# Organizations Assisting Job Seekers:

# Washington Department of Services for the Blind

## Mission:

***Inclusion, Independent, and Economic Vitality for People with Visual Disabilities***

## Quick Facts:

* 1,338 people served in 2017
* 133 people gained or retained jobs in 2017
* Average yearly wage before services: $20,586
* Average wage after services: $39,893

### Ages served:

* 14-24 years: 326
* 25 and older: 1,016

## Services for Individuals who are blind, low vision, or deaf-blind:

* Eligibility requires a documented visual disability that impedes one’s ability to get and/or keep a job, or advance in one’s career.
* Adults of any age
* Youth ages 9-21 years of age
* Services are at no cost for eligible individuals

## Employment Services include:

* Consultation, goods and/or services to keep a current job that is at risk due to visual disability
* Career planning
* Adaptive Skills Training and tools
* Education and Job Training
* Work experience and internships
* Job readiness preparation
* Assistive Technology (AT)
* Job search assistance

### Career Planning

* Vocational assessment services to measure strengths, capabilities, work skills, and interests to guide the individual to a good career fit and pathway
* Adaptive living skill services to help understand and deal with the broad range of obstacles to get, keep or advance in a job due to disability
* Assistive technology services to help remove or reduce barriers to employment, and allow the individual to gain increased efficiency in work tasks

### Education and Training:

* Training provided or coordinated to develop work skills necessary for career goal
* Post-secondary education supports
* Intensive training on adaptive skills for low vision/blindness and job readiness skill building at the Orientation and Training Center in Seattle, Washington
* Preparation, workshops, training and supports for small business start ups
  + This can include the Business Enterprise Program which provides entrepreneur training for specific food service businesses

### Job Search

* Job readiness skills to prepare for job search, interview, disability disclosure, self-advocacy, and workplace cultural expectations
  + Self-directed or individualized job search assistance
  + Résumé, interview, informational interviews, labor market research assistance
* Job placement assistance
* Support in keeping a job

### Youth Services

* Workshops and experiences for career exploration and job readiness skill building
* Self-advocacy, how to manage accommodation needs and workplace accommodation processes
* Job shadows and/or paid internships and work experiences
* College readiness and preparation experiences, how to manage accommodation needs on campus

## Contact Information

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