Business Enterprise Program (BEP)

Business training and management opportunities for eligible consumers.

If you think that you have what it takes to operate your own business, contact your VR Counselor or call your nearest BEP office.

For information on services call: (866) 871-3000

-OR-

Visit our website: visionloss.ny.gov

NYSCB is a division of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

Pub. 4806 (Rev. 05/2017)

NYSCB Office Locations-cont.

New York City
80 Maiden Lane, 23rd Fl.
New York, N.Y. 10038
(212) 825-5710

Rochester
259 Monroe Ave., Rm. 303
Rochester, N.Y. 14607
(585) 238-8110

Syracuse
100 S. Salina St., Ste. 105
Syracuse, N.Y. 13202
(315) 423-5417

White Plains
445 Hamilton Ave., Rm. 503
White Plains, N.Y. 10601
(914) 993-5370

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What is the Business Enterprise Program (BEP)?

- The Business Enterprise Program was created in 1936 through federal legislation called the Randolph Sheppard Act. Government statutes that govern this program provide a priority for blind vendors to operate food service facilities in federal and state government buildings.

Who is eligible for the BEP Program?

- Any United States citizen, 18 or over, who is legally blind and is a New York State resident may be eligible.

How does BEP work?

- BEP teaches eligible New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) consumers how to successfully manage a food service business, vending route or newsstand. Qualified program participants learn business math, labor and merchandise management, purchasing, legal requirements and customer service. Participants will also earn (through study and passing a test) the nationally-accredited ServSafe® food safety certification from the National Restaurant Association.

- When training is successfully completed, participants get an interest-free, three-year loan to buy their initial product inventory. Once the business is up and running, a BEP business services specialist visits monthly to provide support and assist with any issues.

To learn more about becoming a Business Enterprise Program (BEP) participant:

For current NYSCB consumers, contact your counselor.

If you are not yet an NYSCB consumer, contact the New York State Commission for the Blind by phone, toll free, at 866-871-3000.

Indicate that you are interested in the Business Enterprise Program when you call, or include that information in the "Remarks" section when you fill out an NYSCB OCFS-1002, Application for Services, located on our website. http://ocfs.ny.gov