



Transition Resource Manual

Updated September 2023

Introduction

Navigating services across the community can be challenging for both professionals and families. This manual was created to serve as a resource for individuals seeking support. Information is separated by agency and includes: services available, referral process, eligibility criteria, explanation of benefits, points of contact and more.

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Bureau Services for Blind Persons (BSBP):

Description of Services: The Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) believes in the capacity of people who are blind or visually impaired to achieve employment and independence. BSBP provides training and other services that empower people to achieve their individual goals.

Explanation of Benefits: If you live in Michigan and you're blind or visually impaired, the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons will work with you to define your goals and identify appropriate training and other services. Funded by federal and state taxes, BSBP provides counseling and training in skills for daily living without vision. Depending upon your needs and eligibility for specific services, BSBP may also provide some types of adaptive equipment, computer software, and postsecondary education.

ALL NEW REFERRALS TO:

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Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity
Bureau of Services for Blind Persons
[711 N. Saginaw St. Suite 124 Flint, MI 48503](https://www.michigan.gov/flint)

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Fax: 810-760-2032

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KimbrueJ@michigan.gov

Youth Low Vision: The purpose of BSBP's Youth Low Vision (YLV) Program is the provision of head-borne low vision devices to eligible youth to utilize residual vision to the fullest extent possible. Hand-held low vision devices are not provided by the YLV Program. The YLV Program serves individuals from birth to 14 years of age. The student must be currently enrolled or participating in a qualified educational program (including home school, alternative school and registered online school programs).

Eligibility Criteria: Youth Low Vision: Individuals must have acuities of 20/70 or less in the better eye with best correction; or must have a visual field loss of 40 degrees or less in the better eye with a documented deteriorating condition to be eligible for YLV services. For documentation purposes, new referrals to the YLV program must come with an eye report, or a letter, dated no more than 2 years from date of application, from either an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

Referral Form: [Request for Youth Low Vision Services](#)

Resources: <https://f2fmichigan.org/organization/michigan-protection-advocacy-service-inc/>

<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/Services/special-education>

Leanne Ford, Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

[931 South Otsego Ave., Ste 3](#)

[Gaylord, MI 49735](http://Gaylord.MI.49735)
Cell 231-340-3400
Ford1@michigan.gov

BSBP Pre-ETS: Helps students transition from high school to postsecondary education or employment. As a part of this program, a Bureau Rehabilitation Counselor participates in the preparation of the student's Individual Education Program (IEP). Students must be receiving VI services from the local school district with verification of disability completed on the referral form.

Eligibility Criteria: Individuals must be age 14 to 26. Students with a visual disability who have not yet applied or been made eligible for VR services may qualify for services. This program is designed to complement and enhance services the student may or may not be receiving at school and includes a post-secondary focus on workplace readiness and skills that lead to success upon exiting the school system and related school supports. Various programs and services will assist students with identifying career interests to be further explored through additional vocational rehabilitation services.

Pre-ETS Form: [Pre-Employment Transition Services \(Pre-ETS\), or Transition](#)

Vocational Rehabilitation Services: The purpose of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program (Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons) is to help you become employed in a career that suits your current or potential skills and abilities.

Eligibility Criteria: Individuals aged 14 and up that meet the definition of legal blindness: Legally, blindness is defined as less than 20/200 vision in the better eye with glasses (vision of 20/200 is the ability to see at 20 feet only what the normal eye can see at 200 feet). A person with 20° or less vision (pinhole vision) is also legally blind.

Vocational Rehab Referral Form: [VR General Referral Form](#)

Deaf/Blind Services: BSBP also provides services for those individuals who are legally blind and have significant hearing loss. Services include training in sign language, vocational training, orientation and mobility, daily living activities and assistive technology. Additional services included transition services, college accommodations, job placement and consultation services.

Eligibility Criteria: Individuals must be age 14 and up who are legally blind per definition below AND have moderate to profound hearing loss. Central acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with corrections; OR The field of vision is restricted to 20 degrees or less.

One exception to the Legally blind definition: a visual acuity with best correction 20/100 or worse in the better eye with a prognosis of rapid deterioration or visual fields that subtend an angle of less than 40 degrees in each eye with a prognosis of rapid deterioration AND who has a chronic hearing impairment so severe that most speech cannot be understood with optimum amplification, or a progressive hearing loss having a prognosis leading to this condition AND for whom the combination of impairments described in previous 2 bullet points of this section cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial adjustment, or obtaining a vocation.

DeafBlind Services, (Michigan) Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

702 West Kalamazoo Street
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909
517-241-1100 (voice); 800-292-4200 (voice, toll-free)
E-mail: DeafBlind@michigan.gov

More Resources/Highlights

Braille and Talking Book Library:

We provide library service to any resident of the United States or American citizen living abroad who is unable to read or use regular print materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical limitation. This includes those who are blind or have a visual or physical disability that prevents them from reading or handling print materials. NLS serves patrons of all ages. Some schools and medical facilities are also eligible to apply for service as institutions. (restrictions have been lightened recently to allow easier access to individuals with reading impairments).

Application: [Braille and Talking Book Library](#)

OR Call: 1-800-992-9012

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons Training Center: The Bureau of Services for Blind Persons Training Center (BSBPTC) is a comprehensive rehabilitative center, specializing in assisting youth and adults who are blind and low vision. The BSBPTC staff work to provide specialized/customized training and employment services to assist participants and businesses address challenges that may pose barriers to achieving goals and objectives due to a participant's blindness.

