

# **Veterans Administration of Southern Nevada**

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. 45,000 veterans who now get their medical services at VA institutions spread throughout the valley.

\$600 million, 1.3 million-square-foot complex

. employs 1,800 to 2,000 people

. state-of-the-art facility will feature advanced electronics systems, computerized patient records, and automated digital media systems that can broadcast medical information into waiting rooms and classrooms

advanced operating rooms with hybrid CT scanning equipment

improved security measures, No cars can park closer than 50 feet from the building

has the capability to remain fully operational in the event of a loss of public utilities with six large generators able to provide full emergency power, 1 million gallons of reserve water supplies and wastewater storage capacity

- **North Rancho Primary Care Clinic**
- **South Boulder Highway Primary Care Clinic**
- **South Buffalo Primary Care Clinic**
- **East Charleston Primary Care Clinic**
- clinics offer patient care, pharmacies, X-rays, labs, social workers and some mental health attention.

There are more  
than 240,000  
Veterans living in  
Southern  
Nevada

In FY 2012, 747 VA Volunteers donated 169,706 hours to the VASNHS. These valuable hours equated to over \$3,624,920.16 in savings to the VA. In these challenging times, our VA Volunteers are ensuring America's Heroes get the best care possible and exemplify appreciation of a grateful nation.

- aid the valley's 2,221 homeless and 21,730 veterans who suffer from mental health diseases like depression and post traumatic stress disorder.



# Homeless Veterans

VA's homeless programs constitute the largest integrated network of homeless assistance programs in the country, offering a wide array of services to help veterans recover from homelessness and live as self-sufficiently and independently as possible.

**VA Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program**

**VA Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program**

**Housing and Urban Development-Veterans**

**Supportive Services for Low-Income Veterans Program**

**Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (CWT/TR) Program**

**Healthcare for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV) Program**

# Department of Veterans Affairs

1. Veterans Healthcare Administration

2. Veterans Benefits Administration

## Veterans Benefits:

### Service Connected and Non Service Connected

**VA Pension-** Veterans with low income who are either permanently and totally disabled, or age 65 and older

**VA Compensation-** is a monetary benefit paid to Veterans who are disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service.

## **Veterans Service Organizations**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**American Legion**

**Jewish War Veterans**

**Marine Corps League**

**Disabled American Veterans**

**Catholic War Veterans of the USA, Inc**

**Women Veterans of Nevada**

**Blinded Veterans Association**

**Americas Sensory Impaired Veterans Org**

Veteran Service Officers (VSO)-  
are professionals who know their way around  
the VA system and can assist veterans and  
their families in a number of ways.

Services Offices may assist you with  
compensation/pensions, medical care,  
military records, grave markers and veteran  
home loans. Some counties may also have  
dedicated funds to assist you with temporary  
shelter/utilities, food/health supplies,  
medical/dental, job placement, counseling,  
and transportation.

# Veterans Healthcare Services

enrollment

PCP

Specialists

Pharmacy

## Priority Groups:

During enrollment, each veteran is assigned to a priority group. VA uses priority groups to balance demand for VA health care enrollment with resources.

Our Service is not free, Our veterans have already paid for the services that they receive with their service many years ago. Some have paid dearly.

A veteran is a person that wrote a blank check to the US Government for the value of, up to and including their life.

# PG Groups:

PG 1 service-connected disabilities rated 50 percent or more

PG 2 service-connected disabilities rated 30 or 40 percent

PG 3 service-connected disabilities rated 10 and 20 percent;  
veterans who are former Prisoners of War (POW) or were  
awarded a Purple Heart

PG 4 receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits  
and/or veterans determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled

PG 5 receiving VA pension benefits or eligible for Medicaid  
programs

PG 6 certain conditions associated with exposure to ionizing  
radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of  
Hiroshima and Nagasaki;

PG 7 gross household income below the geographically- adjusted  
income threshold (GMT) for their resident location and who agree  
to pay copays.

