

For more information about services,
please call or write to OVR's
Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services
District Office serving your area.

ALTOONA DISTRICT OFFICE

1101 12th Avenue - Suite
Altoona, PA 16601
814-946-7330
Toll Free 1-866-695-7673
1-866-320-7956 TTY

Bedford	Columbia	Montour
Blair	Fulton	Northumberland
Cambria	Huntingdon	Snyder
Centre	Juniata	Somerset
Clinton	Lycoming	Union
	Mifflin	

ERIE DISTRICT OFFICE

3100 Lovell Place
Erie, PA 16503
814-871-4401
Toll Free 1-866-521-5073
1-888-884-5513 TTY

Cameron	Erie	McKean
Clarion	Forest	Mercer
Clearfield	Jefferson	Potter
Crawford	Lawrence	Venango
Elk		Warren

HARRISBURG DISTRICT OFFICE

Forum Place - 555 Walnut St.
8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17110
717-787-7500
Toll Free 1-866-375-8264
1-888-575-9420 TTY

Adams	Franklin	Lebanon
Cumberland	Lancaster	Perry
Dauphin		York

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT OFFICE

444 North Third St. - 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19123
215-560-5700

Toll Free 1-866-631-3892
1-888-870-4473 TTY

Bucks	Delaware	Montgomery
Chester		Philadelphia

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT OFFICE

1075 Kossman Building
400 Starwix Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-565-5240
Toll Free 1-866-412-4072
1-877-255-5082 TTY

Allegheny	Butler	Indiana
Armstrong	Fayette	Washington
Beaver	Greene	Westmoreland

WILKES-BARRE DISTRICT OFFICE

300 G Laird Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-7013
570-826-2361 F 570-826-
Toll Free 1-866-227-4163 2538
1-888-651-6117 TTY

Berks	Luzerne	Sullivan
Bradford	Monroe	Susquehanna
Carbon	Northampton	Toga
Lackawanna	Pike	Wayne
Lehigh	Schuylkill	Wyoming

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format from District Offices

CENTRAL OFFICE

1521 N. Sixth St. -- Harrisburg, PA 17102
717-787-6176
Toll Free 1-800-622-2842
1-800-233-3008 TTY



OFFICE OF
VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION

BUREAU
OF
BLINDNESS
AND
VISUAL SERVICES

Your
Road To
Independence



DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR & INDUSTRY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
OVR-BVS-525
(Rev. 11/05)

www.state.pa.us
PA Keyword "Disability Services"

BBVS

WHAT IS BBVS?

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's (OVR) mission is to expand and strengthen employment outcomes, independence, and specialized services for Pennsylvanians with disabilities. OVR's Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS) targets rehabilitation programs and specialized services to help persons who are blind or visually impaired work and maintain independent lives. BBVS' six district offices provide a wide range of services throughout the Commonwealth. Each program has established eligibility criteria that must be met by the applicant.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program assists eligible individuals who can benefit from and who need services to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain employment. Services may include vocational evaluation, counseling and guidance, training, job placement, adjustment to blindness, occupational tools and equipment, orientation and mobility training, and rehabilitation teaching. Services are based on the individual's needs and choices that are necessary for the person to enter or retain employment.

A VR counselor will determine eligibility for services after gaining a thorough understanding of the individual's abilities, limitations, interests, and aptitudes.

Together, the customer and counselor develop

an employment goal and an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). The IPE states exactly what services will be provided and what is expected of both the customer and BBVS, including responsibilities and costs.

REHABILITATION TEACHING

Rehabilitation Teaching helps individuals safely and efficiently carry out their daily activities at home, on the job, and in the community. After a comprehensive evaluation is completed an individualized program of instruction is developed that may include Braille instruction, home management, orientation and movement, and personal management.

ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING

Orientation and Mobility training teaches individuals how to travel independently within their homes, workplaces, and communities. After an evaluation is completed a training plan is developed to meet the individual's specific needs.

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) enables persons who are blind to operate food service businesses in commercial, industrial or government locations. BEP can assist interested persons develop creative business ventures ranging from a vending machine route to a full-cafeteria that involve direct and

frequent public contact. Business ventures might include specialty product sales, food franchise operations, gift shops or kiosks. Business sites and equipment are provided through the BEP. Specialized training and BEP counselors are available to provide ongoing technical business support.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES PROGRAM

Specialized services assist individuals to achieve maximum independence within their homes and communities. Specialized services may include vision enhancement services, advocacy, counseling, information and referral, rehabilitation teaching, and orientation and mobility services.

BBVS offers specialized services for children that may include vision enhancement services, counseling, advocacy for educational services, transition services, community orientation and mobility, rehabilitation teaching, and developmental equipment.

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

Persons aged 55 and older and who are visually impaired can become more self-sufficient and independent in their homes and communities with Independent Living Program services. Available services are similar to those provided under the Specialized Services Program; however, individuals served by this program usually require minimal assistance to achieve an independent lifestyle.