



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND & PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF REHABILITATION SERVICES
SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
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Social Service Program Fact Sheet

The Social Service Program is a comprehensive program, which focuses primarily on children and the elderly. Eligibility requirements include vision of 20/60 or less in the better eye with best correction or a field loss of 20 degrees.

Case Management Services for Children

The goal of this program is to maximize children's development in order for them to be more fully integrated into their family and society, and to ultimately become a successful, independent adult. This is done by the provision of the following services:

- Case management for children ages birth through 14 years of age;
- Arrangement of ophthalmological and low vision evaluations, with the provision of eyeglasses or other low vision devices as recommended, (with an income requirement for purchase of glasses or other equipment);
- Family casework and guidance;
- Coordination of services with Early Intervention Programs, the Department of Education and local education districts;
- Camp Mauchatea, a summer camp for youth ages 6-14;
- Information and referral to appropriate community services.

Independent Living for Older Blind Program

The goal of this program is to maximize the independence of older individuals, whether they be in their own homes, in the homes of others, in assistive living centers or in nursing homes, by arranging for services and teaching them the techniques needed to be as fully functioning as possible. These services include:

- Case management for individuals who are over the age of 55 and not interested in employment;

- Direct services include rehabilitation teaching in activities of daily living, counseling, sunglass evaluations, orientation and mobility, evaluations with magnifiers and other low vision devices, information and referral to appropriate community agencies, and provision of adaptive equipment (with an income requirement for the purchase of equipment);
- Services coordinated include ophthalmological and low vision evaluations, hearing aid evaluations, support groups, bathroom safety evaluations, property and income tax exemptions, and directory assistance exemptions;
- Referral for outside services include IN-Sight Radio, the Veteran's Administration, IN-Sight in-house rehabilitation program, senior centers, handicapped parking exemptions, financial benefits such as SSI, food stamps and Medicaid, the Talking Book Program, Friendly Visitors and Meals on Wheels.

Vision Screening Program

This program is provided in conjunction with Saving Sight Rhode Island, which has trained professionals in the use of the MTI Photoscreening device. The goal is to screen the vision of 14,000 children through the following services:

- Taking pictures of children's eyes, which are then read by trained personnel in the diagnosis of near-sightedness, far-sightedness and astigmatism. Screenings to be conducted at day care centers, nursery schools, elementary schools, libraries, and other community settings;
- Primarily developed to screen children ages three to five, or children with disabilities who are non-verbal and unable to read an eye chart;
- Comprehensive referral program to local optometrists and ophthalmologists;
- Comprehensive system to determine family medical follow-up as recommended;
- Database of medical reports to determine effectiveness of screening and numbers of children who have obtained medical treatment as a result, including children who have obtained eyeglasses;
- Assistance to families who are unable to afford eyeglasses;
- Referral source of children who are determined to be blind or visually impaired.

**For more information, contact:
Social Service Unit
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
40 Fountain Street
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<http://www.ors.state.ri.us>