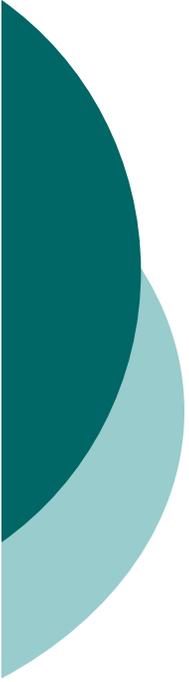


# Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI)

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Joe Bowman, Commissioner

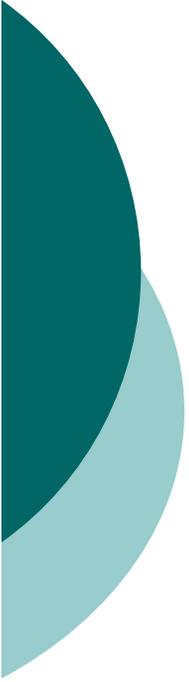
Prepared for the  
Disability Commission  
July 13, 2006



## DBVI mission

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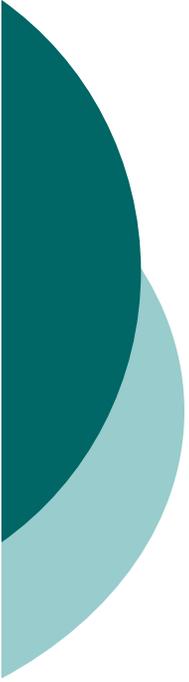
To empower individuals who are blind, vision impaired or deafblind to achieve their maximum level of employment, education, and personal independence



# DBVI and consumer partnerships

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Blind consumers are partners in developing training plans to meet their specific needs



# Services delivered in communities

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- Field based services are provided directly to consumers at the local level -
  - in their homes
  - in their places of employment
  - in their schools at the elementary, middle, secondary, and post-secondary levels



# Six DBVI Field Office Locations

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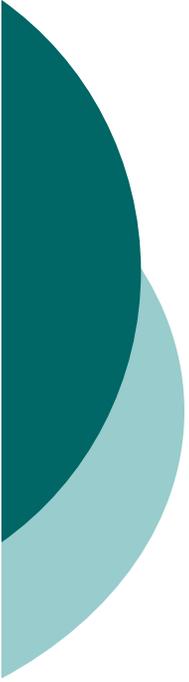
- Bristol
- Fairfax
- Norfolk
- Richmond
- Roanoke
- Staunton



## DBVI team approach

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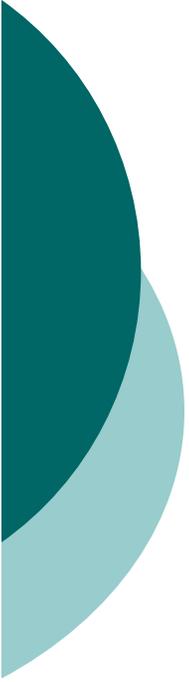
- Multifaceted team working together in partnership with consumers to address specific needs of each individual:
  - Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors
  - Rehabilitation Teachers
  - Orientation and Mobility Specialists
  - Education Coordinators
  - Deafblind Specialists



# DBVI Comprehensive Services

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- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Education Services
- Independent Living
- Orientation and Mobility
- Deafblind Services
- Low Vision Services



# DBVI Comprehensive Services

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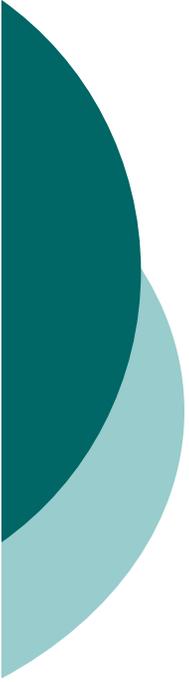
- Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired
- Library and Resource Center
- Virginia Industries for the Blind
- Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Program



# DBVI Vocational Rehabilitation

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- Assists consumers in securing competitive and integrated employment through job training
- 1,150 people access VR services per year; 150-200 achieve employment outcomes
- \$12.47 per hour average wage at case closure in FY 2005; a 14.5% increase over FY 2004



# DBVI Education Services

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- Technical assistance and support for blind infants, children, their families, and teachers in evaluation, program planning, curriculum modification, transition programs, and adaptive equipment and educational materials
- 1,900 blind and vision impaired students served each year through local school divisions



