

OLDER BLIND PROGRAM

Division of Visual Services

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services

PURPOSE

The Older Blind Program expands independent living services for people who are 55 years old or older and legally blind. Rehabilitation teachers, located in the Division of Visual Services offices throughout the state, provide one-on-one assistance to older people in adjusting to blindness and regaining or maintaining maximum independence and self-sufficiency.

CONTACT

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See Appendix B for Visual Services Field Offices.

FINANCIAL CRITERIA

- See "Eligibility"

ELIGIBILITY

- Individuals must be 55 years of age or older;
- must be legally blind or have a progressive vision problem, which will lead to legal blindness in the foreseeable future and require services to enhance quality of life; and
- individuals that do not meet the vocational goal criteria for DRS may receive services thru the Older Blind Program.

AT SERVICES PROVIDED/COVERED

- Advocacy Training
- Assessments & Evaluations
- Case Management
- Information & Referral
- Training for Consumer & Family
- Orientation and Mobility Training

AT DEVICES PROVIDED/COVERED



Aids for Daily Living



Speech Communication



Aids for Vision Impaired



Computers & Related

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Individuals are considered applicants when they:
 - have completed and signed an application form or have otherwise requested services (including, but not limited to requests made verbally, by telephone, in writing, by facsimile, etc.);
 - have provided information necessary to initiate an assessment to determine eligibility and need for services; and
 - are available to complete the assessment process as soon as the rehabilitation teacher has a document signed by the individual requesting VS services. This may be a formal application or a letter signed by the applicant, applicant's parent, guardian, or other representative, which provides the minimum basic information and request VR services.
- In application status, the rehabilitation teacher will secure sufficient information to make a determination of eligibility or ineligibility for Older Blind services. The information needed may include a current visual examination and/or a low vision evaluation.
- The rehabilitation teacher will make the eligibility determination decision within 60 days of application.