



OKLAHOMA
Rehabilitation
Services

Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Pursue a life of independence



Help for Oklahomans who are blind or visually impaired is available through the Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired division of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services.

The agency's mission is to open doors to employment and independence.

SBVI staff meet this mission through a wide array of rehabilitation programs for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Major components of the programs include:

- Rehabilitation counseling;

- Travel and mobility;
- New skills and techniques to address the challenges of blindness or visual impairment;
- Confidence development;
- Employment;
- Independent living assistance;
- Business enterprise operations;
- Library services; and
- Information access via telephone.

Specialists help clients develop self-confidence in their abilities to live and work independently.





Rehabilitation counseling and employment services

SBVI staff offers vocational counseling and employment assistance to thousands of Oklahomans each year. Many clients retain their current employment, return to work or enter the workforce for

the first time as a result of these services.

Clients and counselors work together to develop a rehabilitation plan to meet individual needs.

Together they identify areas where assistance



is needed for the client to retain or gain a successful career.

Through SBVI, clients have access to services that might include, but are not limited to:

- Counseling and guidance;
- Intensive training in ways to deal with vision loss;

- Adaptive technology education and training;
- Job analysis and modification; and
- Job placement and follow-up.

Clients may be required to participate in the cost of some services, depending on their income levels and resources.



Independent living assistance

Rehabilitation Teachers provide instruction and counseling services through a home visitation program, which helps individuals adjust to the loss of sight.

Instructional services offered may include:

- Adjustment counseling;
- Personal and home management;
- Braille, keyboarding

skills, low vision technology and adaptive techniques; and

- Preparation to return to work.

Orientation and Mobility Specialists provide instruction to blind individuals in using white canes and other techniques for traveling independently in their communities.

Programs for people who are blind and age 55 or older

While vocational rehabilitation services are for clients pursuing employment, we recognize some people who are 55 or older may desire independence training. The Older Blind Program provides independent living services to people who are 55 years old or older, legally blind and seeking greater independence. This program emphasizes advocacy, self-expression,



freedom of travel and full participation in community life.

If a person is 55 years or older, legally blind and want to maintain or regain greater independence, the Older Blind Program is the right choice.

Some people think the term “blind” means that a person can see nothing at all — total blindness. Actually, the majority of people who are blind have some vision. Some people may see shapes, shadows or motion, or they are able to determine that there is some kind of light source. The key to success is having a variety of available solutions, visual and nonvisual.

What we can do for you?

- Teach you how to travel efficiently in your home and community.
- Teach you how to accomplish tasks of daily living, using the phone, signing your name, cooking, identifying money, time telling and matching your clothing.



A rehabilitation teacher will work with you in learning how to perform these tasks efficiently and independently.

The rehabilitation teachers will help you maintain or regain independence by coming to your home and teaching you how to perform various skills by a combination of

approaches. You may be able to use your remaining vision, use your sense of touch, or a combination of both. Instruction is geared to meet your goals.

- SBVI staff offers clients a five-day training session with the

rehabilitation teachers and orientation and mobility specialists at the Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Center that gives you a jump start on learning independent living skills.



Business enterprise program

Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired trains and assists entrepreneurs who are blind in establishing and operating food service businesses in public facilities

across the state.

The division secures and equips locations,

provides initial inventory and offers on-going business consulting.



Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped offers services for people whose disabilities prevent them from using print materials.

Thousands of books and periodicals, including those uniquely Oklahoma, are available in audio book and Braille formats for eligible library patrons at no charge.

Many more thousands of titles are available for free download to eligible patrons through the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled's Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) site.

Contact the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at 800-523-0288.

Telephone information service

Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired staff sponsors a telephone access service to local and national newspapers for those who have disabilities that make using print materials difficult.



The service also



includes community and job information.

Services for people who are Deaf-Blind

Assistance offered includes information and referral, interpreting and advocacy. SBVI staff provides tactile, vibratory and other equipment,

which assists clients in communicating and receiving environmental information. We also assist Deaf-Blind persons to find employment.



OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services

How to reach us

To locate the nearest
SBVI office, call 800-487-
4042 toll free in Oklahoma
or visit www.okdrs.gov/

office-locator

Those who are deaf or
hard of hearing may call
1-800-845-8476 toll free.

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