# DBVI Independent Living

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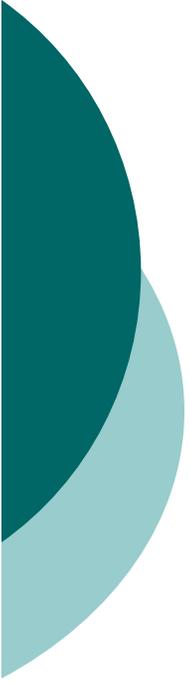
- Individualized needs assessments and adjustment to blindness counseling
- Instruction in alternate (non-visual) techniques for activities of daily living, orientation and mobility, Braille, typing, script writing, home management skills, assistive technology services and devices
- 2,000+ receive instruction each year to improve their ability to live independently
- 1,000+ successfully complete training each year



# DBVI Orientation and Mobility

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- Training in independent travel skills utilizing the long white cane
- 800 people receive O&M assessment and training each year to acquire the skills to travel safely



# DBVI Deafblind Services

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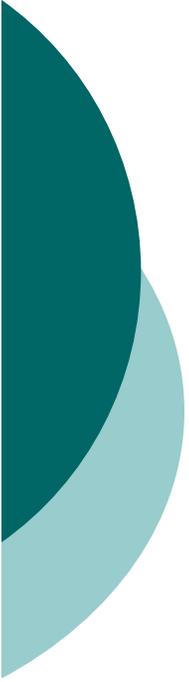
- Assessments and Technical assistance
- Specialized devices, equipment and techniques designed specifically for individuals with both vision and hearing loss



# DBVI Low Vision Services

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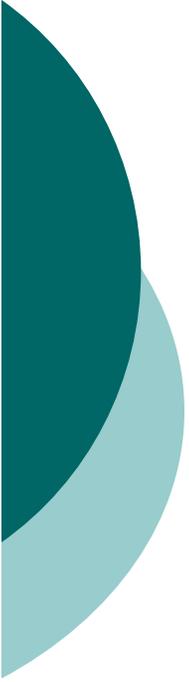
- Specialized optical aids, devices, and training in the use of those aids and devices to maximize use of residual vision
- 1,100 individuals, including many seniors, access Low Vision Services each year



# The Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind

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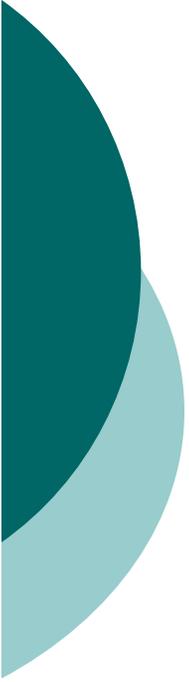
- 40 bed residential training facility in Richmond
- 200-250 blind Virginians receive intensive training each year in independent living skills
- Dormitory renovation scheduled for 2007 and 2008



# The Library and Resource Center

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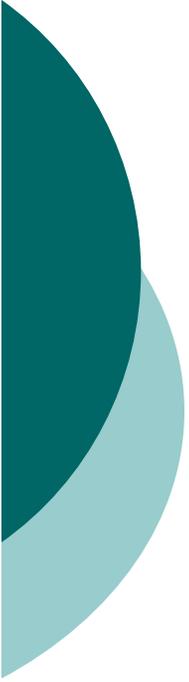
- Regional library for the Library of Congress, National Library Services for the Visually and Physically Handicapped providing “Talking Books” to 9,500 Virginians who are blind or have other disabilities
- Production and distribution of educational materials in Braille and large print to all blind and vision impaired students in Virginia schools



# The Virginia Industries for the Blind

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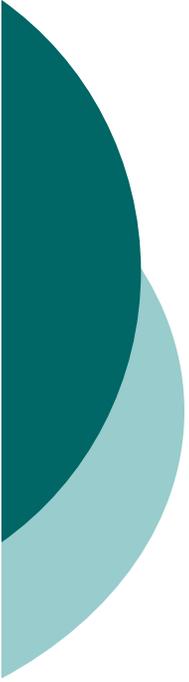
- Manufacturing plants in Charlottesville and Richmond produce goods and services for use by federal, state, and local governments
- Base Supply Center stores on federal properties providing integrated employment opportunities to blind and vision impaired individuals at competitive wages
- Employment opportunities for 100 blind workers of varying skill levels



# The Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Program

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- Trains blind individuals to manage food service operations with placement in 60+ federal, state, local government, and private locations



## For further information

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