

The Maryland Business Enterprise Program for the Blind (MBEPB)

Train to become a licensed manager of a business that serves.

Over 60 licensed business operators manage long-term successful businesses in Maryland's state, county and federal agencies such as:

- State office buildings in Annapolis and Baltimore
- National Institutes of Health
- Goddard Space Flight Center
- Federal Food and Drug Administration
- Motor Vehicle Administration
- Social Security Administration
- Aberdeen Proving Grounds
- Fort George G. Meade
- Internal Revenue Service
- Baltimore County Courthouse and Detention Center

The MBEPB is continually seeking qualified blind individuals who have the desire and drive to become small business entrepreneurs.

The Maryland Business Enterprise Program for the Blind (MBEPB) prepares individuals who are legally blind to operate retail concession, gift or food service businesses in public facilities.

Do you have what it takes to be a successful business operator?

- A desire to build a business that serves the everyday needs of public employees
- Good public relations and interpersonal skills
- An interest in the sale of pre-packaged and prepared food and drinks as well as other specialized products
- Effective written and verbal communication skills
- Education: high school diploma, GED or higher
- Math ability: 7th grade or higher
- Reading ability: 8th grade or higher
- Independent travel skills
- Available references

Eligibility

You must be a U.S. citizen and legally blind to become a MBEPB vendor. The first step is to apply for services through the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), which operates the program. If you are eligible for DORS services, a counselor will work with you to find out if you have the ability to be a successful business operator.

Each manager has an investment in making the business a success because MBEPB managers are self-employed entrepreneurs.

Training

Training to become a licensed manager includes successful completion of a four-phase program, which consists of:

- A five-week "New Manager Training Course" conducted by the MBEPB at the Workforce & Technology Center.
- Community College courses:
 - Principles of Management
 - Business Math
- Formal food service training with certified instructors and chefs, to learn all aspects of a food service operation and to become certified by the National Restaurant Association in food service sanitation.
- Four to six months of extended internship at various facilities with an experienced manager, which provides the opportunity to implement all skills learned prior to licensing.

Technology Helps MBEPB Vendors Build Success

Many MBEPB managers use today's technologies to perform daily job duties, for example:

- Laptop computers with adaptive software
- Electronic talking cash registers
- Talking bill identifiers, scales, thermometers
- Braille note takers

DORS will assess your needs and provide training with these technologies.

For additional information contact:

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Baltimore, MD 21218
Tel: 410-554-9452
TTY: 410-554-9155
Toll-Free: 1-866-614-4780
Fax: 410-554-9455

Or visit our website:

<http://www.dors.state.md.us/DORS/ProgramServices/Business3/mbepb/>

This brochure is available in audio and Braille format.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Division of Rehabilitation Services complies with the Civil Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, age, national origin, residence, physical or mental disability or political affiliation in providing services and employment opportunities.

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