**FACT SHEET: SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISION IMPAIRED (GENERAL)**

Services for the Blind and Vison Impaired (SBVI)

Through SBVI, VR New Hampshire provides an array of supports to help people who are blind or vision impaired earn, learn, and live life to the fullest. These include:

# Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

If you’re a New Hampshire resident who is blind or vision impaired, you may be eligible for VR services from SBVI. VR encompasses a wide range of services and supports designed to help people with disabilities set and achieve their employment goals. For individuals experiencing blindness or a vision impairment, these VR services are especially customized, focusing on assistive technology and alternative ways to accomplish tasks. They may also include training on transportation and other independent living skills. SBVI also offers pre-employment training services for youth who are blind and vision impaired.

# Randolph Sheppard/Business Enterprise Program

The Randolph Sheppard/Business Enterprise Program serves New Hampshire residents who are blind and interested in self-employment. It offers them the opportunity to establish and operate their own entrepreneurial enterprises on federal (and in some cases state, local, or private) properties. Examples include cafeterias, snack bars, and other vending facilities.

# Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB)

The Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) program serves people who are blind, vision impaired, or deaf-blind and 55 or older, with a focus on building independent living skills based on an individual’s goals, including employment if desired. OIB also offers a network of peer support groups across the state to help people connect and learn from each other’s experiences.

# Blindness Registry

VR New Hampshire maintains the state’s blindness registry. Being listed on the registry is voluntary but has benefits because it is used by the state to verify eligibility for certain benefits, among them significant tax deductions. Additional benefits range from free fishing licenses to verification for services such as school accommodations and online educational opportunities for youth.

# For More Information

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