

Office for Blindness & Vision Services

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)

The Office for Blindness & Vision Services (OBVS) oversees programs and services for individuals whose disability is vision loss. OBVS is part of the Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS).

Our teachers, counselors, and technical specialists are specially trained to help individuals who are blind, vision impaired, or deaf-blind.

OBVS offers four service areas:

Employment or vocational rehabilitation (VR) services help people with disabilities obtain competitive employment.

Transition services for Students with Disabilities are activities that prepare students with disabilities to move from school to post-school life.

Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) programs teach people with vision loss, age 55 and over, how to become independent in their homes and communities.

Maryland Business Enterprise Program for the Blind (BEP) prepares individuals whose primary disability is vision loss to operate successful retail concession, food service, and vending operations in federal and State of Maryland facilities.

Examples of OBVS services may include:

- Career guidance and exploration
- Assistive technology (AT), such as screen reading software, magnifiers, and low vision aids
- Career training or academic education

- Independent living skills training, such as safe cooking techniques, personal care, and managing household tasks
- Orientation and mobility (O&M) training, such as instruction in safe travel or use of a long, white cane
- Job placement

Request DORS Services

Go to dors.maryland.gov and select **Request DORS Services**. You will be contacted to set up an intake meeting where a DORS counselor will gather and provide information regarding eligibility.

The Request DORS Services form can be completed by anyone – the job seeker or student themselves, a parent or family member, a medical provider, a teacher, etc.

Contact Us:

Office for Blindness & Vision Services
2301 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: 410-554-9277 or 866-614-4780
Email: obvs.dors@maryland.gov

OBVS Regional Offices:

OBVS staff are located in DORS offices throughout Maryland. You will be assigned a counselor or teacher who works in your community.

Baltimore: 410-554-9217
Serving Baltimore City and Baltimore, Cecil, Howard & Harford Counties

Wheaton: 301-949-3750
Serving Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery & Washington Counties

Annapolis: 410-974-7604

Serving Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Kent, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico & Worcester Counties

obvs.dors@maryland.gov

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Maryland State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) does not discriminate based on age, ancestry, color, creed, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, mental or physical disability, national origin, race, religious affiliation, belief or opinion, sex, or sexual orientation in matters affecting employment or in providing access to its programs and activities.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program receives 78.7% of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For the Federal fiscal year 2024, the total amount of grant funds awarded was \$60,204,299.

The remaining 21.3% of the costs (\$14,999,444) were funded by State appropriations.