

For more information about services, please email bbvs@pa.gov or contact the BBVS district office nearest to you. Alternate formats of this brochure are available upon request.

ALTOONA BBVS

1130 12th Avenue - Suite 300
Altoona, PA 16601

814-946-7330 Voice • 866-695-7673 Voice
814-949-7956 TTY • 866-320-7956 TTY

Counties Served

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

ERIE BBVS

4200 Lovell Place
Erie, PA 16503

814-871-4401 Voice • 866-521-5073 Voice
814-871-4599 TTY • 888-884-5513 TTY

Counties Served

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

HARRISBURG BBVS

Forum Place
555 Walnut Street - 8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

717-787-7500 Voice • 866-375-8264 Voice
717-787-1733 TTY • 888-575-9420 TTY

Counties Served

Adams	Franklin	Lebanon
Cumberland	Lancaster	Perry
Dauphin		York

PHILADELPHIA BBVS

444 North 3rd St. - 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19123

215-560-5700 Voice • 866-631-3892 Voice
215-560-5725 TTY • 888-870-4473 TTY

Counties Served

Bucks	Delaware	Montgomery
Chester		Philadelphia

PITTSBURGH BBVS

531 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

412-565-5240 Voice • 866-412-4072 Voice
412-392-5921 TTY • 888-870-4474 TTY

Counties Served

Allegheny	Butler	Indiana
Armstrong	Fayette	Washington
Beaver	Greene	Westmoreland

WILKES-BARRE BBVS

300 G Laird St.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

570-826-2361 Voice • 866-227-4163 Voice
570-826-2023 TTY • 888-651-6117 TTY

Counties Served

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

CENTRAL OFFICE

1521 N. Sixth St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102

717-787-3201 • 800-622-2842
866-830-7327 TTY

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services

Your Road To Independence



WHAT IS BBVS?

The mission of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is to assist Pennsylvanians with disabilities to secure and maintain employment and independence. OVR's Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS) provides services to assist Pennsylvanians who are blind or visually impaired to work and maintain independent lives. BBVS has six district offices that provide a wide range of services throughout Pennsylvania.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program assists eligible individuals who need services to prepare for, or retain employment. Services may include employment evaluation, counseling and guidance, training, job placement, assistive technology, 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 plan

to identify the steps needed to achieve it. The plan states 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. Each customer is evaluated to determine what activities they need help with, and then a plan of instruction is developed. Services may include Braille instruction, home management, in-home orientation and personal management.

ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING

Orientation and Mobility Training teaches individuals how to travel independently and safely 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

BEP can assist qualified, interested persons in developing creative business ventures ranging from a vending machine route to a full cafeteria that involves direct and frequent public contact.

Specialized training is provided at the Hiram G. Andrews Center (HGAC) and BEP agents are available to provide ongoing technical business support.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES PROGRAM

Specialized Services assists adults and children in achieving safety and independence within their homes and communities. Specialized Services for adults and children may include vision enhancement services, advocacy, counseling, information and referral, rehabilitation teaching, and orientation and mobility services.

Specialized Services for children may also include advocacy for educational services, transition to employment, and assistive technology.

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

The Independent Living Program helps people aged 55 and older become more self-sufficient and independent in their homes and communities. Available services are similar to those provided under the Specialized Services program. This program is serving an ever-increasing portion of our adult population.