

# Rhode Island Services to Children and Youth with Dual Sensory Impairments (DSI Project)

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities  
Rhode Island College

*Promoting Membership in School, Work and Community*

## What is the DSI Project?

RI Services to Children and Youth with Dual Sensory Impairments, also known as the DSI Project, is a federally funded by Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to provide technical assistance to educational teams who serve learners with deaf-blindness (birth – 22 years old) in Rhode Island and their families. Our Project goals include:

- Collaborate with the medical, community, and infant toddler services to identify children with dual sensory impairments early so services can be provided to the child and family
- Provide training to families and service providers who work with children with dual sensory impairments
- Provide family and self-advocacy support
- Assist families and educational teams access supports to maximize their child's independent living and help them prepare for times of transition
- Maintain information on the Rhode Island census for the National Child Count

## Who is eligible?

Eligibility is determined by a review of a child's medical records, and through a conversation with a child's family and/or educational team. It is essential that the referral form be complete and accurate. A consent form must accompany the referral. The referral form can be found at [www.sherlockcenter.org](http://www.sherlockcenter.org)

## What are the types of technical assistance available?

DSI project staff can help families and educational teams develop curriculum adaptations and modifications to support the specific/unique learning style of the student; determine appropriate assistive technology to support environmental access and communication needs; and assist families in accessing supports to maximize their child's independent living and help them prepare for times of transition.

## Resources:

Materials from **American Printing House for the Blind (APH)** such as light boxes, environmental control units, low vision materials, and calendar and scheduling systems

**The Communication Matrix:** an assessment instrument designed for individuals of all ages who function at the earliest stages of communication and who use any form of communication

**National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB):** A national technical assistance center with specialization in intervener services, early identification, technology solutions, family engagement, national child count, and literacy for children who are deaf-blind

## Contact Information:

### By Phone:

Direct Line: (401) 456-4737

Main Line: (401) 456-8072

TTY via RI Relay:

Fax: (401) 456-8150

### By Mail:

DSI Project

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities

Rhode Island College

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**Online:** [www.sherlockcenter.org](http://www.sherlockcenter.org)

## Project Staff:

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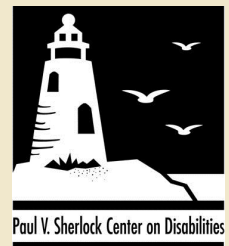
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