

Older Blind Program provides adjustment to blindness skills training for older visually impaired individuals of South Carolina.

Training is primarily conducted in an individual's home by an Older Blind Counselor or through an eight-week program at the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center.

This unique training opportunity offers assistance so that consumers may live more independently within their home and local community settings.

The Older Blind Program services may include:

- Counseling and Guidance
- Adjustment to Blindness Skills
- Helpful methods for management of personal care and daily tasks
- Labeling and organizing items around your home
- Safe cooking techniques
- Referral to Community Resources
- Low Vision Evaluations
- Orientation and Mobility Training
- Other applicable services

To be eligible for the Older Blind Program one must:

- Be 55 years of age or older
- Be legally blind and/or have been diagnosed with a Progressive Eye Pathology
- Require services to enhance and maintain independence
- Be a resident of South Carolina

Our Mission

The mission of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind is to provide quality, individualized vocational rehabilitation services, independent living services, and prevention of blindness services to blind and visually impaired consumers leading to competitive employment and social and economic independence.

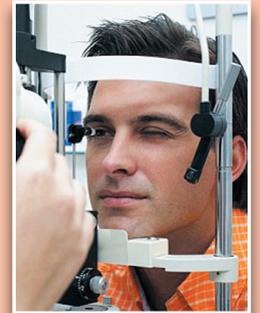
District Offices

Aiken Office	803-641-7658
Charleston Office	843-852-4225
Columbia Office	803-898-8731
Conway Office.....	843-248-2017
Florence Office	843-661-4788
Greenville Office	864-241-1111
Greenwood Office	864-223-3334
Greer Office	864-877-2384
Rock Hill Office	803-980-8140
Walterboro Office.....	843-539-1156



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Columbia, SC 29201
1-800-922-2222
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In accordance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the provisions of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, services of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind are provided in a non-discriminatory manner without regard to race, sex, age, color, religion, disability or national origin.



**Prevention of Blindness Program
Low Vision Services • Children's Services
Older Blind Program**

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind provides the following services to blind and visually impaired citizens:

- Prevention of Blindness Services
- Low Vision Clinic Services
- Children's Services
- Older Blind Program

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind's Prevention of Blindness Program training is primarily conducted within an individual's home setting, by an Older Blind Program counselor, or through the appropriate training facility applicable to the consumer's service goals.

This program serves residents of South Carolina who otherwise could not afford prescribed treatments. Financial eligibility is determined by the applicant's income and medical expenses applied to the Financial Needs Guideline.

Priority is given to persons who have the most sight-threatening diseases or eye pathologies. ***Persons covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or health insurance are not eligible for the program.***

To be eligible for the Prevention of Blindness Services one must:

- Meet financial requirements
- Not be covered by any health insurance program
- Have a significant sight-threatening disease or eye pathology

The Low Vision Services provided by the Commission for the Blind assist in providing training on the proper use of low vision aids such as magnifiers and sun shields to enhance one's visual acuity. This is done through a low vision evaluation which includes the following:

- Acuity testing
- Field testing
- Determining types of aids most useful
- Sensitivity to lighting
- Training on how to properly use the low vision aid(s)
- Counselor follow-up

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind's Low Vision Services provides coordinated efforts among the low vision staff, optometrist and referral sources which include SCCB counselors from the Vocational Rehabilitation Department, Children's Services and Older Blind Departments.

The Low Vision Clinics are located in Columbia, Greenville, Florence, Summerville, Pickens, Rock Hill (York), Charleston, Hartsville, Hilton Head, Georgetown and Easley.

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind's Children's Services program provides parents of blind or visually impaired children ages 3-13 with resources to assist their child in reaching his or her full potential.

The Children's Services Counselors address concerns that parents and family members

may have when it comes to assisting their blind or visually impaired child.

The Children's Services Counselors assist families in identifying and obtaining appropriate services from professionals who specialize in visual impairments and infant/toddler/child development. These referrals include various state agencies and community resources.

The Children's Services Counselors also provide:

- Case Coordinated Services for blind/visually impaired children and their families
- Counseling and Guidance for Parents - To understand vision loss and plan for the future
- Workshops and Support Groups for Families
- Summer Camping and Independent Living Skills (Socialization/Recreation Programs)
- Consultation and Coordination with Community Resources

To be eligible for the Children's Services Program one must:

- Be between the ages of 3-13
- Be legally blind(having a central visual acuity of 20/200 in the better eye with best corrective lens or a visual field of 20 degrees or less) or
- Have a progressive visual disability that will result in legal blindness