BEP Regional Offices

Western Region
NYSCB-BEP
295 Main Street, Suite 591
Mail to: Suite 545
Buffalo, NY 14203
Telephone: 716-847-3518

Central Region
NYSCB-BEP
52 Washington Street, Suite 202, South Bldg.
Rensselaer, NY 12144
Telephone: 518-474-5198

Southern Region
NYSCB-BEP
80 Maiden Lane, 4th Floor, Suite 401
New York, NY 10038
Telephone: 212-383-1740

NYSCB Office Locations

Buffalo-NYSCB
295 Main Street, Suite 590
Mail to: Suite 545
Buffalo, NY 14203
Telephone: 716-847-3516

Rochester-NYSCB
259 Monroe Avenue, Suite 303
Rochester, NY 14607
Telephone: 585-238-8110

Syracuse-NYSCB
100 S. Salina Street, Suite 105
Syracuse, NY 13202
Telephone: 315-423-5417

Albany-NYSCB
52 Washington St., Room 202, South Bldg.
Rensselaer, NY 12144
Telephone: 518-473-1675

Westchester-NYSCB
117 East Stevens Avenue, Suite 300
Valhalla, NY 10595
Telephone: 914-993-5370

BEP vendor at store counter, with cash register and lottery terminal

Business Enterprise Program (BEP)

For more information, contact your VR counselor or nearest BEP office, or contacts below:

1-866-871-3000
-OR-
Visit our website: visionloss.ny.gov

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

The services described in this brochure are funded, in part, with federal funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Employment Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Supported Services, and the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) programs. For purposes of the VR program, the federal VR grant paid 78.7% of the total costs of the program. In federal fiscal year (FFY) 2021, the VR agency received $24M in federal VR funds. These funds were matched at 21.3% from non-federal sources.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services will make this material available in an accessible, preferred format upon request.

Visit our website: visionloss.ny.gov

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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) participants 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, vendors receive 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) vendor:
For current NYSCB participants, contact your Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselor.
If you are not yet an NYSCB participant, contact the New York State Commission for the Blind by phone, toll free, at 1-866-871-3000

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.

visionloss.ny.gov