

Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youths and Adults

Working with DeafBlind Youth and Adults from Communication Strategies to Transition Planning

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HKNC



Helen Keller
NATIONAL CENTER
for DeafBlind Youths and Adults



Goals For this Workshop

After this session, participants will be able to:

- ...identify the four DeafBlind populations
- ...describe three main communication methods.
- ...describe two other alternative communication strategies
- ...describe two types of work experiences for traditional job seekers.
- ...describe two types of work experiences for CE.



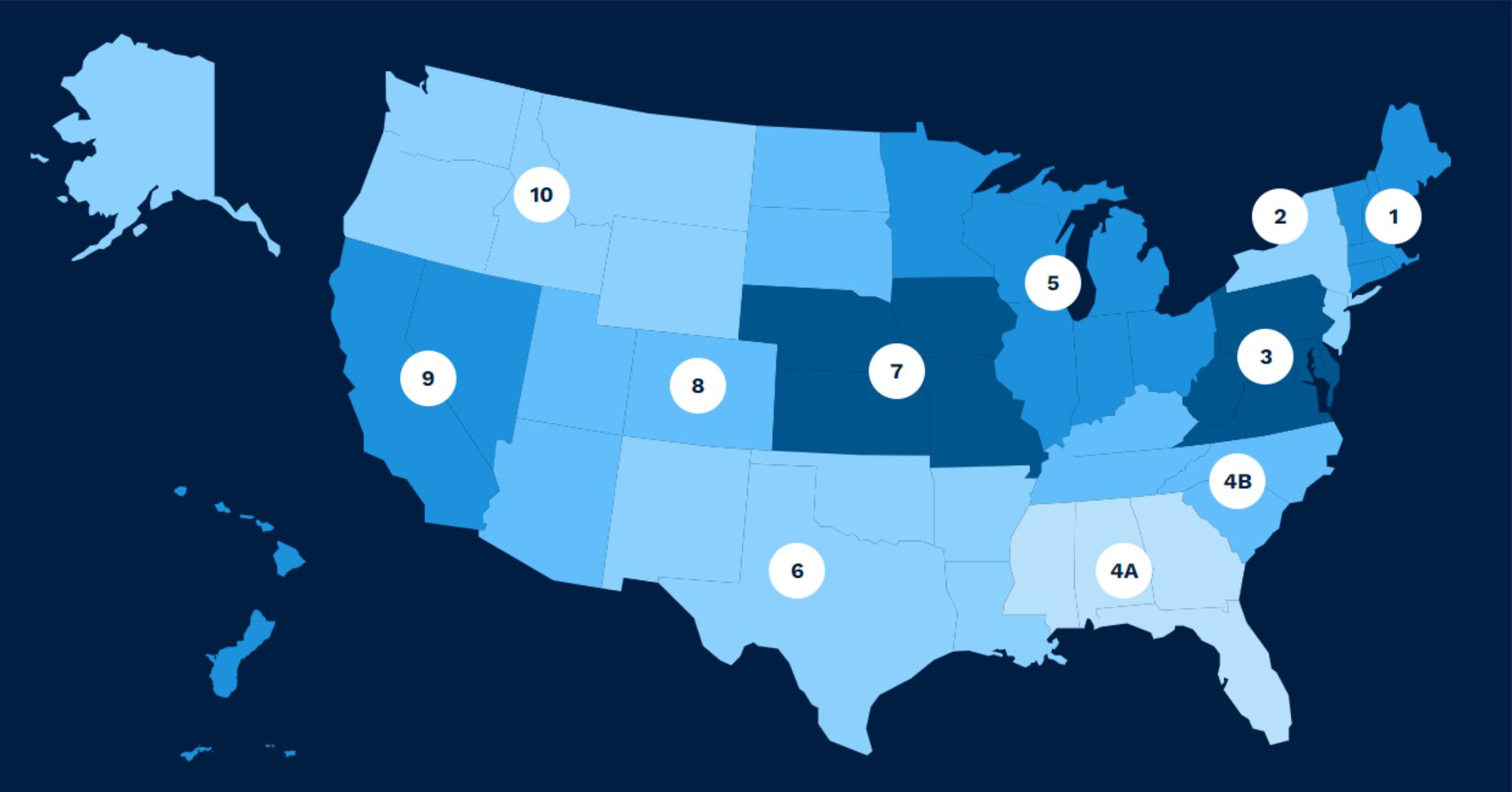
Helen Keller National Center

- The Center is in Sands Point, New York (essentially Port Washington)
- Federally funded, non-profit
- Work with DeafBlind ages 16 and up; 1:1
- Focusing on Technology, Independent Living, Orientation and Mobility, Communication Training, and Vocational Training





Regional Offices/Field Services





National Services



- Ten Regional Offices with 11 Representatives
 - Two Community Service Programs (CSP)
- One Senior Adults Representative (for the 55 & better)
- Information Research Professional Development
- National Employment Business Relations Specialist
- DB NCOP –National Community of Practice



Regional Representative

- **Lifelong point of contact** (transition age – senior citizens)
- Connecting local & national resources
- Advocacy support to individuals, families & providers
- Consultation, technical assistance and in-service training
- Collaborate on the youth transition process with the DBPs
- Report state & national data (Registry)
- <https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc/national-registry>



Field Services

- Regional Office Assistants – Lifeline!
- DeafBlind Employment Specialist – Tennessee
- DeafBlind Employment Specialist – Kentucky
 - Customized Employment
- Youth Services Coordinator
- Community Services Program



Collaboration & Early Intervention

Team Approach: Advocacy, History, Resources, Knowledge

- Consumer and/or Family (circle of support)
- DeafBlind Project
- State DeafBlind Coordinator
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services & Schools
- State Service Providers (CRPs)



Who is Considered DeafBlind?

- A person with a combined vision and hearing loss
- Only a very small percentage are fully deaf and fully blind
- Most have some usable vision and/or hearing
- DeafBlind does not equate to Deaf + Blind





Are You Serving Someone “DeafBlind”?

To receive HKNC services, the individual....

- Does not need to look like Helen Keller
- Can be hard of hearing with low vision
- Can communicate with speech and use hearing aids
- Do not need to be FULLY Deaf & FULLY Blind



