## **What is the SSP Program?**

The Support Service Provider (SSP) Program is designed for adults who are deafblind. This program encourages community integration, increases the level of independence, and supports the rights of deafblind persons have unrestricted access to their environment. The SSP's primary responsibility is to relay visual and environmental information that a sighted-hearing individual would normally have

access to. For example, in a grocery store, the SSP is not only be responsible for assisting with communication with the cashier, but they would describe a note displayed informing customers that the credit card machine closet to them is out of order, describe that the couple in line behind them is arguing, describe the "Caution Wet Floor" sign at the end of the isle, etc. This gives the deafblind individual the knowledge to hand the credit card directly to the cashier, the social-awareness to know they should give that couple some space, and the ability to go around the wet-floor area when they proceed to leave.

The SSP may serve as a guide while walking to ensure the safety of the person; they may also assist with reading, errands, basic banking, recreational activities, and transportation. Although the SSP is not expected to teach specialized skills, such as advanced technology or cane travel, they

may assist the deafblind individual in learning about opportunities available in their area, attend trainings with them, and practice skills with them. The SSP encourages persons who are deafblind to attend coordinated activities through the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and/or local organizations thereby preventing effects of social isolation.

https://jobs.utah.gov/usor/dsbvi/resources/deafblind.html