

# Blind Rehabilitation Center

*Approximately 85 percent of people classified as legally blind have some usable remaining vision.*

The loss of sight affects each person differently. VA's years of experience with visual impairment show that a program of comprehensive rehabilitation is usually the best method to address these complex issues. An experienced professional team guides individuals through a process that eventually leads to maximum restoration of independence along with the development of a healthy attitude toward themselves, their needs and their future.

## THE BLIND REHABILITATION CENTER:

- Provides housing, meals and health services
- Has an assigned medical provider and 24-hour nursing services
- Serves male and female Veterans

## THE PROGRAM

### ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY

Focuses on developing the Veteran's ability to move safely and efficiently through the environment.

**COMPUTER ACCESS TRAINING**  
Offers computer equipment and training.

### VISUAL SKILLS

Emphasizes vision rehabilitation. Low vision specialists:

- Help the Veteran understand his or her particular visual problems
- Teach the Veteran to effectively use his or her remaining vision
- Provide help to all Veterans who have some working vision

- May use optical aids and devices

### LIVING SKILLS

Ensure the Veteran can manage daily living needs when he or she returns home.

Veterans learn to use aids such as:

- Tape recorders
- Braille devices
- Talking calculators
- Electronic reading machines

Veterans gain confidence in personal management and daily living skills such as:

- Homemaking
- Shopping
- Cooking and dietary management
- Maintenance of the home

### MANUAL SKILLS

Includes activities which develop leisure skills, safe work habits and self-confidence.

### FAMILY MEMBERS

Are invited to take part in the planning of the Veteran's program.

### RECREATION THERAPY

Increases the Veteran's ability

to participate in a range of social, recreational and leisure activities.

## VA CONTINUUM OF VISION CARE

THE BLIND REHABILITATION CENTER (BRC)

Training programs for visually impaired Veterans that involve the patient, the family and the full range of appropriate medical specialties.

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SERVICES TEAM (VIST)

VIST provides coordinated services to low vision Veterans, including referral to a Blind Rehabilitation Center.

BLIND REHABILITATION OUTPATIENT SPECIALIST (BROS)

BROS provides rehabilitation services in the home and community.

INTERMEDIATE LOW VISION CLINIC

Provides evaluation and training for Veterans with sufficient vision who do not require more extensive treatment in the BRC program.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, APPLICATION OR REFERRAL, CONTACT:

Blind Rehab Admissions Coordinator  
(228) 385-6777

Visual Impairment Services Team Coordinator  
Biloxi, Miss. (228) 385-6762

Pensacola, Fla. (850) 912-2552



**VA GULF COAST VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

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