

For more information about services, please email [bbvs@pa.gov](mailto: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  
844-242-1060 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

**801 Market Street, Suite 6034  
Philadelphia, PA 19107**

**215-560-5700 Voice • 866-631-3892 Voice**

*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

**8 W. Market St., Suite 200  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701**

**570-826-2361 Voice • 866-227-4163 Voice  
570-820-4848 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**

**717-787-5244 Voice • 800-442-6351 Voice  
866-830-7327 TTY**

*OVR will not discriminate against a customer or applicant based on race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex or religion.*

*Any applicant or customer of OVR who believes he or she is being discriminated against may contact OVR Central Office.*

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

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# Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services

# Your Road To Independence



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## 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 vision rehabilitation therapy. 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.

## VISION REHABILITATION THERAPY

Vision Rehabilitation Therapy 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 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, vision rehabilitation therapy, 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.

The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Programs receive 78.7 percent of their funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For Federal fiscal year 2018, the total amount of grant funds awarded was \$126,920,624. The remaining 21.3 percent, including additional matching fund costs (\$34,350,816.91), was funded by State appropriations and other non-Federal allowable sources.