

Eligibility

Rhode Islanders of all ages who are Blind or Visually Impaired. This includes those individuals with an acuity of 20/60 or less in the better eye with correction, or fields of twenty degrees or less in the better eye.

Services are provided STATEWIDE in your community —at home, schools, and worksites.

The purpose of Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired is to provide eligible individuals with visual impairments the opportunities and support that will enable them to become independent, active, self-sustaining members of their community.

NEWSLINE

As of July 2005, individuals who are blind, visually impaired, or print handicapped can utilize this comprehensive newspaper reading service that is accessible through the use of any touch-tone phone. For an application, contact Robert Pires, Rehabilitation Teacher for the Blind at 401-258-9320.

Department of Human Services
Rhode Island Services for the
Blind & Visually Impaired
Non Discrimination Notice

DHS does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, age, religion or sex in acceptance for or provision of services, employment or treatment in its educational and other program and activities

For further information about this policy contact:
The Community Relations Liaison Officer at
401-462-2130 or TDD (hearing impaired)
at 401-462-6239

Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services
Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired
40 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: 401-222-2300
Fax: 401-222-1328
Website: www.ors.ri.gov

Department of Human Services/ Office of Rehabilitation Services - Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired



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Programs

Social Services and Independent Living

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Assisting children and youth ages 3 through 14 with visual impairments.

ADULTS

Services to adults that are not seeking or retaining employment & would like to increase and/or maintain their level of independence in the home or community.

Contact:
Intake Line
at
401-462-7908
www.ors.ri.gov/SBVI.html

Vocational Rehabilitation

Assisting transition-age youth and adults in identifying realistic vocational goals and to become gainfully employed.

Contact: Jane Cannata,
Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor
at 401-465-0572 or
jane.cannata@ors.ri.gov

Business Enterprise Program

Entrepreneur Program for legally blind individuals. Individuals operate vending facilities throughout the state.

Contact: Melanie Sbardella,
Assistant Administrator
at 401-332-9018 or
melanie.sbardella@ors.ri.gov

Services May Include:

- Member of IEP Team
- Guidance & Counseling
- Vocational Evaluation, Career Assessment & Educational Planning
- Orientation & Mobility
- Rehabilitation Teaching
- Training, Job Development, Job Placement and Job Retention
- Adaptive equipment in work setting and/or home (Based on Economic Need & Comparable Benefits)
- Property & Income Tax Exemptions
- Information & referral to community resources and supports