

Blind Rehabilitation



The Blind Rehabilitation Programs

- Support blind and low vision Veterans and active duty Servicemembers in regaining their independence and quality of life to enable their successful integration into family and community life.
- Support family and significant others to better understand visual impairment and foster the provision of appropriate support, to assist in enhancing home environments and to reduce caregiver burden.

Vision Statement

- Blind Rehabilitation Service will provide high quality care in a timely and appropriate manner enabling blinded Veterans to acquire the skills and capabilities necessary for the development of personal independence and emotional stability.

Vision Statement (continued)

"A Blind Center is where faith is strongest that blind people deserve hope, respect and freedom. These are accorded first, followed by the means of achieving them. Our civilization permits wholesome living when blind and here one learns how."

[Russell C. Williams](#)

First Chief, VA Hines Blind Rehabilitation Center

Blind Rehabilitation Services

The VA Blind Rehabilitation Service model of care encompasses an array of rehabilitative services, extending from the patient's home to the local VA care facility, and to regional low vision clinics and lodger and inpatient training programs.

VA Continuum of Care

Vision rehabilitation services provided in a variety of settings to assist Veterans.

Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinators

The Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinators are case managers who have responsibility for the coordination of services for severely disabled visually impaired Veterans and active duty Servicemembers.

Major VA Medical Centers have a full time VIST Coordinator.

VIST Coordinators VISN 22

Location	VIST Coordinator	Phone Number
Los Angeles	Cheryl Sjoberg	213 263 2677 Ext 4606
West Los Angeles	Jane Merrill	310 268 4654
Long Beach	Linda Fitzgerald	562 826 8000 Ext 5696
Loma Linda	Mike Davis	909 825 7084 Ext 2748
San Diego	VIST Office	619 228 8037
Las Vegas	Paul Rice	702 636 3000 Ext 3084

Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS)

An outpatient training program that employs a multi-skilled and experienced blind rehabilitation instructor who teaches skills in the Veterans home environment and/or local Veterans Affairs medical center.

Currently over 90 BROS positions in the VA system.

Outpatient Low Vision Clinics

Blind rehabilitation services may be provided through a variety of programs:

- Intermediate and Advanced Low Vision Clinics
- Vision Impairment Services in Outpatient Rehabilitation (VISOR) Programs
- Visual Impairment Centers to Optimize Remaining Sight (VICTORS) Programs

Blind Rehabilitation Center

The Blind Rehabilitation Centers (BRC) are residential inpatient programs that provide comprehensive adjustment to blindness training and serve as a resource to a geographic area usually comprised of several states. BRCs offer a variety of skill courses designed to help blinded Veterans achieve a realistic level of independence.

BRC (continued)

These skill areas include:

- Orientation and Mobility
- Communication Skills
- Activities of Daily Living
- Manual Skills
- Visual Skills
- Computer Access Training
- Social/Recreational Activities

BRC (continued)

- The Veteran is also assisted in making emotional and behavioral adjustments to blindness through individual counseling sessions and group therapy meetings

BRC at Long Beach



BRC at Long Beach

- Named after Major Charles Robert Soltes, Jr. O.D. An Eye Doctor who died on active duty.
- Newest of the 13 Blind Rehabilitation Centers in the VA.
- State of the art, 24 bed rehabilitation center.
- The doors opened in January of 2012.

