For more information about services, please call or write the BBVS district office nearest to you. You can request alternate formats of this brochure from your district office.

ALTOONA BBVS

1130 12th Avenue -- Suite 300
Altoona, PA 16601
(814) 946-7330 Voice • 1-866-695-7673 Voice
(814) 949-7956 TTY • 1-866-320-7956 TTY

Counties Served

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

ERIE BBVS

3100 Lovell Place -- Erie, PA 16503
(814) 871-4401 Voice • 1-866-521-5073 Voice
(814) 871-4599 TTY • 1-888-884-5513 TTY

Counties Served

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

HARRISBURG BBVS

Forum Place -- 555 Walnut St. -- 8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 787-7500 Voice • 1-866-375-8264 Voice
(717) 787-1733 TTY • 1-888-575-9420 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 • 1-866-631-3892 Voice
(215) 560-5725 TTY • 1-888-870-4473 TTY

Counties Served

Bucks	Delaware	Montgomery
Chester		Philadelphia

PITTSBURGH BBVS

531 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 565-5240 Voice • 1-866-412-4072 Voice
(412) 565-3678 TTY • 1-877-255-5082 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 • 1-866-227-4163 Voice
(570) 826-2023 TTY • 1-888-651-6117 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 • 1-800-622-2842
1-866-830-7327 TTY

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

OVR-BVS-525
Rev. 6/10

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services

Your Road To Independence

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
William A. Gannon, Executive Director

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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 can benefit from and who need services to prepare for, enter into, engage in, or retain employment. Services may include vocational 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 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, 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 services, and developmental equipment.

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

Persons aged 55 and older and who have a visual disability 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 for adults. This program is serving an ever increasing portion of our adult population.