

## WHO WE ARE

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services' Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH) is equipped to provide rehabilitation services to residents of New York State who are Deaf-Blind. These programs include:

- ◆ Training for Employment
- ◆ Business Enterprise Program
- ◆ Programs for Older Adults
- ◆ Programs for Children

Services are available throughout the state from individuals who are fluent in various modes of sign language and are aware of the needs of Deaf-Blind individuals. Communications is provided in preferred methods, including but not limited to Braille, large print, and tactile methods.



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any New York State resident who is legally blind and unable to understand most speech with optimum amplification may be eligible for Deaf-Blind services provided by CBVH. Legal blindness is defined as:

- ◆ A visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better or stronger eye with best correction, or
- ◆ A restricted field of vision of 20 degrees or less in the better or stronger eye.

If you are severely visually impaired and deaf but not legally blind, you may qualify for some services.

If you are unsure if you are legally blind or whether you would qualify for services, CBVH can assist you in determining eligibility.

## EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

A vocational rehabilitation counselor can assist you in obtaining your first job, returning to work or keeping your present job.

A trained counselor will help to develop an employment plan which can include training and/or education. There will be ongoing opportunities to review and adjust the plan.

Once the goals of the plan are reached, CBVH will assist with job placement.

## INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS FOR OLDER ADULTS & THOSE NOT SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Services are also available for those interested in learning skills for independent living. If you are 55 years or older (or under 55 and not seeking employment), programs and adaptive equipment are available to teach the skills necessary to maintain independent living. This includes management of various household tasks and traveling safely in and around the home. In addition, social concerns can be addressed in order to remain involved with family and friends.

## BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

U.S. citizens who are legally blind and have hearing loss may be eligible to operate newsstands, snack bars and cafeterias in government buildings. Management skill training, stock loans and necessary equipment are provided. CBVH also furnishes continuing support services to program participants.

## PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

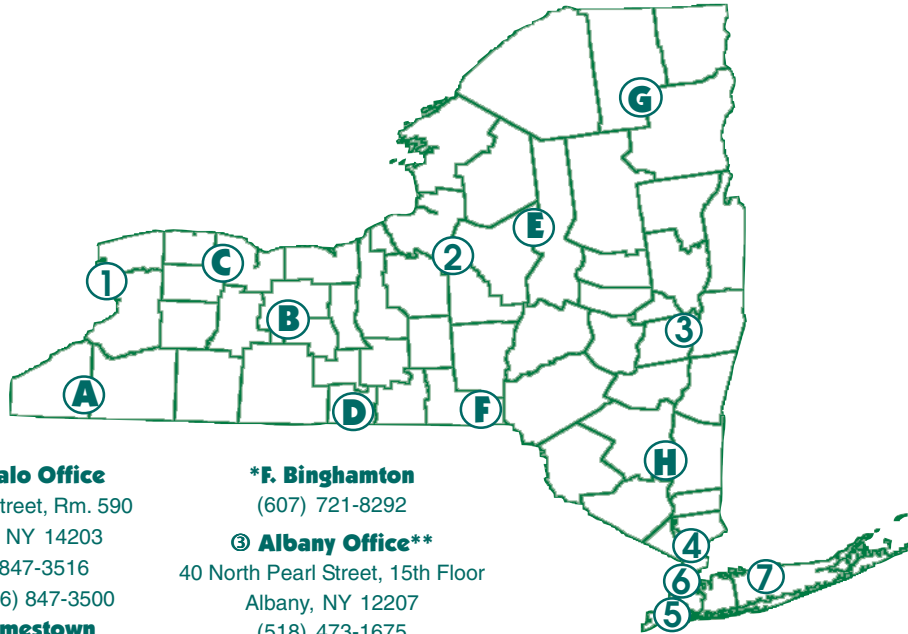
CBVH funds programs for children who are under 14 years of age or, if multi-disabled, under 22 years of age. A parent or guardian can apply for services on behalf of a child who is Deaf-Blind. Working with the family, a children's consultant helps develop a plan to meet the child's needs. The plan may include services provided in the home, the community, and /or at rehabilitation agencies. The children's consultant may provide counseling and guidance to the family, advocacy services, service coordination, educational consultation and vocational coordination.

Visit our website:

[www.visionloss.ny.gov](http://www.visionloss.ny.gov)

## HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in any of the programs or services offered by CBVH and would like to receive an application, or if you require assistance in completing an application, please call the regional office located closest to you, or call the toll-free number listed on the back panel.



### ① Buffalo Office

295 Main Street, Rm. 590  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
(716) 847-3516  
TDD: (716) 847-3500

### \*A. Jamestown

(716) 488-1292  
(716) 512-1121

### \*B. Dundee

(607) 243-7596

### \*C. Rochester

(585) 238-8110  
TDD: (585) 238-8104

### ② Syracuse Office

The Atrium, Suite 105  
100 South Salina Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
(315) 423-5417  
TDD: (315) 423-5426

### \*D. Elmira

(607) 737-1007

### \*E. Utica

(315) 793-5458

### \*F. Binghamton

(607) 721-8292

### ③ Albany Office\*\*

40 North Pearl Street, 15th Floor  
Albany, NY 12207  
(518) 473-1675  
TDD: (518) 473-1698

### \*G. Tupper Lake

(518) 359-7936

### ④ White Plains Office

445 Hamilton Avenue, Room 503  
White Plains, NY 10601  
(914) 993-5370  
TDD: (914) 993-5327

### \*H. New Windsor

(845) 567-1054

### ⑤ New York City Office

80 Maiden Lane, 23rd Floor  
New York, NY 10038  
(212) 825-5710  
TDD: (212) 825-7367

### ⑥ Harlem Office

163 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 209  
New York, NY 10027  
(212) 961-4440

### ⑦ Hempstead Office

50 Clinton Street, Suite 208  
Hempstead, NY 11550  
(516) 564-4311  
TDD: (516) 564-4325

\*Letters designate outstations:

\*\*Albany Office Mailing Address:

52 Washington Street,  
Rensselaer, NY 12144

## New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Capital View Office Park  
52 Washington Street  
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Visit our website at:  
[www.visionloss.ny.gov](http://www.visionloss.ny.gov)

For child care, foster care and  
adoption information, call:  
**1-800-345-KIDS (5437)**

To report child abuse and  
neglect, call:  
**1-800-342-3720**

For information on the Abandoned  
Infant Protection Act, call:  
**1-866-505-SAFE (7233)**

For information on services for the  
blind, call:  
**1-866-871-3000**  
**1-866-871-6000 (TDD)**

*"...promoting the well-being and  
safety of our children, families,  
and communities. ..."*



### State of New York

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, The New York State Office of Children and Family Services will make this material available in large print or on audiotape upon request.

Pub. 4805 (Rev. 06/2010)



## Commission for the Blind & Visually Handicapped

# A Guide to Services for Individuals Who Are Deaf - Blind