

## *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: Office for Blindness & Vision Services**

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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](http://www.dors.maryland.gov)

**This document is available in alternate format.  
Call 410-554-9385 or 888-554-9435.**

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\*DORS 2015 Annual Report