Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
Scores Top Employment Rating in Federal Review

ALBANY, NY ---- New York State leads the nation in employment statistics for the blind and visually impaired, thanks in large part to a highly successful program developed by the New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH), which is under the purview of the state Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

In a recent review by the Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), which evaluates the performance of 24 state agencies throughout the country that serve the blind and visually impaired, CBVH placed 60% more workers in jobs last year than the next highest state.

CBVH has been an active partner in the National Employment Team of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation. Through this partnership, CBVH has been able to develop relationships with national private and public employers to obtain employment opportunities for the blind and visually impaired in New York State. CBVH also works closely with community partners to increase sharing of job leads and develop relationships with local employers.

“We are so proud that these valuable partnerships have resulted in career opportunities for the clients of CBVH, who bring valuable skills to the workforce,” said OCFS Commissioner Gladys Carrión, Esq. “These jobs are prime examples of how best to provide growth opportunities for diverse populations and foster success.”

The CBVH vocational rehabilitation program helps people with visual impairments gain valuable employment skills, and works closely with community organizations and vocational rehabilitation agencies to train and develop candidates based on employer needs. The employees who are placed through the CBVH program report high job satisfaction and receive support not only from CBVH but also from their supervisors and co-workers.

The RSA review encompassed six broad categories. CBVH passed the 2011 standards in all six categories and was noted for best practices in several areas including the Summer Employment Experience Program for youth, employer business kits that improve employment outcomes, and outreach initiatives to unserved and underserved individuals.

CBVH provides vocational rehabilitation and other direct services to legally blind New York State residents, including children, adults, and elderly persons. A primary objective is to assist consumers in achieving economic self-sufficiency and full integration into society.

For more information about CBVH programs, or to find a local district office, call 1-866-871-3000 (TTY: 1-866-871-6000), or visit www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/cbvh/

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