

Pre-Intake Information Packet



Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.

3100 E Roosevelt Street

Phoenix, Arizona 85008

(602) 273-7411

<http://www.acbvi.org> email: info@acbvi.org

GETTING STARTED

Please take the time to carefully read the following information.

If you have any questions or would like further clarification, please call us at (602) 273-7411.

The first step in requesting services is to call ACBVI at (602) 273-7411 ext. 100 to schedule an appointment for an initial intake interview.

You will need to provide us with a statement of vision loss/condition as documented by your most recent eye exam. If you do not possess this documentation, please contact your eye doctor to request a copy so that you can bring it with you to your intake interview. NOTE: Please do not have your doctor send this directly to us. It should be sent to you.

Once scheduled, the best way to complete the intake interview is for you to come to ACBVI and meet personally with one of our staff. The interview will be performed in a relaxed and private setting and should last for about an hour. The programs and services available to you through ACBVI and other agencies will be clarified at that time and we will provide answers to the many questions you may have. The interview is an educational process for those who are new to vision loss or diminishment as well as for those who may have had their loss for some time but have not yet learned of the many services available to them.

Although we would prefer to meet with you personally, we understand in some circumstances it may not be possible to do so. In such cases, it may be possible to conduct the interview over the phone. Whether your interview is in person or over the phone, all necessary forms will have to be completed and signed before we can provide any additional services or training.

Please call Toni Young, the Client Services Specialist, when you are ready to schedule your appointment for the Intake: (602) 273-7411 ext. 100

WHAT WE WILL ASK FOR AT THE INTAKE INTERVIEW:

The information required during the intake interview consists of general information such as address, phone number, and causes and duration of vision loss. We will also ask for some specific information that will include the following:

- 1. Social Security Number**
- 2. Ophthalmologist's Name, Address and Phone Number**
- 3. Medical Doctor's Name, Address and Phone Number**
- 4. List of known allergies, if any**
- 5. Name and Phone Number for two emergency contact persons**
- 6. List of significant health problems, if any**
- 7. Complete list of prescription medications currently taking**
- 8. Written statement of visual impairment from most recent eye examination**

The information provided during this interview is important to the professionals who provide the services that you may request. We realize that much of this information is personal and assure you that it will be treated in a highly confidential manner. Your file will be maintained in a locked room with only authorized representatives of ACBVI having access to it.

It is our desire to make the intake interview process as comfortable and relaxed as possible. By arriving with the necessary information, you will find that the experience will be a fairly enjoyable and informative process that will take only a minimal amount of time. We look forward to assisting you in any way that we may be of service.

ACBVI Staff (602) 273-7411

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF OUR SERVICES

The Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc. offers a variety of services to adults who may be legally blind, totally blind, severely visually impaired, as well as to those who have a degenerative eye condition that may eventually become a visual impairment. These services are offered separately or concurrently according to the needs of each individual client. The following is a brief description of these services; for further information please do not hesitate to contact us at (602) 273-7411.

ORIENTATION AND ADJUSTMENT TO BLINDNESS

Rehabilitation and Adjustment to Vision Loss counseling services are available for individuals, families, and groups. These services are professionally and confidentially provided in order to accommodate a variety of issues, including emotional and psychological adaptation to vision loss.

We also offer structured and goal oriented support groups, some of which are designed primarily for educational purposes, while others are oriented more toward personal growth and development.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

This service provides a resource for individuals, families, and groups, as well as to the community at large. Our objective is to provide information, referral, education and advocacy in matters concerning visual impairment. The focus is on education in order to empower those who are visually impaired to live with dignity and independence. It also offers other community service providers increased knowledge to better enable them to serve those who are visually impaired.

ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING

Orientation and Mobility training is the process of instructing individuals who are visually impaired to maximize the use of their remaining senses to move about safely within their environment. Instruction involves utilizing sighted guides, canes, and sensory environmental training.

