



OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services

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For more information about the
DRS SBVI's Older Blind program:

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Stay Independent



Older Blind
program
offers seniors
chance
to maintain
lifestyle



OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Who we are:

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Service's Older Blind Independent Living Program expands independent living services for people who are 55 years old or older and legally blind.

Rehabilitation teachers located in Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired offices throughout the state provide one-on-one assistance to older people in adjusting to blindness and regaining or maintaining maximum independence and self-sufficiency.

Older Blind Program staff present training for businesses, organizations and others to develop greater awareness of the abilities and needs of older Oklahomans who are blind. Legal blindness occurs when visual acuity with best correction is 20/200 or less or when side vision results in a field restriction of 20 degree or less.

What we do

If you are having problems with daily living (i.e. dialing the phone, signing your name, cooking, identifying money, time telling, matching your clothing) a Rehabilitation teacher will work with you free of charge in learning how to perform these tasks safely, efficiently, and independently.

What services are provided by the Older Blind Program?

The free services are individualized to the client based on professional assessments. They combine the adaptive skills, assistive devices, therapies and resources a person needs to



improve independence and stay living at home.

Blindness rehabilitation professionals teach ways to do daily tasks with little or no sight.

They teach skills for reading, writing, cooking, housekeeping, safely getting around home and community, using assistive devices, managing medicines, diabetes care, grooming and many other tasks essential in daily life.

SBVI provides services based on client needs and choices.

In a 2019 study:

✓ 95.7% of people surveyed said they are confident in their ability to maintain current living situation because of SBVI services.

✓ 93.4% of people surveyed said they continue to use at least some of the equipment they received through SBVI services, but 89.5% of people continue to use (all of) the equipment.

There is no cost to the individual for Older Blind services.

Why seek help from DRS?

In Oklahoma, Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired division within the Department of Rehabilitation Services is the entity eligible to receive the federal grant to provide independent living services for older blind Oklahomans.

SBVI's OB program has been highly effective, providing comprehensive individualized services across the state at no cost to the consumer.