Helen Keller

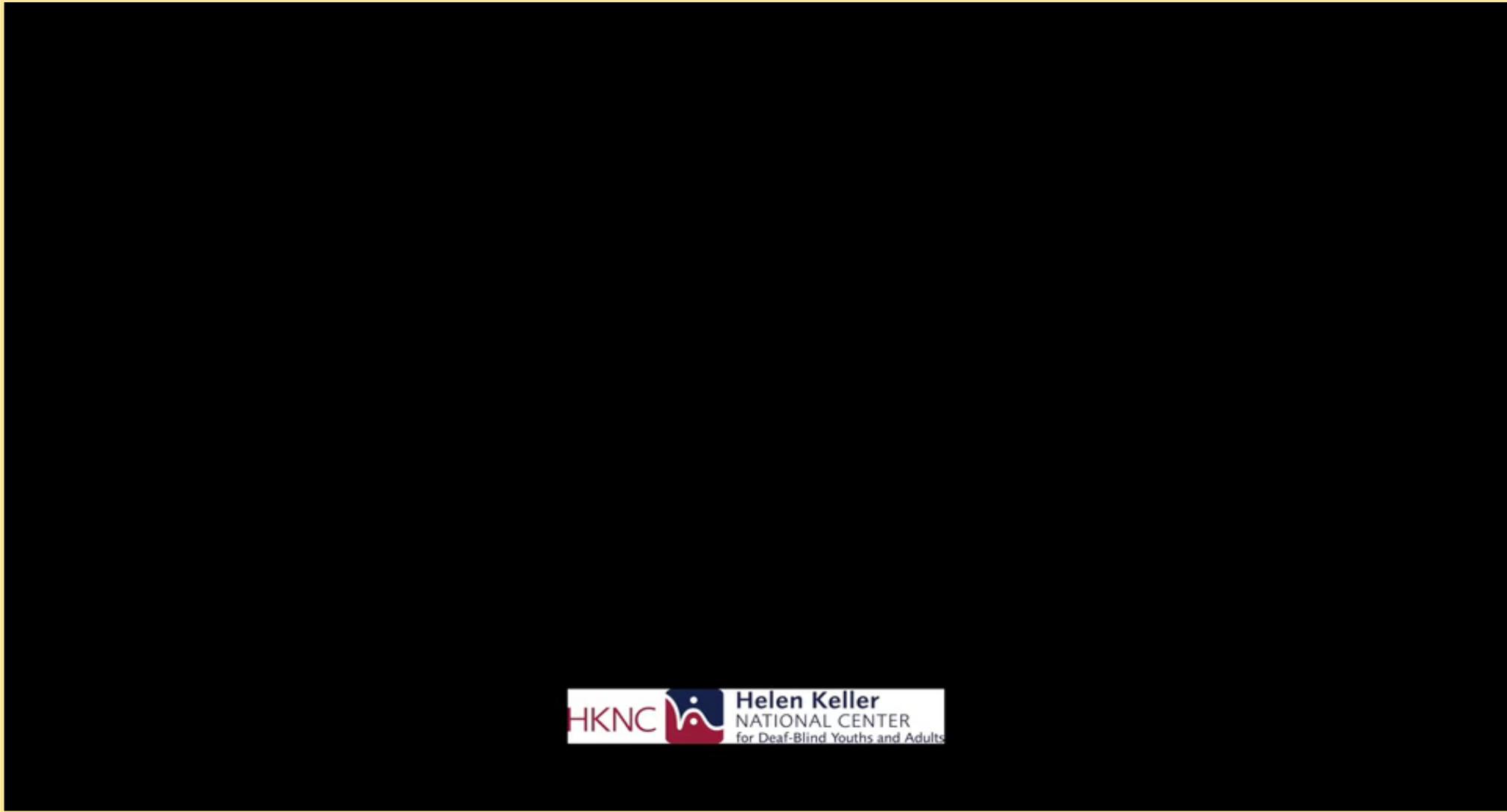


Number of DeafBlind People in the US

In 2021, a study performed HKNC's IRPD staff estimates that there are as many as 2.47 million individuals in the USA who are DeafBlind.



Respectful Interactions



HKNC Training Programs



Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Assessment

- Areas for Training:

- Adaptive Technology
- Communication Learning Center
- Independent Living
- Orientation and Mobility
- Vocational Services (Work Experience)



Orientation & Mobility



Vocational Services





Communications Learning Center (CLC)



Identify Communication Preferences

- Makes sure to ask!
- Oral/Aural
- Sign Language
- Combination
- Text (texting, email, note writing)
- Expressive vs Receptive communication



Audiology and Low Vision



Creative Arts



Services Provided

- Advocacy Training
- Creative Arts
- Peer Support Groups
- Mental Health Supports
- Case Management, a.k.a Rehabilitation Counselors



Summer Youth Programs

Ages 16-23

- My Pursuit of Work Empowerment & Resources (M~POWER)
 - **2-week program**
- Summer Youth Vocational Program (SYVP)
 - **6-week program**
- Summer Assessment Program (SAP)
 - **8-week program**



Confident Living Program (CLP)

One-week program specially designed for Older Adults (55 +)

Provides information and training on:

- Laws for the elderly (POA, Last Will, etc.)
- Communication strategies
- Self-advocacy skill training
- Hands-on sessions on assistive technology
- And much more ...



