Introduction to
The State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services

Commission for the
Blind and Visually Impaired
The mission of the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired is to promote and provide services in the areas of education, employment, independence and eye health through informed choice and partnership with persons who are blind or visually impaired, their families and the community.
The NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired helps people who are blind, visually impaired and deaf blind go to work and function independently at school, in their homes and in the community.

Most people call us “The Commission” or “CBVI”
That if you are blind, vision impaired or deaf blind, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired may be able to assist you with:

- **Vocational Rehabilitation Services** to help you become employable and obtain employment

- **Education Services**, when approved by your school district, to help you succeed in your local public school program

- **Rehabilitation Teaching** to enable you to manage your household and perform tasks of daily living with impaired vision

- **Orientation and Mobility Instruction** to assist you in traveling independently

- **Eye Health Services** and related instruction for self-care with insulin injections, etc.
That the Commission may also be able to:

- Refer you to community resources for housing, financial assistance, and other supportive services
- Provide information on aids and appliances adapted for your use
- Provide information on peer support groups in your area

And

Did you know most CBVI services are provided free of charge?
Eligibility for CBVI Services

A person may be eligible for services if he or she is experiencing a vision impairment that is affecting his or her ability to perform normal daily life activities.
Eligibility for CBVI Services

- **VISUALLY IMPAIRED** means that with the best correction an individual's vision is 20/70 or less in the better eye or has a visual field restriction of 40 degrees.

- **LEGALLY BLIND** means that with the best correction an individual's vision is 20/200 or less in the better eye. Also, an individual is considered legally blind if he or she has a restricted visual field limitation of 20 degrees or less.
Vision Impaired and Legally Blind

20/20 Vision

20/70  20/200  20/400
Visual Field Restriction

40 Degrees  20 Degrees  10 Degrees
APPLICATION/REFERRAL PROCEDURE

To apply or refer someone for services call:

877-685-8878 or 973-648-3333

and you will be referred to a local CBVI service center.

Please be prepared to provide the following information:

° Applicant's name, telephone number and Social Security number

° Applicant's address, including county of residence and zip code.

It would also be helpful if you are able to provide:

° Description of applicant's vision impairment

° Name and address of the applicant’s eye care professional
Regional Service Centers

Northern Region
153 Halsey Street 5th fl. Newark, NJ 07101
Phone: 973-648-2111
Serving: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren counties

Central Region
100 Daniels Way, Freehold, NJ 07728
Phone: 732-308-4001
Serving: Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset and Union counties

Southern Region
2201 Rt. 38 East, Suite 600, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
Phone: 856-482-3700
Serving: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer and Salem counties
CBVI’s Consumer Centered Service Programs

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Independent Living
- Consumer
- Education
- Better Eye Health Services and Treatment
Project B.E.S.T.  
(Better Eye Health Services and Treatment)

- Diabetes Eye Disease Detection Program
- Community-based Eye Screening Programs
- Vision Screenings for Preschool and School Age Children
- Eye Health Nursing Services
Provide:

- Diabetes Education
- Instruction on Adaptive Equipment/Devices (insulin syringes, talking glucose monitors)
- Nutritional Advice
- Monitor Health Care
INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

- In Home Instruction in Daily Living Skills
- Instruction for Safe Independent Travel
- Child Care Skills
- Instruction in Communication Methods
- Referral to Community Resources
Blindness Education Program

- Collaboration with Local School Districts
- Comprehensive Itinerant Services Provided by Teachers of the Blind and Vision Impaired
- Focused on Inclusion, Integration and Mainstreaming (Known nationally as “The New Jersey Plan”)
George F. Meyer Instructional Resource Center

- Provides Adaptive Teaching Aids
- Large Print and Braille Textbooks
- Education Materials and Technical Equipment
- Enriching Toys and Developmental Devices
- Assistive Technology
CBVI provides statewide itinerant education for infants and toddlers (birth to age 3), who are blind, vision impaired, deaf-blind, or multi-disabled with a significant vision impairment and their families. Disability-specific services are provided in the child’s natural environment.
SHARP is a summer developmental program for students grades 1-8

Instruction in areas of Braille, assistive technology, travel and skills of daily living
Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR)

- Evaluation
- Counseling and Guidance
- Training
- Job Placement
- Post-Employment
- Supported Employment
- College Counseling/Support
- High School Transition
- Business Enterprises
- Entrepreneurial Program
- Joseph Kohn Training Center
Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR)
Supported Employment
HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITIONAL SERVICES

- Serves high school students (14 – 21)
- Career assessment, planning and training
- Includes summer career exploration and college preparatory programs
Program designed for transition students ages 14-21

EDGE is an interactive program focused on assisting students to become independent, advocate for themselves and find meaningful competitive employment.
College Services

Assists college students with:

- Funding
- Counseling
- Guidance
- Advocacy
- Job Placement
Instruction Areas Include:

- Activities of Daily Living Skills Instruction
- Orientation and Mobility Instruction
- Kitchen Skills
- Communication Skills
- Braille
- Assistive Technology Skills
Joseph Kohn Training Center (JKTC)

Program also includes:
- Vocational Counseling
- Career Assessment
- Adjustment to Vision Loss Counseling
- Psychological Services
- Social Services
- Community-based work experience
CBVI administers the federal Randolph-Sheppard Program

NJ currently has 54 locations managed by individuals who are legally blind

Locations include: Snack Bars, Cafes/cafeterias, and vending machine locations
CBVI offers:
- Recommendations for assistive technology for people who are blind, vision impaired or deaf blind
- Solutions and tips for daily living
- In-depth training to help you get the most out of your technology
- Equipment demonstrations in our Regional Assistive Technology Centers (R-TACs)
- Workplace, classroom or other location visits to assess lighting and equipment placement
- The opportunity for individuals to test different options and solutions

Assistive Technology Services (Access Tech)
Assists Individuals who are Deaf Blind or both hearing and vision impaired, their parents, counselors, educators, employers and the community through various services:

- Provision of Functional Vision Assessments
- Participation in Educational Planning
- Employment Counseling and Training
- Assessments and Provision of Specialized Adaptive Equipment
- Community Integration Support
- In-Service Presentations
Contacting CBVI

- By Phone: 877-685-8878 or 973-648-3333
- By E-Mail: askcbvi@dhs.state.nj.us
- On the Web: www.cbvi.nj.gov
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Web Site: www.cbvi.nj.gov
DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

- Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
  - Toll Free: 1-877-685-8878
- www.cbvi.nj.gov
- Email: askcbvi@dhs.state.nj.us