# BLIND REHABILITATION SERVICE VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SERVICES TEAM (VIST)

The mission of Blind Rehabilitation Service (BRS) is to assist eligible Veterans and active duty Service members with a visual impairment in developing the skills needed for personal independence and successful reintegration into the community and family environment.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

The eligibility of prospective patients to receive BRS care is determined by the review of 3 key criteria:

- 1. Veteran is eligible for VA health benefits (or is an active duty Service member) and
- 2. Possesses a visual impairment or
- 3. Has received a designation of excess disability (impact on functional abilities).

### **VIST COORDINATORS**

VIST Coordinators provide lifetime care coordination for Veterans with visual impairments and often serve as the entry point into the continuum of care for Blind Rehabilitation Services.

## **SERVICES PROVIDED**

- Assessment, treatment planning, referral and follow-up
- Education and counseling to Veterans, their family and/or caregiver
- Review of VA and non-VA benefits
- Education and outreach within the VA and community
- Referrals to appropriate therapies and resources, including:
  - Eye Clinic and/or Low Vision Optometry
  - o Outpatient Blind Rehabilitation Clinics (including home-based training)
  - Comprehensive inpatient Blind Rehabilitation Centers
  - Audiology, Physical Medicine and any other appropriate provider

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

VIST Coordinator services are available at all VHA Medical Centers. Please contact your local VIST Coordinator or speak to your local Primary Care Provider for additional information.

**Insert Local Contact Information** 



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