Provided: at HKNC, on the road, virtually

DeafBlind Immersion Experience

Five Days at the Center or On the Road



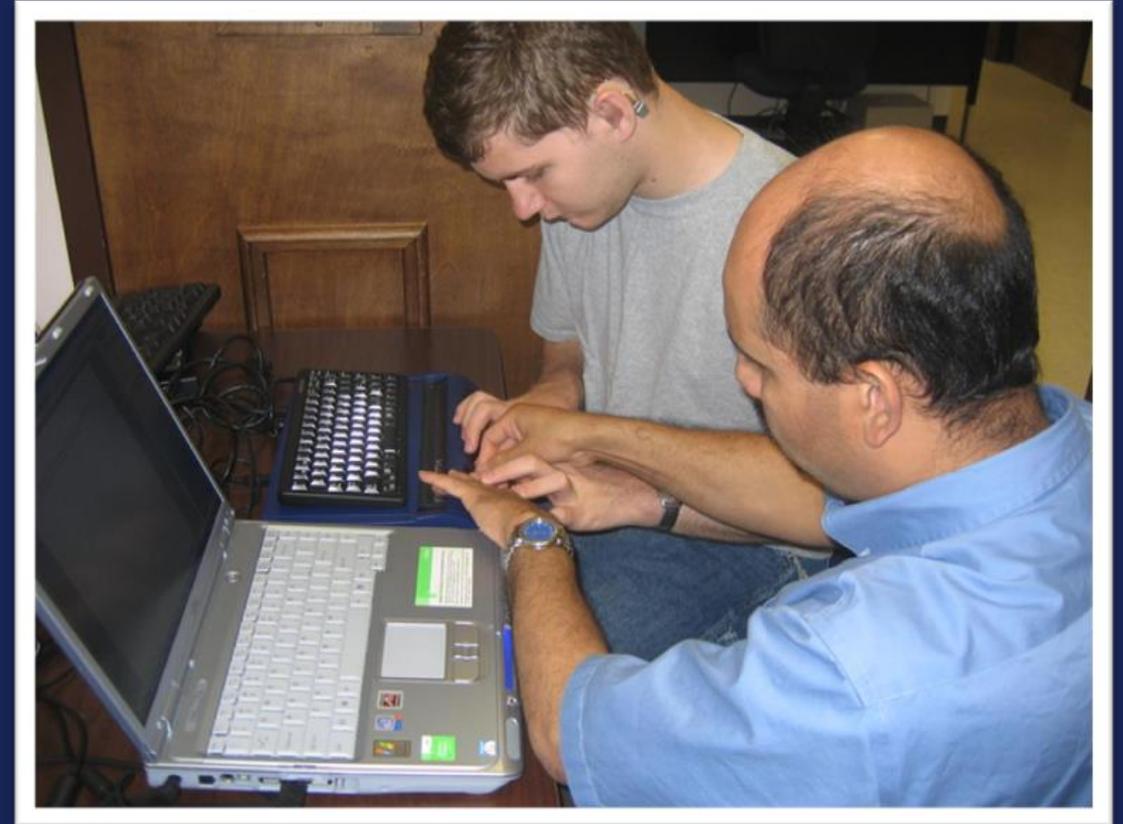
- Person Centered Planning
- Lifestyle assessment through participation
- Individualized communication system
- Functional assessments
- Work-based learning

