

Chapter 11

**READER SERVICES, REHABILITATION TEACHING
SERVICES, AND
ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SERVICES FOR
INDIVIDUALS
WHO ARE BLIND**

	Page
Section 1: Definitions	2
Section 2: General Guidance	3 - 4
Section 3: Spending and Related Guidelines	4 - 5

2014

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

Audio descriptive services (AD) means narration of the visual elements—action, costumes, settings, and the like—of television, presentations, seminars, etc. The technique allows low-vision and blind persons the opportunity to experience events more completely—the visual is made verbal.

Reader services means oral reading of printed material, to an individual who is blind or visually impaired, which is not readily accessible via any of the accepted non-visual methods of reading used by individuals who are blind (e.g., braille, talking books, tape recordings).

Rehabilitation teaching services (RT) means the teaching of the techniques fundamental to developing personal independence by mastering common skills of daily living for individuals without vision or with impaired vision. They encompass specific and identifiable teaching methods to assist in areas such as the following:

1. Personal hygiene and grooming
2. Communication (Braille, writing with a template, etc.)
3. Home management including meal preparation, household cleaning, etc.

Orientation and mobility services (O & M) means the teaching of methods of independent travel to individuals without vision or with impaired vision. "Mobility" in this context is the act of moving, while "orientation" is awareness of pertinent factors in the environment which enable the individual with partial or total impairment of vision to react, move, and travel in a safe, appropriate, and purposeful manner.

Note-taking services means the manual recording of relevant information of a conversation, meeting, or training; it may include translation to braille. Note-taking services are generally provided only for individuals who are visually impaired who do not have training in, or have limited use of, an alternate method such as braille or for whom technology options are not appropriate.

SECTION 2: GENERAL GUIDANCE

DBVI has a contract with a specialized non profit agency which provides most of the services referenced in this chapter and often provides evaluation and training to individuals referred by DBVI in the following areas:

1) Orientation and Mobility

- a) Sighted guide techniques;
- b) Protective techniques;
- c) Cane travel techniques;
- d) The distribution, with prior approval of the DBVI counselor, of appropriate adaptive aids and training in their use; and
- e) Other techniques which will enhance safe travel and orientation in the community.

2) Rehabilitation Teaching

- a) Activities of daily living such as:
 - Personal care and management
 - Eating techniques and etiquette
 - Identification and labeling
 - Household cleaning and home maintenance
 - Laundering and clothing care
 - Meal planning and preparation
 - Simple sewing techniques
 - Budgeting and banking techniques
 - Social and recreational activities
 - The distribution of adaptive aids and appliances, with prior approval by DBVI, and training in the use of these adaptive aids and appliances
 - Other techniques which will further enhance independent living and self sufficiency

- b) **Communication skills such as:**
 - Braille skills
 - Typing

- Handwriting
- Use of large print materials
- The distribution of adaptive aids and appliances, with prior approval by DBVI, and training in the use of these adaptive aids and appliances
- Other techniques that will enhance individual communication skills

c) **Low vision services (LV) such as:**

- Screening and evaluation for low vision aids
- Consultation with ophthalmologists or optometrists regarding the evaluation and uses of the recommended aids
- The distribution of appropriate low vision aids, with prior approval by DBVI, and training in the use of these low vision aids

SECTION 3: SPENDING AND RELATED GUIDELINES

Services described in this chapter can be provided at any point in the rehabilitation process, although reader and note-taking services are generally provided in a training status or in the initial stages of an employment situation.

Rates of payment for rehabilitation teaching, orientation and mobility, and low vision services are detailed in annually negotiated contracts between DBVI and the specialized non profit agency. Reader and note taker services are generally provided as a comparable service or benefit in institutions of higher education by fellow students through the college work study program, but may be funded as otherwise needed at the minimum wage established by Vermont statute. However, the counselor may authorize up to \$2.00/hour above minimum wage with consideration being given to factors such as the significance of the event (e.g., securing a bank loan) and the likelihood of technical language being used. The rate may be higher if approved by the Director or designee. Reader services in an employment situation may be funded on a short-term basis by DBVI. The rate of payment for readers and audio descriptive services may vary according to the counselor's judgment of the complexity of the materials to be read or situation to be described.

Fees for guide dog training schools and guide dogs may be provided as well as the registration fee for accessible textbooks.

The Director or designee must approve any long-term provision of specialized

services mentioned in this chapter if the anticipated costs for an individual exceed \$5,000 total. Provision of these services in an out-of-state facility must have prior approval of the Director or designee.

The spending and related guidelines in this chapter will be reviewed by DBVI every three years with input from the State Rehabilitation Council.