Optometry Services



Low Vision



Living Skills



Manual Skills



Orientation and Mobility



Computer Access Training



Modern Accommodations



Blind Rehabilitation Centers

Blind Rehabilitation Centers

- Central BRC (Hines VA Chicago)
- **Western BRC (Palo Alto)**
- Eastern BRC (West Haven, CT)
- **American Lake BRC**
- Waco BRC
- Southeastern BRC (Birmingham, AL)
- Puerto Rico BRC
- Southwestern BRC (Tucson, AZ)
- Augusta BRC
- West Palm Beach BRC
- **Long Beach BRC**
- Biloxi BRC
- Louis Stokes Cleveland BRC

Intermediate Low Vision Clinics

VISN	FACILITY
1	White River Junction VAMC, White River Junction, VT
2	Samuel S. Stratton VAMC, Albany NY
3	Franklin Delano Roosevelt Campus, Montrose, NY
4	VA Pittsburgh HCS, Pittsburgh, PA
5	Martinsburg VAMC, Martinsburg, WV
6	Hampton VAMC, Hampton, VA
7	William Jennings Bryan Dorn VAMC, Columbia, SC
8	Ocala CBOC, Ocala, FL
9	Memphis VAMC, Memphis, TN
10	Cincinnati VAMC, Cincinnati, OH
11	John D. Dingell VAMC, Detroit, MI
12	William S. Middleton Mem. Vet Hosp, Madison, WI
15	St. Louis VAMC, St. Louis, MO
16	Oklahoma City VAMC, Oklahoma, OK
17	Central Texas Veterans HCS, Temple, TX
18	New Mexico VA HCS, Albuquerque, NM
19	VA Montana HCS, Fort Harrison, MT
20	Spokane VAMC, Spokane, WA
21	VA Ukiah CBOC, Ukiah, CA
22	VA Loma Linda HCS, Loma Linda, CA
22	VA Southern Nevada HCS, Las Vegas, NV
23	Sioux Falls VAMC, Sioux Fall, SD

Advanced Low Vision Clinics

VISN	FACILITY
1	VA Boston HCS, Jamaica Plains, Jamaica, MA
2	Syracuse VAMC, NY
3	Brooklyn Campus, NYHHS, Brooklyn, NY
4	Philadelphia VAMC, Philadelphia, PA
5	Baltimore VAMC, VA Maryland HCS, Baltimore, MD
6	Salisbury W.G. Bill Hefner VAMC, Salisbury, NC
7	Atlanta VAMC, Decatur, GA
8	James Haley Veterans Hospital, Tampa, FL
9	Tennessee Valley HCS, Nashville, TN
10	Dayton VAMC, Dayton, OH
11	Aleda E. Lutz VAMC, Saginaw, MI
12	Clement J. Zablocki VAMC, Milwaukee, WI
15	Robert J. Dole VAMC, Wichita, KS
16	Central Arkansas Veterans HCS, Little Rock, AR
17	VA North Texas HCS, Dallas, TX
18	Carl T. Hayden VAMC, Phoenix, AZ
19	VA Salt Lake City HCS, Salt Lake City, UT
20	Portland VAMC, Portland, OR
21	Martinez Outpatient Clinic, Martinez, CA
22	VA Greater Los Angeles HCS, Greater LA, CA
22	VA San Diego HCS, San Diego, CA
23	VA Central Iowa, Des Moines, IA

VISOR Programs

- Washington, D.C.
- Richmond, VA
- Lexington, KY
- Battle Creek, Michigan
- Kansas City, MO
- Houston, TX
- Denver, CO
- Minneapolis, MN

VICTORS Programs

- Chicago, Illinois
- Northport, New York
- Lake City, Florida

How To Find Services

- Contact the VIST Coordinator at the nearest VA Medical Center
- Blind Rehabilitation Service home page has contact information for VIST Coordinators and information about every point in the Continuum of Care.

<http://www.va.gov/BLINDREHAB/index.asp>

Conclusion

- The VA provides a wide array of state of the art services for Veterans and Active Duty Servicemembers experiencing sight loss.
- We support blind rehabilitation needs throughout the Veteran's life. We consider this a special relationship, and we are honored to serve this nation's Veterans.

Handouts are available

**BLIND REHABILITATION CENTER
VA Long Beach Healthcare System**

5901 E. 7th Street

Long Beach, CA 90822

www.longbeach.va.gov

(888) 769-8387 (562 826-8000)

Extension 6037