HKNC Professional Training

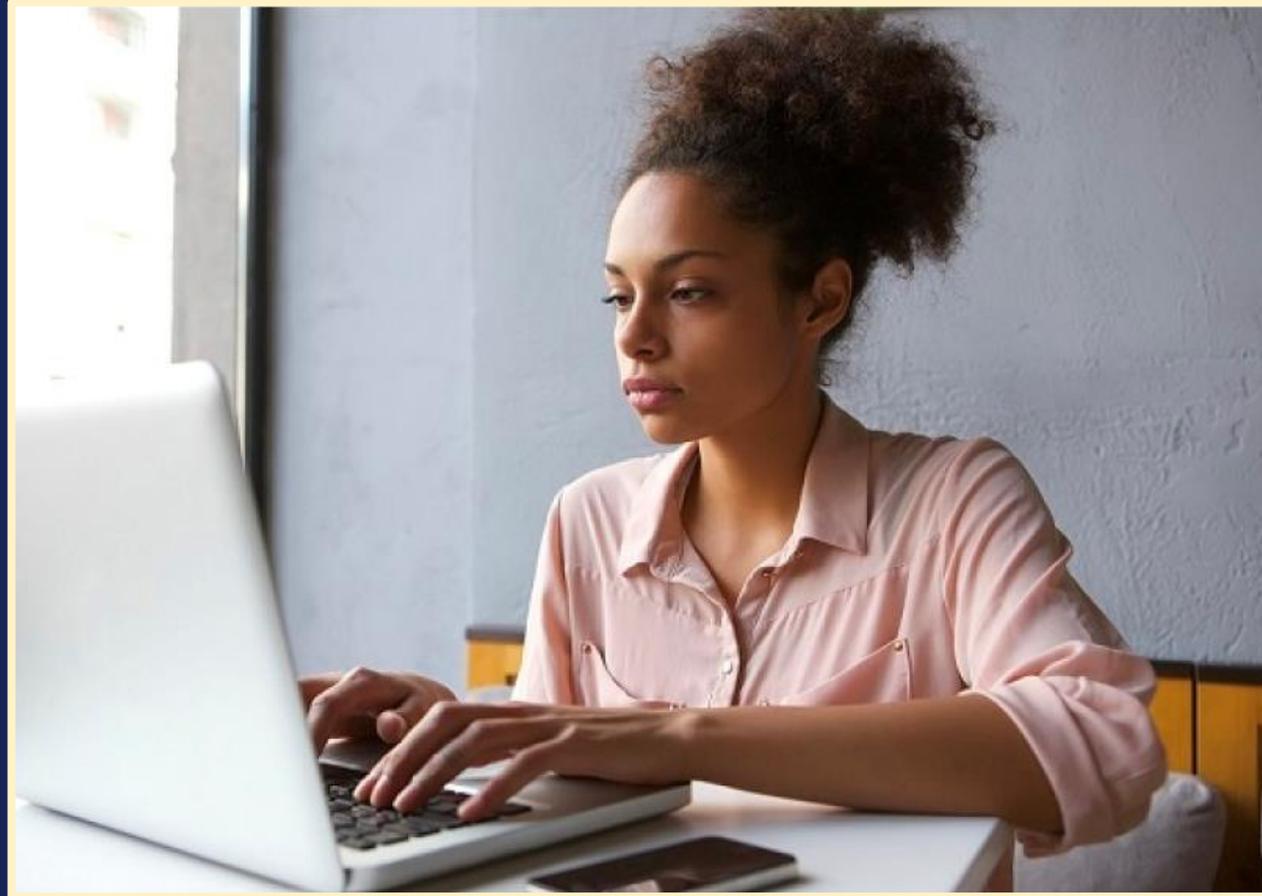
- Whole Life Planning
- Employment
- Transition (Pre-ETS)
- Orientation and Mobility
- Haptic Communication
- Support Service Provider (SSP)
- Respectful Interactions



Advocacy Efforts



Online Courses and Resources





Online Courses

Online courses on various topics including:

- Communication
- Etiologies
- Employment
- Transition
- Haptic Communication
- Technology
- Advocacy
- And so much more

<https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc/online-courses>

Online Resources

- Introduction to various topics
- Video presentations & demonstrations
- Downloadable resources
- FREE



<https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc/onlinelearningtools>

Questions



DIVERSE
JOURNEYS,
SHARED
ASPIRATIONS

HKNC partners with DeafBlind individuals as they navigate life's pathways towards greater independence, meaningful employment, and achieving their personal milestones.



HelenKeller.org



HKNC Helen Keller
NATIONAL CENTER
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This has been a presentation by the Helen Keller National Center

We hope this information has been helpful.

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Contact HKNC for more information at:

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