



Welcome to the Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

The Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) believes in the capacity of people who are blind or visually impaired to achieve employment and independence. BSBP provides counseling, guidance, training and related services that empower persons with disabilities to achieve their individual goals.

If you live in Michigan and you are blind or visually impaired, BSBP will partner with you to define your goals and identify appropriate training and related services.

AVAILABLE SERVICES

Adult Services

Vocational Rehabilitation - counseling, guidance, training and other services that support and match skills and interests with in-demand career paths supported by the labor market.

Independent Living Older Blind Program - training and other services for adults, age 55 years or older to promote independence.

Youth and Transition Services

The Youth Low Vision Program - available to youth from birth through 13 years of age.

Pre-employment transition services - available to students ages 14-26 years of age focused on post-secondary outcomes.

Specialized Programs and Services

DeafBlind Services - provides direction on how to access interpreter and sign language services to support vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs.

Business Enterprise Program - unique career path for individuals completing specialized training to prepare for self-employment in the food and vending industry.

Training Center - comprehensive rehabilitative center that offers instructional services for adjustment to blindness and summer programs for students qualifying for pre-employment transition services. The training center located in Kalamazoo provides instruction virtually, as a day student, or on-campus resident.

Braille and Talking Book Library - lends audio and braille books to Michigan residents unable to comfortably read standard print materials due to a visual, physical or reading disability.

BSBP services are not framed within an entitlement program. To be eligible for BSBP services, you must be legally blind, which means you meet at least one of these criteria:

- The field of vision is restricted to 20 degrees or less; or
- Central acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with corrections; or
- Visual acuity with the best correction must be 20/100 or worse in the better eye with a prognosis of rapid deterioration; or
- The individual must have visual fields that subtend an angle of less than 40 degrees in each eye with the prognosis or rapid deterioration.

BSBP has adopted the following Mission. Vision and Core Values guide our services to Michigan residents.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide opportunities to individuals who are blind or visually impaired to achieve employment, and/or achieve maximum and meaningful independence in life through comprehensive rehabilitative services.

VISION

To help Michigan become a better state for blind and visually impaired persons to be equal contributing citizens that enjoy all the advantages of a full, independent life.

CORE VALUES

Accountability / Reliability · Client-focus · Demand-Driven Employment · Diversity / Inclusion · Efficiency · Excellence · Integrity / Honesty · Positive Mental Attitude · Safety · Teamwork · Transparency / Open Communication · Trust · Respect

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

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The Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, a part of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs, or disability. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to request any assistance you need with reading, writing, or hearing by contacting your local BSBP office.

The programs described in this brochure are funded as follows: Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) funded 78.7% through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) and 21.3% through State funding; Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) funded 90% through a grant from the USDOE and 10% through State funding; Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) funded 100 percent through the USDOE VR grant. For the federal fiscal year 2023, federal grant funds were as follows: VR \$19,146,385; Pre-ETS reserve included in VR \$2,871,958; ILOB \$994,565.



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