

Medical Professional Facts

Having to inform a patient that he or she is legally blind is difficult. As a medical practitioner, you can provide help and hope even in the midst of this life-changing diagnosis by referring your patient to the New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB), the State vocational rehabilitation agency that helps individuals who are blind or visually impaired to live independent lives.

Eligibility

NYSCB provides services to legally blind people of all ages in New York State with a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with best correction, or a visual field of no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye.

What We Do

NYSCB's professional staff can provide travel and living skills training to help individuals maintain independence at home, at work and in the community.

Services may include:

- Counseling, assessment and casework services
- Mobility instruction and rehabilitation teaching
- Low vision devices and assistive technology, plus training on how to use them

For those currently employed or seeking employment, NYSCB Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors work to identify and meet training needs for job success and provide assistance throughout the job search and hiring process.

Our expert staff works with a network of non-profit groups, rehabilitation agencies and private vendors to stay informed on the latest advances for workplace and home technology and training for blind and visually impaired people. All services are provided at no cost to your patient.

For Those With Visual Impairments Who Are Not Legally Blind

People with severe progressive visual impairments who are not legally blind may qualify for the Job Save Program. NYSCB program staff recommends workplace enhancements and training to help patients retain employment and adapt to their impairments. NYSCB can also assist employers in making needed accommodations.

To Refer A Patient To NYSCB

- Provide your patient with contact information for NYSCB
- For patients with a diagnosis of legal blindness, make the required notification to NYSCB using form **OCFS-4599 Report of Legal Blindness/ Request for Information**.

**For further information contact NYSCB at:
1-866-871-3000 or visionloss.ny.gov**

NYSCB District Offices

Albany - NYSCB

52 Washington Street
Albany District Office
Rensselaer, NY 12144
Telephone: (518) 473-1675

Buffalo - NYSCB

Ellicott Square Building
295 Main Street, Suite 590
Mail to: Suite 545
Buffalo, NY 14203
Telephone: (716) 847-3516

Rochester (Outstation) - NYSCB

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

Harlem - NYSCB

Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Bldg.
163 West 125th Street, Suite 1315
New York, NY 10027
Telephone: (212) 961-4440

Garden City - NYSCB

711 Stewart Avenue, Suite 210
Garden City, NY 11530
Telephone: (516) 743-4188

Lower Manhattan - NYSCB

80 Maiden Lane, Suite 401
New York, NY 10038
Telephone: (212) 825-5710

Syracuse - NYSCB

The Atrium
100 S. Salina Street, Suite 105
Syracuse, NY 13202
Telephone: (315) 423-5417

Westchester - NYSCB

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

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

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Sheila J. Poole, OCFS, Commissioner