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adjusted income threshold (GMT) for their resident location and  
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# VIS Team

The VIS Team, consists of these members:

VIST Coordinator

Primary Care Doctor

Social Worker

Nursing Services

Audiology

Optometry/Ophthalmology

Blind Rehabilitation Service

Chaplain

Physical Therapy

Prosthetic Chief

Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS)

Veterans Benefits Counselor VBA

Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)

Veteran and CG

# Definition of Legal Blindness

Blind by loss of **visual acuity**: Legal blindness exists when best corrected central visual acuity in the better-seeing eye is less than or equal to 20/200, or

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Blind by loss of **visual fields**: visual field dimension in the better-seeing eye is less than or equal to 20 degrees at the widest diameter, even if central visual acuity is better than 20/200.

## Ophthalmologist-

Retina Specialist, Glaucoma specialist etc

interested in maintaining the health of the eye.

**Optometrist - Interested in optimizing vision with glasses and identifying health issues**

**Low Vision Optometrist -**

Interested in maximizing remaining vision

**Vision Rehabilitation Therapist – accomplishing goals with adaptive techniques and devices, maintain independence and build self esteem.**

- Visual acuity 20/60 is the minimum acuity required to read standard newspaper print
- In the U.S., low vision is often considered to be a visual acuity of less than 20/40 in the better seeing eye. This is the criterion used by many states for the provision of an unrestricted driver's license. Many experts contend that this threshold, is an inappropriate threshold with which to define low vision.

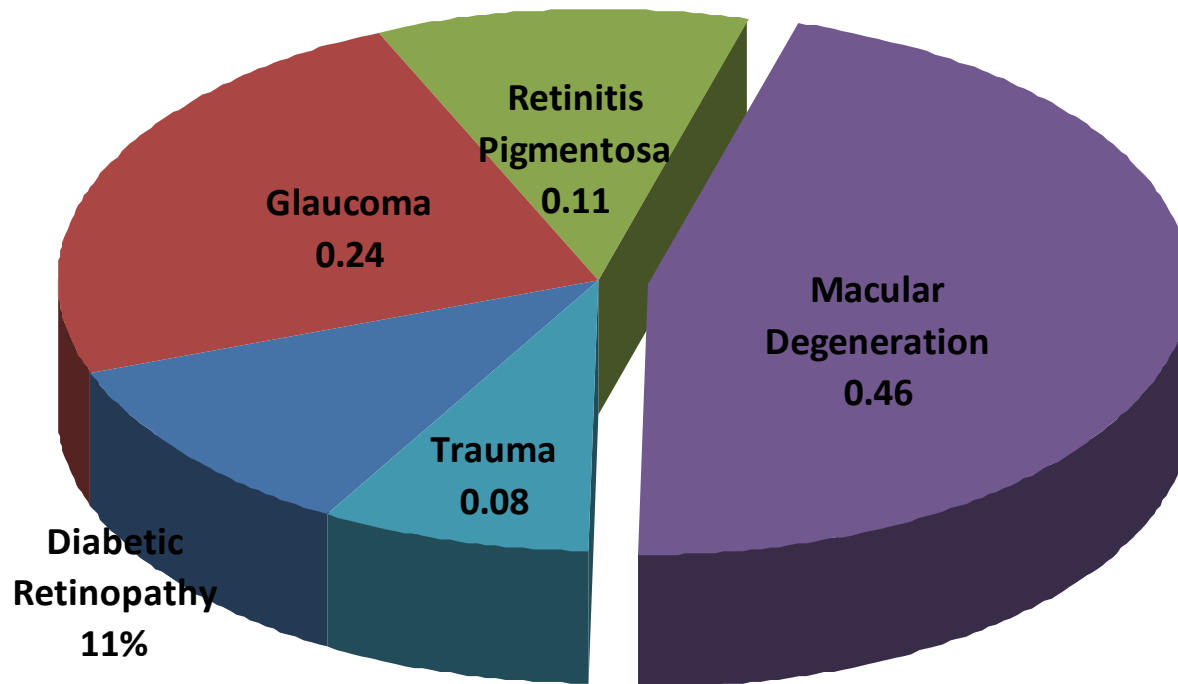
# Low Vision

“A person with low vision is one who has impairment of visual functioning even after treatment and/or standard refractive correction and has a visual acuity of less than 20/70 to light perception, or a visual field of less than 20 degrees, but who uses, or is potentially able to use, vision for the planning and/or execution of a task.”

