

Who We Serve

We serve Veterans with functional visual limitations due to a variety of reasons, such as age, TIA, traumatic brain injury, and other health related issues.

Eligibility

To receive blind rehabilitation services, Veterans must be eligible for VA Health Care **and** have one or more of the following:

- A functional, visual impairment
- A visual field loss
- Legal blindness

Our Goals

1. To help Veterans and their families cope with their vision loss.
2. To increase safety while performing tasks and traveling.
3. To provide Veterans with the right tools and skills for independence.
4. To increase Veterans' confidence and quality of life.

Please note: Our clinic is focused on teaching Veterans how to utilize their remaining vision or be independent without vision. **We do not restore lost vision or provide eye surgeries.** Veterans do not need to discontinue services with their outside provider; we are supplemental to their services for visually impaired and legally blind Veterans.

Meet the Blind Rehabilitation Services Staff



Justin Meeks, O.D.
Low Vision Optometrist



Bonnie Whitson, LISW
VIST Coordinator



Kandace McCue, COMS
Blind Rehab Outpatient Specialist (BROS)



Wes Hodgson, COMS
Blind Rehabilitation Specialist



Katherine Allegra, LVT
Low Vision Therapist

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Blind Rehabilitation Services



"... to care for him who shall have borne the battle ..."

Mission: "Honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being."



Blind Rehabilitation Services

The Advanced Low Vision Clinic (ALVC), Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS), and Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinator, offer individualized training with optical and non-optical aids that assist Veterans in overcoming many difficulties related to vision loss.

The program supports a continuum of care that extends from a Veteran's home environment to the local VA facility and the regional-based inpatient program.

Our staff is dedicated to provide supportive instruction and assisting with personal adjustments to vision loss.



Our highly trained team includes:

What to Expect

- The Advanced Low Vision program takes on average a minimum of two separate visits to complete.
- All treatment plans are designed to fit each Veteran's goals and needs, and are taught by certified specialists.
- The clinic can put a Veteran in a hotel overnight if it is easier to stay for training over two days or more.

- **A Visual Impairment Services Team Coordinator** to assist with case management and adjustment counseling, handle VA benefits reviews, facilitate support groups, and give resource referrals.
- **A Low Vision Optometrist** to evaluate your vision through a specialized exam, help you understand your condition, and order helpful optical and non-optical devices.
- **A Low Vision Therapist** to teach you new ways to read and write, as well as adaptive strategies for using your devices, and other tactics for working with your vision loss.

- **A Blind Rehabilitation Specialist** to teach safe travel, protective techniques, and working with devices to enhance independent travel. The specialist also provides skill and adaptive devices for kitchen safety, medication management, personal grooming, communication skills, and leisure activities.
- **A Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist** to provide assessments, low vision therapy, and blind rehabilitation training to visually impaired people in their homes and communities.