Chapter 11:

Vision Rehabilitation Services

Vermont Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Policy and Procedures Manual

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Contents

[Section I. Definitions 2](#_Toc46395657)

[Section II. General Policy 2](#_Toc46395658)

[Section III. Spending and Related Guidelines 3](#_Toc46395659)

# Section I. Definitions

1. “Rehabilitation Teaching Services (RT)” means the teaching of the techniques fundamental to developing personal independence by mastering common skills of daily living for individuals without vision or with impaired vision. They encompass specific and identifiable teaching methods to assist in areas such as personal hygiene and grooming, communication (i.e. Braille or writing with a template), home management including meal preparation and cleaning.
2. “Orientation and Mobility Services (O&M)” means the teaching of methods of independent travel to individuals without vision or with impaired vision. Mobility in this context is the act of moving, while orientation is awareness of pertinent factors in the environment which enable the individual to react, move, and travel in a safe, appropriate, and purposeful manner.

# Section II. General Policy

DBVI has a contract with a specialized non-profit agency which provides most of the services referenced in this chapter and often provides evaluation and training to individuals referred by DBVI in the following areas:

1. **Orientation and Mobility**
   1. Human guide techniques
   2. Protective techniques
   3. Cane travel techniques
   4. Workplace orientation
   5. The distribution, with prior approval of the DBVI counselor, of appropriate adaptive aids and training in their use; and
   6. Other techniques which will enhance safe travel and orientation to school, the workplace and in the community.
2. **Rehabilitation Teaching**
   1. Workplace assessments

* Orientation to workspace and materials
* Recommended modifications and accommodations
  1. Activities of daily living such as:
     + Personal care and management
     + Eating techniques and etiquette
     + Identification and labeling
     + Household cleaning and home maintenance
     + Laundering and clothing care
     + Meal planning and preparation
     + Budgeting and banking techniques
     + Social and recreational activities
     + The distribution of adaptive aids and appliances, with prior approval by DBVI, and training in the use of these adaptive aids and appliances
     + Other techniques which will further enhance independent living and self-sufficiency.
  2. **Communication skills** such as:
     + Braille
     + Keyboarding
     + Handwriting
     + Use of large print materials
     + The distribution of adaptive aids and appliances, with prior approval by DBVI, and training in the use of these adaptive aids and appliances
     + Other techniques that will enhance individual communication skills.
  3. **Low vision services (LV)** such as:
     + Screening and evaluation for low vision aids
     + Consultation with ophthalmologists or optometrists regarding the evaluation and uses of the recommended aids
     + The distribution of appropriate low vision aids, with prior approval by DBVI, and training in the use of the low vision aids.

# Section III. Spending and Related Guidelines

Services described in this chapter can be provided at any point in the rehabilitation process including post-employment services.

The Director or designee must approve any long-term provision of specialized services mentioned in this chapter if the anticipated costs for an individual exceed $5,000 total. Provision of these services in and out-of-state facility must have prior approval of the Director or designee.