



# The Virginia Support Service Provider Pilot Project is Seeking Participants for 2024!



## What is a Support Service Provider?

A [Support Service Provider](#), or SSP, is a specially trained individual who provides access to the community for people who are deafblind. This allows the person who is deafblind to make decisions for themselves based on the visual, environmental, and social information communicated by the SSP.

**What is the SSP Pilot Project?** The goal of the [SSP Pilot Project](#) is to increase the availability of trained SSPs in Virginia, and to increase access to SSP services for consumers who are deafblind in Virginia. **This grant project began in January 2023 and will end in December 2024**, unless other funding is found. It is a collaboration between the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, and Reynolds Community College. The grant is provided by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities.

### Interested in being an SSP Trainee Participant?

The SSP Pilot Project is offering training at no cost to up to 25 individuals interested in working with people who have combined hearing and vision loss. Screened SSPs who complete training will have the opportunity to provide paid support service hours to Deafblind Participants during the grant period.

Potential SSP Participants must:

- Be a Virginia resident at least 18 years old
- Hold a valid driver's license and insurance
- Be able to pass a background check
- Take an American Sign Language proficiency interview (signing skills highly preferred but not required)
- Commit to complete a 7-week 2 credit online course (tuition paid by the grant) held 6/11/24-7/31/24
- Attend a MANDATORY 2-day in-person training session in Richmond July 19 & 20

Email [SSP@vddhh.virginia.gov](mailto:SSP@vddhh.virginia.gov)  
to receive  
an SSP Trainee Participant Interest Form

### Interested in being a Deafblind Participant?

The SSP Pilot Project is accepting interest forms from individuals with combined vision and hearing loss who might benefit from receiving SSP services during the grant period ending in December 2024. Up to 15 Deafblind Participants may be accepted for the July-to-December 2024 group.

Potential Deafblind Participants must:

- Have a documented combined hearing and vision loss
- Be a Virginia resident at least 18 years old
- Be able to make independent decisions
- Attend a MANDATORY 2-day in-person orientation in Richmond July 19 & 20

Email [SSP@vddhh.virginia.gov](mailto:SSP@vddhh.virginia.gov)  
to receive  
a Deafblind Participant Interest Form

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*For more information or for assistance with filling out a Participant Interest Form, contact the SSP Pilot Project Coordinator at [SSP@vddhh.virginia.gov](mailto:SSP@vddhh.virginia.gov)  
Or call 434.362.0325*