or tablet, or other tasks – you can be assisted in determining what may work best for you.
  - Solutions may include handheld video magnifiers, CCTVs, optical scanning solutions, software and more! It is important to know that some solutions require training and time to master. This is particularly true with computers and smart technology.
  - To schedule an Assistive Technology assessment, call your OOD/BSVI counselor, or [Susie Meles](#) if you do not have a counselor.

### Did You Know?

- A **Screen Reader** is software that speaks out loud text displayed on a screen. They also are able to send this information to a braille display.
- **Screen Magnifier** software makes everything on the screen larger—but in a different way than typical settings can.
- If you use **speech-to-text** you are talking *to* the computer instead of typing. (Generally this is recommended only if you physically cannot use a keyboard.)

For more information on Assistive Technology at CSC, [click here](#) or [contact us via email!](#)