



technologies, and social and psychological adjustment elements. The Independent Living Skills Training and Blindness Training program builds a peer support model, bringing newly blind individuals together where they are introduced to new ways of doing things despite vision loss, and given intensive exposure to adaptive techniques, tools, etc.

For more information about the DRS Visual Services' Older Blind program:

In Oklahoma City, call (405) 522-3382 or email [EBoykin@okdrs.gov](mailto:EBoykin@okdrs.gov)

In the Tulsa area, call (918) 551-4900 or email [CTipps@okdrs.gov](mailto:CTipps@okdrs.gov)

## VISUAL SERVICES



services for older blind Oklahomans.

The VS OB program has been highly effective, providing comprehensive individualized services across the state at no cost to the consumer.

DRS' OB program has an outstanding record of providing high-quality independent living services for older Oklahomans who are legally or functionally blind.

The existing program provides comprehensive skills instruction and a range of other independent living services. Whatever the individual needs, whether it is low vision services, mobility training, daily living skills, Braille, assistive technology training, etc. — the DRS program has been able to tailor the services to respond to the individual's unique situation

The DRS Older Blind Program has also designed specialized free programs that integrate functional evaluations, introduction to adaptive skills and



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## Stay Independent

DRS' Older Blind program offers seniors chance to maintain lifestyle



## Who we are:

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Service's Older

Blind Independent Living Program expands independent living services for people who are 55 years old or older and legally blind.

Rehabilitation teachers located in Visual Services offices throughout the state provide one-on-one assistance to older people in adjusting to blindness and regaining or maintaining maximum independence and self-sufficiency.

Older Blind Program staff present training for businesses, organizations and others to develop greater

awareness of the abilities and needs of older Oklahomans who are blind. Legal blindness occurs when visual acuity with best



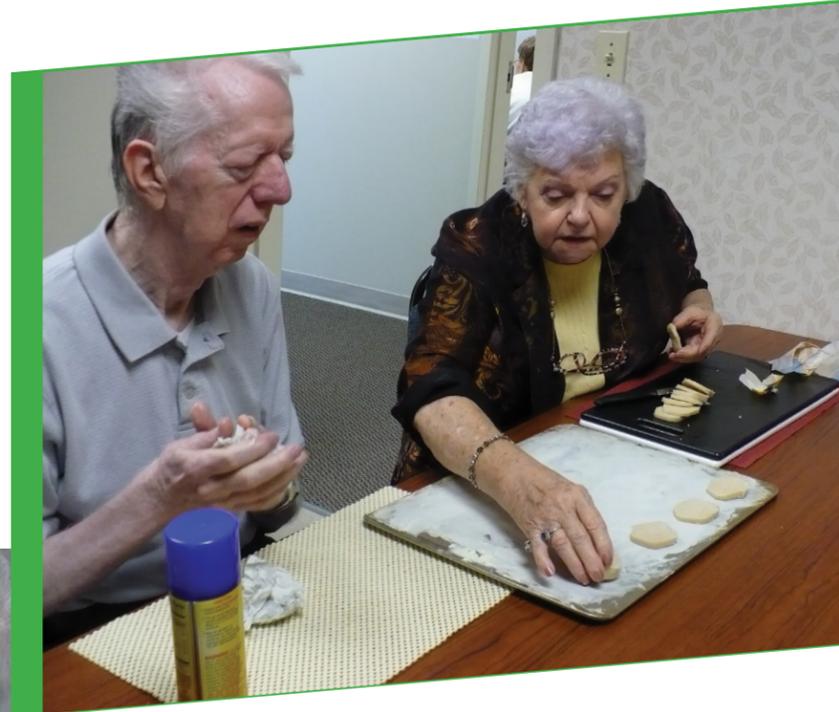
correction is 20/200 or less or when side vision results in a field restriction of 20 degree or less.

## What we do

If you are having problems with daily living (i.e., dialing the phone, signing your name, cooking, identifying money, time telling, matching your clothing) a Rehabilitation teacher will work with you free of charge in learning how to perform

Blindness rehabilitation professionals teach ways to do daily tasks with little or no sight.

They teach skills for reading, writing, cooking, housekeeping, safely getting around home and community, using assistive devices, managing medicines, diabetes care, grooming and many other tasks essential in daily life.



• **96.1-percent** of Oklahomans who participated in the Older Blind program said they feel more confident in their ability to stay in their current living situations as a result of services received.

• **91.5-percent** of Older Blind participants said they continue to use the adaptive equipment provided by Visual Services staff.



these tasks safely, efficiently, and independently.

## What services are provided by the Older Blind Program?

The free services are individualized to the client based on professional assessments. They combine the adaptive skills, assistive devices, therapies and resources a person needs to improve independence and stay living at home.

DRS and our contractors provide the services, based on client needs and choice.

There is no cost to the individual for Older Blind services.

## Why seek help from DRS?

In Oklahoma, the Division of Visual Services within the State Department of Rehabilitation Services is the entity eligible to receive the federal grant to provide independent living