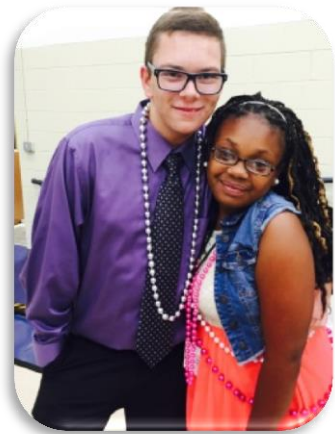


**T**oday, over 155,000\* Virginians are personally affected by a severe visual impairment. The Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired is here to provide services and resources which empower individuals who are blind, vision impaired or deafblind to achieve their desired levels of employment, education and personal independence.

DBVI envisions a world in which blind, vision impaired and deafblind people can access all that society has to offer and can, in turn, contribute to the greater community.

DBVI offers **Vocational Rehabilitation** services to help to make employment opportunities available to persons with visual disabilities.

Individualized programs are developed with eligible individuals to assist with obtaining or retaining employment. Services that may be provided include:



- Adjustment training
- Vocational training
- Adaptive equipment
- Rehabilitation technology services
- Counseling and guidance
- Supported employment services
- Job placement and follow-up services

The **Virginia Industries for the Blind** provides another employment option for blind Virginians at twenty-one locations throughout the Commonwealth. VIB focuses on employment through the manufacture and delivery of quality products of services.

The **Business Enterprise Program** allows for qualified Virginians to participate in the Randolph-Sheppard program to give the opportunity to operate food service or vending businesses on federal, state and other property.

Through **Workforce Development** services, DBVI staff focus on supporting employers with their human resource needs, as well as working with consumers for job opportunities development.



These services are achieved through a work experience program, on-the-job training and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit.

**Services for Children and Youth** are offered for infants, children and youth with vision loss to help reduce developmental delays and improve progress in their personal world and educational settings. This program helps parents or guardians access the educational system and prepare for the future.

**Rehabilitation Teaching and Independent Living** services are available to Virginians living with vision loss to help achieve independence. Independent living skills training teaches techniques to adjust to vision loss; maximize your remaining vision; and function safely, comfortably and confidently in your home and community.

**Orientation & Mobility** specialists teach adults who are blind or visually impaired the skills and concepts they need in order to travel independently and safely in the home, college, community and city.

**Low Vision Services** provide an opportunity for visually impaired Virginians to maximize their visual abilities through a community based full service vision rehabilitation process. This unique process is managed by a group of professionals with varied and specialized skills who coordinate the delivery of services that could include, functional vision and clinical assessments, training in the use of optical and non-optical aids, suggesting environmental modifications and providing on-site school, home and job consultations to assist the consumer to use his/her remaining vision.



**DeafBlind Services** are offered to Virginians with significant vision and hearing loss to assist them with independent living and employment; deafblind individuals and staff working with them can get information and training on community resources and adaptive technology. **iCanConnect** Virginia provides FREE communications technology – as well as installation, training and support – to low income, deafblind Virginia residents, giving them the keys to staying connected in today's world.

The **Rehabilitation Technology Services** program serves to optimize employment outcomes of individuals with vision impairments through assistive technology, increase awareness of the availability and potential of assistive technology, and create individualized solutions by employing the most appropriate assistive technology techniques and practices.

The **Library and Resource Center** (LRC) administers two fundamental programs throughout the Commonwealth. Library services are offered to persons who are print disabled and local school divisions are supported in the education of visually impaired and blind children. A variety of services are provided to blind and vision impaired students K-12, school divisions, and teachers in the Commonwealth.

The Center houses an inventory of adaptive equipment that is distributed to blind and visually impaired infants, children and youth throughout the state.

The **Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired** (VRCBVI) provides training in the skills of blindness and promotes the belief that



blindness is neither a barrier to employment nor to living a full and meaningful life. By stressing self-sufficiency and independence, we strive to empower our students to take charge of their own lives. In an atmosphere of open communication, teamwork, and trust, we provide adjustment training in skills which allow persons who are vision impaired or blind to function as independently,

safely, and efficiently in society as possible. Most training programs are individually tailored to meet the specific needs of the student. Special programs that provide specific training to groups of students with similar needs, such as our LIFE program (“Learning Independence, Feeling Empowered”) for transition-aged students, LEAP (“Leaning Excellence in Academics Program”), and Saturday Technology Seminars are also offered.

### **REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION**

Bristol Regional Office  
(276) 642-7300

Fairfax Regional Office  
(703) 359-1100

Norfolk Regional Office  
(757) 466-4162

Richmond Regional Office  
(804) 371-3353

Roanoke Regional Office  
(540) 561-7475

Staunton Regional Office  
(540) 332-7729

Headquarters  
1-800-622-2155 V/TTY  
(804) 371-3140