

1. About Blindness/Visual Impairments (BVI)

Excerpts from website: www.azdes.gov/rsa/a_guide_for_blind_and_visually_impaired:

“The general public tends to think of blindness as a total lack of sight, however, definitions of blindness do vary. All states consider anyone whose visual acuity for distant vision is 20/200 or less in the better eye with best correction, or widest diameter of visual field less than 20 degrees, as a "legally" blind person. “Legally blind” can, therefore, include persons who have some sight and those who are totally blind.” Services include the following:

Service Descriptions

Orientation and Mobility

Orientation and Mobility (O&M) is a service provided by certified specialists (“Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist”) to teach the skill of orienting to the environment and safely navigating within an environment using remaining senses & mobility devices including cane travel.



Rehabilitation Teaching/Therapy

Rehabilitation teaching/therapy (RT) is a service that provides instruction to individuals who are blind and visually impaired in the areas of home and personal management, adaptive communication skills such as Braille, keyboarding, accessing print materials, basic computer skills, diabetic and health management, adjustment to blindness counseling, use of assistive technology for daily living, and more.

Assistive Technology

Assistive technology services for persons who are blind or visually impaired may include provision of devices and/or assessment and training services related to low vision aids, daily living aids, mobility aids and computers with speech, screen magnification and/or braille access technologies.

Rehabilitation Services Administration Programs

Vocational Rehabilitation

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program helps people with disabilities become or remain economically independent through work. The VR Program is administered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

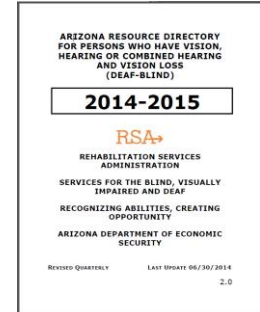
Independent Living Blind Program

The Rehabilitation Adjustment and Employment Services (RAES) Unit is a statewide support, consultation and training service to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), serving clients who are blind or visually impaired. Services are provided by RSA SBVID (Service for Blind/Visually Impaired & Deaf) staff and community providers.

Resource Directory:

The *Arizona Resource Directory for Persons who have Vision, Hearing or Combined Hearing and Vision Loss (Deaf-Blind)* may be accessed on

www.azdes.gov/rsa/sbvid or call 602-568-1634 to request a copy and additional info.



Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo:

Typically in November, the annual Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo is FREE and provides hands on information in the area of blindness/low vision and BVI assistive technologies. www.vrate.org



Contact Information for Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)

Phoenix area: 602-266-6752

Tucson area: 520-628-6810

Flagstaff area: 928-637-7960

Yuma area: 928-539-3175

Casa Grande: 520-316-9311

Douglas: 520-364-4446

Blind Services: 602-266-9286