









# Independence means CHOICES.



The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Division for Blind

Services (DBS) Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program works in partnership with blind and visually impaired people to assist them in reaching their employment goals. Gaining skills needed for a career, learning how to prepare for a job interview or getting the accommodations needed to stay employed are just a few of the ways this program helps people increase productivity and independence.

**The Vocational Rehabilitation Program** is designed for adults whose visual condition limits their ability to begin or continue employment.



Choices means **OPPORTUNITY.**



The counselor and consumer work together to decide on an employment outcome and to develop a program of vocational rehabilitation services to achieve the consumer's goals.

As part of the VR Program, the Division for Blind Services also has specialized services for individuals who are **Deafblind**, and the **Transition Program** provides educational and career guidance for adolescents and young adults.



## CORE SERVICES

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program offers a wide variety of services associated with six major skill areas. These skill areas are considered the stepping stones for an independent, productive and satisfying life and career.

### **Adjustment to Blindness**

Counselors familiarize consumers with information related to their eye condition through eye medical services, counseling and guidance and exposure to support and advocacy organizations.

Services are designed to assist consumers to learn how to advocate so that they can deal effectively with the demands of society.

## Independent Living Skills

### Consumers Signs of Need

With opportunities to become self-reliant in their home and community, the

center will assist the consumer in reaching their goals for independent living.



## **Travel**

Orientation and Mobility skills enable consumers to safely navigate their community, their workplace and the world.

## **Communication**

With strong communication skills, consumers can be successful at work. Consumers can learn to use braille, assistive technology and alternative ways to access information.

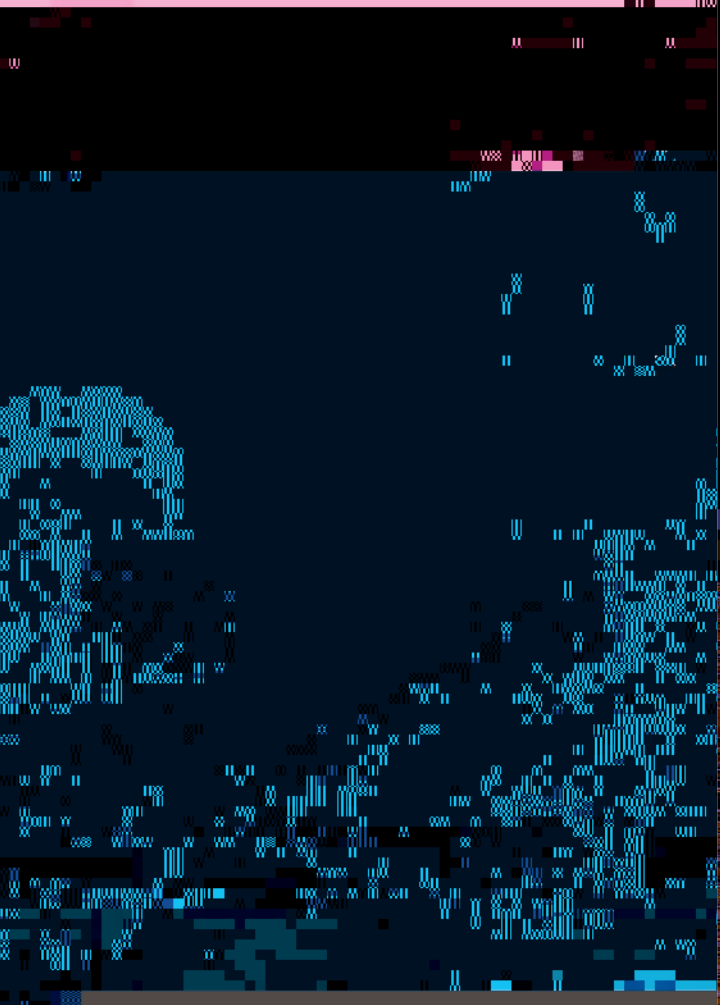
## **Support Systems**

The VR Program helps consumers connect with community support systems such as peer support and advocacy organizations.

## **Vocational**

The purpose of the VR program is to help eligible persons get or keep a job. DBS offers several services that are all focused on jobs, or employment outcomes. Those services include such things as career guidance, job readiness, and help with job placement.

Opportunity means **CAREER.**



## ELIGIBILITY

### Criteria for VR Services:

the person has a visual impairment which results in a substantial impediment to employment,

vocational rehabilitation services from DBS are required by that person to prepare for, get or keep employment, and

the person is able to get or keep employment after receiving DBS services.

Consumers of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) can be served by only one DARS program at a time.

To inquire about DBS services you

Division for Blind Services, contact numbers are listed below, or you may visit our website [www.dars.state.tx.us](http://www.dars.state.tx.us).

## **FIELD HEADQUARTERS**

### **Austin**

512.533.7100

800.687.7008

### **Houston**

713.802.3100

800.687.7028

### **Corpus Christi**

361.289.1128

800.687.7015

### **Lubbock**

806.798.8181

800.687.7032

### **Dallas**

214.378.2600

800.687.7017

### **San Antonio**

210.732.9751

800.687.7039

### **El Paso**

915.834.7004

800.687.7020

### **Southeast**

713.944.9924

800.687.7036

### **Ft. Worth**

817.759.3500

800.687.7023

### **Tyler**

903.581.9945

800.687.7042

### **Harlingen**

956.423.9411

800.687.7025

### **Waco**

254.753.1552

800.687.7044