**New York State Commission for the Blind

A GUIDE TO SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS WHO ARE BLIND

What is NYSCB?**

The New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) assists New York state residents of all ages who are legally blind or deaf-blind to live independent and productive lives by providing vocational counseling, advocacy, rehabilitation training and employment services.

**NYSCB Programs**

**Employment Program**A vocational rehabilitation counselor can help you develop a plan and get the training you need to reach your employment goal.

**Job Save Program**If you are employed and legally blind or have a diagnosis leading to legal blindness within one year, you may be eligible for Job Save services. A vocational rehabilitation counselor can arrange vision and job services that may help you to continue working productively in your position.

**Business Enterprise Program (BEP)**

If you are a U.S. citizen interested in managing your own newsstand, snack bar, cafeteria or vending route, BEP provides training to get you licensed and up and running, along with on-going support.

**Independent Living/Older Adult Programs**

If you are an adult who wants to live as independently as possible, but are not interested in employment, NYSCB has programs to teach you the skills to maintain your home, travel safely and keep in touch with family and friends.

**Children’s Program**

Your child can receive services in your home, in your community and at rehabilitation agencies. Children’s consultants provide educational consultation and supplemental services, vocational coordination, advocacy services and guidance for your family.

**Who Is Eligible?**

New York state residents who are age 55 or older and legally blind or deaf-blind, who are not employed and not interested in pursuing employment, may be eligible for New York State Commission for the Blind’s Adaptive Living Program (ALP). This program focuses on teaching skills to live independently. Individuals who are employed or interested in pursuing employment may be eligible for NYSCB's Employment, Job Save or Business Enterprise programs.

**Legal Blindness Is Defined As:**

A visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better or stronger eye with best correction; OR a restricted field of vision of 20 degrees or less in the better or stronger eye. Please contact NYSCB for help with determining eligibility.

**Adaptive Living Program (ALP) Services For Older Adults**

NYSCB offers training to help you learn skills to live as independently as possible in your home and to participate in your community.

**Services May Include:**

* Daily living skills training
* Travel training
* Low vision examinations and aids
* Social casework
* Community resources
* Braille instruction
* Communication skills

 **How to Apply**

For more information or to apply for services offered by NYSCB, call our toll-free number: 1-866-871-3000 or visit our website:

[visionloss.ny.gov](https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/nyscb/). You may also contact the NYSCB district office closest to you:

**Albany–NYSCB**

Albany District Office

52 Washington St., Room 202 South Bldg.

Rensselaer, NY 12144

Telephone: (518) 473-1675

**Syracuse–NYSCB**

The Atrium

100 S. Salina St., Suite 105

Syracuse, NY 13202

Telephone: (315) 423-5417

**Buffalo–NYSCB**

Ellicott Square Building

295 Main St., Suite 590

Mail to: Suite 545

Buffalo, NY 14203

Telephone: (716) 847-3516

**Rochester–NYSCB (Outstation)**

Monroe Square

259 Monroe Ave., Suite 303

Rochester, NY 14607

Telephone: (585) 238-8110

**Westchester–NYSCB**

117 East Stevens Ave., Suite 300

Valhalla, NY 10595

Telephone: (914) 993-5370

**Harlem–NYSCB**

Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Bldg.

163 West 125th St., Suite 1315

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 961-4440

**Lower Manhattan–NYSCB**

80 Maiden Lane, Suite 401

New York, NY 10038

Telephone: (212) 825-5710

**Garden City–NYSCB**

711 Stewart Ave., Suite 210

Garden City, NY 11530

Telephone: (516) 743-4188

**NYSCB**

For information on services call: 1-866-871-3000 or visit:

[visionloss.ny.gov](https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/nyscb/)

NYSCB is part of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

The services described in this brochure are funded, in part, with federal funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Supported Employment Services, and the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) programs. For purposes of the VR program, the federal VR grant paid 78.7% of the total cost of the program. In federal fiscal year (FFY) 2022, the VR agency received $23M in federal VR funds. These funds were matched at 21.3% from non-federal sources.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services will make this material available in an accessible, preferred format upon request.

**PUB. 5149A** (6/2024)