[The Bureau of Services for Blind Persons Training Center](#)

[Bureau of Services for Blind Persons Training Center Brochure](#)

Susan A. Root, Central Region Manager

Gaylord Office

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

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[Suite 3](#)

[Gaylord, MI 49735](#)

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Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority

MISSION STATEMENT: To provide comprehensive services and supports that enable people to live and work independently.

OUR VISION: Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health will be the innovative leader in effective, sensitive mental and behavioral health services. In so doing, services will be offered within a culture of gentleness and designed to enhance each person's potential to recover. We will continue to be an advocate for the person while educating the community in the promotion of mental and behavioral health.

PROVIDED SERVICES: Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority provides a wide-range of services in Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle counties. Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), Case Management, Outpatient Therapy, Older Adult Services, Self-Determination, Supported Employment, Residential and Supported Independent Program, Children's Home Based Services, Physician Services, Crisis Response and much more. Please view our agency website at www.nemcmh.org to view a complete list of services.

REFERRAL/ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: The priority population of those eligible for services include individuals who may have a severe and persistent mental illness, children with a severe emotional disturbance, individuals who may have an intellectual/developmental disability and individuals who may have a substance use disorder that is co-occurring with a mental illness residing in NeMCMHA's four-county catchment area.

CONTACT:

Phone: (989)356-2161

TTY: Call 711

Website: www.nemcmh.org

Facebook: Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health

Disability Network Northern Michigan

Description of Services:

DNNM is the “first stop for people with disabilities and their families.” We provide a host of services and supports which connect people with opportunities and resources. Services include, but are not limited to:

- Information assistance
- Disability awareness
- Accessibility support
- Independent living plan support
- Advocacy
- Goal setting
- Nursing Facility Transition Services
- Employment Services
- Social Security Analysis
- Financial Wellness Training
- Local Interpreter Services
- Family Supports
- Peer and Social Supports

Referral Process: Depending on the issue or need, DNNM will refer to the proper organizations and/or resources.

Eligibility Criteria: Disability Network Northern Michigan is committed to assisting anyone with a disability and their families.

Explanation of Benefits: Most people equate disability with limitations. It’s our job to change the perceptions and realities that prevent people with disabilities from sharing in the community. We provide training, mentoring and referrals to help people with disabilities and their families live productive lives. We also work on a larger scale, helping governments and businesses make changes that benefit everyone in the community.

Contact Information:

Point of Contact Name: Jeffrey Niemetta, Service Information Specialist

Phone Number - 231-922-0903 or 866-869-8600, (231) 922-0903, (231) 922-0903

Email - jniemetta@disabilitynetwork.net

Website - <https://www.disabilitynetwork.org/>

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)

Description of Services: Pre-Employment Services are an early intervention delivered in a variety of experiences with the goal of ultimately leading to competitive, integrated employment outcomes. The Pre-Employment Services offered while the student is in high school are: job exploration, work based learning experiences, workplace readiness training, self-advocacy training, and counseling on post-secondary education.

Referral Process: Referrals for students are made by the school. The student/student's guardian is also able to contact MRS directly to discuss/apply for services.

Eligibility Criteria: Pre-Employment services are available in Michigan to students with disabilities who are age 14-26 and accepted or enrolled in secondary or postsecondary education.

Students under the age of 18 or over the age of 18 with a guardian will need parent/guardian permission to participate in MRS services.

Contact Information:

Contact for Alpena and Montmorency Counties:

Tami Dipzinski

Phone Number: 989-255-4890

Email: dipzinskit@michigan.gov

Website: michigan.gov/mrs

Angela Morgan

Email: morgana13@michigan.gov

Website: michigan.gov/mrs

Contact for Alcona County:

Tami Dipzinski

202 S Second Street, Suite B, Box 316

Lincoln, MI 48742

Wed 9am-4pm

Phone: (989) 736-6082

Fax: (989) 736-3260

Michigan Transition Services Association (MTSA)

Description of Services: Michigan Transition Services Association is dedicated to providing support to our members who assist students and young adults with disabilities as they transition through school to achieve their post-school goals.

Referral Process: Membership is required to access information and resources.

<https://www.michigantsa.org/become-a-member/>

Eligibility Criteria: Membership Dues

Explanation of Benefits: MTSA's vision is to respond to the needs of our members through leadership, support and service to help students transition into independent life.

Michigan Transition Services Association provides support to members by providing resources to local communities to develop innovative projects through mini-grants, scholarships, sponsorships, and professional development.

Contact Information:

Point of Contact Name(s): Region 1 Kelly Rogers

Phone Number: 989-732-6058

Emails: region1@michigantsa.org

Website: <https://www.michigantsa.org/>

NEMROC

- **Description of Services:** NEMROC provides opportunities for employment with people of all disabilities. Part of NEMROC is a supported employment program where competitive community jobs exist and the opportunity to work with a job coach. Another part of NEMROC is the opportunity for labor jobs in the confines of NEMROC. These jobs include above minimum wage compensation, insurance, paid leave and profit sharing. Most of the opportunities are in the lumber industry.
- **Referral Process:** The referral process usually starts with a job application.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** All people are eligible to apply. People without disabilities are hired as well.
- **Explanation of Benefits:** Full and part-time work are available.
- **Contact Information:**
NEMROC Inc. - Milostan Center
Paul Krueger
Phone Toll Free: 1 (800) 777-2350
Phone: (989) 356-6141
Fax: (989) 356-1607

