

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Rehabilitation Services

Office for Blindness & Vision Services



What

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

Who

OBVS includes rehabilitation counselors, rehabilitation technologists, case managers and rehabilitation teachers with specialized training in issues of importance to people who are blind, vision impaired or deaf-blind. They assist people in designing and carrying out plans for employment. OBVS can also assist individuals over age 55 who have independent living goals.

Programs and services include career guidance and assessment, assistive technology, vocational or academic education, independent living skills training, orientation and mobility and job placement.

OBVS also administers the **Maryland Business Enterprise Program for the Blind**, which prepares individuals to operate successful retail concession and food service operations in public facilities.

Why

DORS is committed to the employment and independent living for Marylanders who are blind or vision impaired.

Where

DORS counselors, case managers and teachers are located in DORS offices throughout Maryland. Individuals referred for DORS services will be assigned a counselor or teacher who works in his or her community. OBVS has staff at the Workforce & Technology Center, a DORS rehabilitation facility in northeast Baltimore, where there is also extensive programming for individuals who are blind or have vision impairments.

DORS Works! Personal income was the primary source of support for only 10.9% when first applying for DORS services. At closure, 75.9% said it was their primary source of support. *

Fifty-five **(55)** licensed managers in the Maryland Business Enterprise Program for the Blind (MBEPB) operate **71** vending facilities. Their average annual income is **\$45,453**.

Contact Us

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OBVS Regional Offices

Waldorf 301-645-8882

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

Baltimore 410-261-2954

Serving Baltimore City and Baltimore, Howard and Harford Counties

Cumberland 301-777-2119

Serving Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery and Washington Counties



www.dors.maryland.gov

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Call 410-554-9385 or 888-554-9435.**