The North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NCLBPH) is a special public library that circulates books and magazines especially made for persons who cannot use regular printed material because of visual or physical disability. The library is located in Raleigh, but mails materials throughout the state free of charge. The NCLBPH is a state agency operated by the State Library of North Carolina as a part of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. It is also a part of the network of regional libraries operated by the Library of Congress National Library Service of the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)

All applications for service must be submitted with a certifying signature from a competent authority. In cases of blindness, visual disability, or physical limitations, "competent authority" is defined to include doctors of medicine; doctors of osteopathy; ophthalmologists; optometrists; registered nurses; therapists; professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies (e.g., social workers, case workers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers, and superintendents). In the absence of any of these, professional librarians or any person whose competence under specific circumstances is acceptable to the Library of Congress may make certification. Certifying authorities must not be relatives of the applicant, even if otherwise qualified. The director of the nursing home or their designee must sign institutional applications for nursing homes. In the case of reading disability from organic dysfunction, competent authority is defined as doctors of medicine who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.