

Low vision or blindness can make daily living difficult as it can limit a person's ability to see and navigate their surroundings. It can also affect a person's ability to read, cook, identify objects and recognize faces, which can impact social interactions and personal safety. Fortunately, there are apps and mobile features that can help people who are blind or who have low vision increase their independence and quality of life.

SeeingAI is a free app developed by Microsoft that uses artificial intelligence to assist individuals with vision needs. The app can perform various tasks, such as reading text, identifying objects and people, and describing scenes. It can also recognize currency and colors and provide instructions for guiding the user's movement.

Compatibility: iOS

Cost: Free

Google Lookout is an app that helps people with vision needs. It uses artificial intelligence to recognize objects, text and people around the user. The app can speak to the user and help with tasks such as scanning barcodes and currency.

Compatibility: Android

Cost: Free

Sullivan+ is an app that helps people with low vision. It uses a camera and artificial intelligence to describe the user's surroundings with audio, such as the location of doors and furniture. This can help individuals with low vision move around more confidently and independently. The app can also identify text, faces, currency and more.

Compatibility: iOS, Android

Cost: Free

EnvisionAI is a tool for people with low vision. It uses technology to recognize and describe objects, text, people, colors, currency and handwriting. The app can help individuals with vision needs to navigate their environment, read and better understand written content.

Compatibility: iOS, Android

Cost: Price varies

BiggerBrighter is an app that helps people with low vision read printed materials using their mobile devices. Users can magnify printed materials up to 20x their normal size and adjust the color contrast and brightness to make viewing simpler and easier.

Compatibility: iOS, Android

Cost: Free

BeMyEyes is a free service that connects people with low vision to sighted volunteers for assistance with visual tasks. The app allows users to make a video call to a volunteer who can help with tasks such as reading labels, identifying objects and navigating their surroundings.

Compatibility: iOS, Android

Cost: Free

Aira is a service that provides visual assistance to persons with low vision. It connects users to trained agents who can help with tasks such as navigating unfamiliar environments, reading signs or labels, and identifying objects. The app uses augmented reality and live video streaming to allow the agents to see and describe the user's surroundings in real time.

Compatibility: iOS

Cost: Price varies

Good Maps Explore is a navigation app that provides audio-based navigation and information about indoor and outdoor environments. The app can provide turn-by-turn directions, describe landmarks and points of interest, and help users locate businesses and other destinations.

Compatibility: iOS, Android

Cost: Free

Magnifier is an accessibility feature found in both iOS and Android. This feature uses the device's camera to magnify and enhance text and images, making it easier to read and see small details. The magnifier can be found in the device's accessibility settings and can be customized to adjust the magnification, contrast and brightness. This feature is helpful for individuals with low vision to access written content and view small details more comfortably.

Compatibility: iOS, Android

Cost: Free

VoiceOver and **TalkBack** are full-featured screen readers for mobile devices. VoiceOver is for iOS devices, and TalkBack is for Android devices. They help people who are blind by providing audio descriptions of what is on the screen, allowing them to navigate and use their devices more independently. These screen readers can read text, describe images and provide audio feedback for gestures and actions.

Compatibility: iOS, Android

Cost: Free