




Title:	Vision Rehabilitation Therapy and Orientation and Mobility
Procedure #:	80-VR-11-09
Policy Reference:	80-VR-11 Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Legal Reference:	CFR 361.5, 361.48; OAC 3304-02-59
Effective Date:	February 19, 2018
Approved:	Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director 
Origin:	Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired
Supersedes:	Portions of VRP-1520 (03-05-07)
History:	N/A
Review/ Implementation	Begin Review – 08/19/19 Implement Revisions By – 02/19/20

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to provide direction for assessment and provision of vision rehabilitation therapy and orientation and mobility in accordance with appropriate federal (e.g. Code of Federal Regulations [CFR]) and state law (i.e. Ohio Revised Code [ORC], Ohio Administrative Code [OAC]) Governor directives and executive orders, other governing agency (e.g. DAS, OBM) policy or guidance, and/or Executive Director expectations.

Refer to the AWARE Manual as there may be additional step-by-step direction related to this procedure.

II. APPLICABILITY

This procedure applies to VR Staff and VR Contractors.

III. DEFINITIONS

Refer to “Vocational Rehabilitation Definitions” (80-VR-99.A).

IV. PROCEDURES

A. General

1. OOD shall provide information to individuals and if applicable, their parent or legal guardian throughout the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) process as required by law (e.g. rights and duties). This information shall be provided, in writing, and when appropriate, in the individual’s native language or through an appropriate mode of communication.

2. AWARE shall be updated with pertinent conversations, recommendations, justifications, approvals and/or other actions taken in relation to this procedure. If supervisory or management approval is required during the VR process, the supervisor or manager shall document their approval in AWARE. If written approval is received from a supervisor or manager it shall be added to AWARE.
3. If any OOD Staff are a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC-certified) and will be directly involved with an individual's case, he/she shall complete the "Professional Disclosure Statement" (80-VR-01.E).
 - a. VR Staff or VR Contractors who are not a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) are exempt from this requirement.
 - b. Once completed, the "Professional Disclosure Statement" shall be reviewed and signed by the individual and, if applicable, his/her parent or legal guardian, and the CRC-certified VR Staff or VR Contractor.
 - i. Once signed, the statement shall be scanned into the AWARE Participant Module, as a Case Note, with the category "Professional Disclosure Statement" and summary title "Signed."
4. "Assessment Services" (80-VR-11-01) shall be followed for additional guidance and direction regarding the provision of assessment services to determine the need for orientation and mobility (O&M) training and rehabilitation teaching.

B. Orientation and Mobility

1. VR Staff or VR Contractor shall determine the need for an orientation and mobility (O&M) assessment or training based on:
 - a. observation of the individual's ability to move independently, safely, and purposefully in the community environment, work place, and/or home;
 - b. an individual and/or if applicable, his/her parent or legal guardian's self-report; and
 - c. An individual's existing records (e.g. medical records, school records, previous evaluations by a certified orientation and mobility specialist).
2. In order to determine the need for O&M assessment or training, VR Staff or VR Contractors may utilize the following indicators, which include but are not limited to having issues with:
 - a. drop-offs (e.g. curbs, stairs);
 - b. changes in terrain and surface depth;
 - c. bumping into objects;
 - d. crossing streets;
 - e. visual field restrictions; and/or
 - f. travel to new, unfamiliar environments (e.g. for training in post-secondary education settings, work locations).

3. If it is determined that O&M training is necessary, VR Staff or VR Contractor, with input from a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (if appropriate), should consider which of the following components to include in the training:
 - a. concept development (i.e. motor skills needed for balance, posture, and gait);
 - b. sensory development (i.e. functioning of the various sensory systems);
 - c. residual vision stimulation and training;
 - d. techniques for travel (indoors and outdoors) including human guide technique, trailing, cane techniques, following directions, search techniques, utilizing landmarks, route planning, techniques for crossing streets, use of public transportation;
 - e. instruction in smart phone applications to supplement the traveler's skills and abilities; and/or
 - f. instruction in the use of low vision devices.

C. Vision Rehabilitation Therapy

1. Vision Rehabilitation Therapy instruction emphasizes the development and use of adaptive skills to assist the individual in coping with the demands of everyday life, specifically skills needed to prepare for, achieve, maintain, regain and advance in employment.
2. VR Staff or VR Contractor shall determine the need for the assessment or provision of vision rehabilitation therapy based on:
 - a. observation of the individual's ability to complete activities of daily living;
 - b. an individual and/or if applicable, his/her parent or legal guardian's self-report; and
 - c. an individual's existing records (e.g. medical records, school records, previous evaluations by a vision professional, such as certified vision rehabilitation therapist, teacher for the visually impaired, or certified low vision therapist).
 - d. In addition to the above, the following indicators may also determine the need for vision rehabilitation therapy:
 - i. difficulty with personal hygiene and grooming; and
 - ii. difficulty with home management (e.g. meal preparation, household cleaning, paying bills).
3. If it is determined that an individual has a significant change in functional vision and therefore vision rehabilitation therapy training is necessary, VR Staff or VR Contractor should consider which of the components listed below should be included.
 - a. Communication, which would include instruction in adaptive skills and alternative forms of reading, writing, mathematical calculations, and listening.

- b. Braille skills.
- c. Personal management (e.g. personal hygiene, grooming, clothing care).
- d. Orientation and movement in familiar indoor environments.
- e. Home management (e.g. general home care, kitchen skills, home repairs, bookkeeping skills).

D. O&M and/or Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Determined Necessary

- 1. VR Staff or VR Contractor shall follow “Comprehensive Assessment” (80-VR-04 and 80-VR-04-01) and “Individualized Plan for Employment” (80-VR-08 and 80-VR-08-01) to document the need for these services and to authorize for these services.

E. Violation

An employee who violates this procedure may be subject to discipline up to and including removal.

FORMS AND ATTACHMENTS

- N/A

RESOURCES

- 80-VR-99.A Vocational Rehabilitation Definitions
- 80-VR-11-01 Assessment Services Procedure
- 80-VR-04 and 80-VR-80-04-01 Comprehensive Assessment
- 80-VR-08 and 80-VR-08-01 Individualized Plan for Employment

REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the Deputy Director, or designee, to review this procedure, on or before, the date listed in the header and if applicable, make any necessary revisions. The Deputy Director or designee shall document the I review as required in “Policy and Procedure Development, Review, Dissemination and Acknowledgement” (10-ADM-01).