Orientation and Mobility is an individually planned program that teaches the skills necessary to travel independently within any environment in a safe, efficient, and graceful manner.

VISION REHABILITATION THERAPY (R/T)

Vision Rehabilitation Therapists are professionally trained instructors who teach visually impaired persons how to maintain their independence despite vision loss. This is accomplished through the teaching of adaptive skills, especially in the areas of communications, home and personal management, and skills for employment and leisure. Low vision follow-up training is also provided for partially sighted clients who wish to learn adaptive skills with the aid of low-vision devices.

Specific areas of adaptive skills training may include, but are not limited to: food preparation, eating, reading, writing, use of the telephone, tape recorders, home and clothing maintenance, record keeping and calendar scheduling, and using supportive services such as those offered by the Talking Book Library. Training in adaptive skills and devices for more effective diabetes management is also available.

Essentially, the goal of Rehabilitation Teaching is to enable persons who are visually impaired to continue a life of independence and fulfillment by learning new and adaptive ways of doing things.

P.R.I.D.E

Promoting Resourcefulness, Independence, Dignity and Employability

This program is available to qualified individuals who are going through the Vocational Rehabilitation program, part of the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Department of Economic Security.

Qualified participants will be given comprehensive skills training in the following areas:

- Rehabilitation Counseling and Orientation and Adjustment to Blindness
- Adaptive Living Skills Training
- Orientation and Mobility Training
- Low Vision Evaluation and Training in Use of Aids & Devices
- Social/Leisure Skills Development
- Career Exploration and Readiness Training

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The AT Center provides a wide range of services to individuals who are:

- blind or visually impaired
- physically challenged
- developmentally disabled
- deaf or hard of hearing and/or deaf/blind
- seeking assistive technology solutions to retain employment, advance careers, gain skills for future employment or gain more independence in the educational environment

Our transdisciplinary assessment and training teams include assistive technology specialists, rehabilitation therapists, occupational physical and speech/language therapists who work together to assess the strengths and needs of each individual. Assessment, training and installations are available in the community, at the client's home, worksite, or educational setting for:

- Alternative Access to Computers
- Workstation Assessments
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- Seating and Ergonomic Considerations

The Assistive Technology Center houses twelve different computer stations. Each station is equipped with a variety of assistive technologies including: screen magnification software, refreshable Braille display, screen readers, speech synthesizers, large screen monitors, adapted and alternative keyboards, voice input technology, on screen keyboards, word prediction, note takers (with and without Braille input), single switch activation software, head mouse input, eye tracking input and alternate mouse input devices.

The Assistive Technology Center also offers the following classes in a formal classroom/lab environment:

- Computer Keyboarding / Typing
- Introduction to Computers
- Word Processing
- The Internet and E-Mail

For further information, please contact: Toni Young at (602) 273-7411 x100
Or email to TYoung@acbvi.org

SOCIAL RECREATION

The Social Recreation Program consists of activities held both at the Center and in local community-based settings. Most of the activities are structured in a class-like, time limited manner; but outside, formal and informal events are scheduled throughout the year for a variety of leisure activities.

A diversity of classes is offered, including instruction in arts and crafts, intellectual games, music, communication, and educational classes. This variety reflects and accommodates the wide range of our clients' interests.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Many volunteer opportunities are available in all program, services and administrative areas. While the greatest need for volunteers is in the Social/Recreation program, volunteers are also needed to help support administration, operations, food service, information technology, assistive technology, counseling, public/community relations, special events and fundraising.

Important Reminder!

We are a fragrance-free building. This means that perfumes, scented lotions, etc. are not to be worn in the building. There are many clients and staff members here that will become ill if they smell fragrancesoften people with sensory deficiencies are extremely sensitive to this issue.

Please be mindful and do not use fragranced items on days you will be attending.

Thank You

For more information, contact ACBVI at (602) 273-7411 or email us at info@acbvi.org

**THANK YOU FOR INQUIRING ABOUT THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY
ARIZONA CENTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED, INC.**