

## **Birth to 3 Program in Wisconsin: 2026 American Printing House (APH) Federal Quota Program of Blind Students in Wisconsin in the Department of Health Services (DHS) Birth to 3 Program**

Infants and toddlers aged zero to three years, who are blind or visually impaired in Wisconsin may be eligible to obtain and loan specialized educational materials and equipment from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). The APH utilizes funds allocated annually by Congress to the Federal Quota Program for the infants, toddlers and students who meet criteria and are formally registered by their Birth to 3 Program counties and agencies **by the first Monday in January 2026, which is Monday, January 5, 2026.**

- **Birth to 3 Program contacts, please complete the [APH Census Designee Form](#), **no later than December 26, 2025**, to designate your vision program coordinator, Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired (TVI) or early intervention specialist with expertise in blindness who will complete the APH Federal Quota Census paperwork for your county or agency.**
- Your designee will receive an email with the digital census packet for the agency or school, including instructions; they should be watching their email closely. Secure file transmittal will be explained in the instructions.
- Registrations must be submitted no later than midnight on **Friday, February 20, 2026.**

All students **must** have a signed [Parent/Guardian Permission Form \(FERPA release\)](#) on file within the county or agency. Many counties and agencies collect this form at annual IFSP or other family meetings. **WCBVI does not receive a copy of these Parent/Guardian Permission (FERPA) forms, but any audit done by APH would require that the county or agency provide proof of that documentation on file.** For questions, view our [Parent/Guardian Permission Form \(FERPA release\) FAQ](#) document.

### **Eligibility for Federal Quota Registration**

For infants and toddlers to be counted in the census as eligible for registration in the APH Federal Quota Program, they **MUST** meet the requirements as outlined in the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind.

#### **Eligibility of Infants and toddlers must meet:**

- **Age:** must be between birth and three years old
- **Enrollment:** must be enrolled in a formally organized, regularly scheduled educational or training program

- **Written plan:** must have a written education plan, such as an individualized family service plan (IFSP) or other formal education plan
- **Parental permission:** Parents must give permission for all students in the birth to three age group and permission must be kept on file with the agency or county
- **Pediatrician or eye care specialist note:** Agency must have a note from their pediatrician or eye care specialist stating they meet the definition of blindness, which is defined as: **Any child diagnosed with a vision impairment, or suspected of having a vision impairment, with a high probability of resulting in developmental disability.**
- **NOTE:** Ocular reports and medical information used to determine eligibility should be kept in your county or agency. They are not collected by WCBVI.

For more information or questions about the APH Federal Quota census process in Wisconsin, criteria or student eligibility within the WI Birth to 3 Program, **contact the APH Census Coordinator at [aphcensus@wcbvi.k12.wi.us](mailto:aphcensus@wcbvi.k12.wi.us)**

**\*reminder not to email student names or personally identifiable information (PII)**