# Functional Vision Loss

- Difficulty accomplishing a task because of your vision loss

## Causes of Blindness SNHCS Veterans





# VA Low Vision Functioning Questionnaire (VA LV VFQ-48)

Physically get dressed  
Keep your clothes clean  
Identify medicine  
Tell time  
Identify money  
Match clothes  
Groom yourself  
Identify food on plate  
Eat and drink neatly  
Fix a snack  
Prepare meals  
Use appliance dials  
Clean the house  
Handle finances  
Make out a check  
Take a message  
Find something on a crowded  
shelf  
Get around familiar indoors  
Get around familiar outdoors  
Get around in unfamiliar places  
Get out at night  
Go down steps in dim light

## Appendix Items Included in the VA LV VFQ – 48

1. Physically Get Dressed
2. Keep Your Clothes Clean
3. Identify Medicine
4. Tell Time
5. Identify Money
6. Match Clothes
7. Groom Yourself
8. Identify Food on a Plate
9. Eat and Drink Neatly
10. Fix a Snack
11. Prepare Meals
12. Use Appliance Dials
13. Clean the House
14. Handle Finances
15. Make Out a Check
16. Take a Message
17. Find Something on a Crowded Shelf
18. Find Public Restrooms
19. Get Around Indoors in Places You Know
20. Get Around Outdoors in Places You Know
21. Get Around in Unfamiliar Places
22. Go Out At Night
23. Go Down Steps in Dim Light
24. Adjust to Bright Light
25. Cross Streets at Traffic Light
26. Use Public Transportation
27. Get Around in a Crowd
28. Avoid Bumping Into Things
29. Recognize Persons Up Close
30. Recognize Persons From Across the Room
31. Read Street Signs and Store Names
32. Read Headlines
33. Read Menus
34. Read Newspaper or Magazine Articles
35. Read Mail
36. Read Small Print on Package Labels
37. Read Print on TV
38. Keep Your Place While Reading
39. Watch TV
40. Play Table and Card Games
41. See Photos
42. Work on Your Favorite Hobby
43. Go to Movies
44. Go to Spectator Events
45. Play Sports
46. Do Yard Work
47. Sign Your Name
48. Read Signs

Adjust to bright light  
Cross streets at traffic light  
Use public transportation  
Get around in a crowd  
Avoid bumping into things  
Recognize persons up close  
Recognize persons across room  
Read street signs  
Read headlines  
Read menus  
Read newspaper or magazine  
Read mail  
Read small print on labels  
Read print on TV  
Keep your place while reading  
Watch TV  
Play table and card games  
See photos  
Work on your favorite hobby  
Go to movies  
Go to spectator events  
Play sports  
Do yard work  
Sign your name  
Read signs

# Early Intervention

## Maximize Remaining Vision

With optical/electronic devices beyond normal glasses.

- Adaptive devices
- Adaptive techniques

Veteran can use the eye clinic for routine eye exam and glasses.

Co-Morbidity/Excess Disability

Hearing loss

Peripheral Neuropathy

Diabetes

CVA

Obesity

COPD

# **Life Long Services**

Vision Rehabilitation

Vision Change

Lifestyle change

Goals change

Health Changes

Therapy -

Adaptive Techniques –

Adaptive Devices –

Training-

Counseling

Want vs Need

Goal oriented vs marketing oriented

Blind/Vision Rehabilitation Sources

State of Nevada Blind Rehabilitation

Non-Profit Blind/Vision Rehab

For Profit organizations

VA Blind/Vision Rehabilitation Service

# Blind / Vision Rehabilitation

## SKILL AREAS

- Visual Skills
- Living Skills
- Manual Skills
- Orientation & Mobility O/M
- Computer Access Training CAT Program
- Family Training / Care Giver Training
- Driver Rehabilitation Program
- Adaptive Recreational Therapy Program
- Support Group

# VA Blind Rehab Centers

- Central BRC (Hines) – Chicago, IL
- Eastern BRC – West Haven, CT
- Southeastern BRC – Birmingham, AL
- Western BRC – Palo Alto, CA
- Waco BRC – Waco, TX
- American Lake BRC – Tacoma, WA
- Puerto Rico BRC – San Juan, PR
- **Southwestern BRC – Tucson, AZ**
- Augusta BRC – Augusta, GA
- West Palm Beach BRC – West Palm Beach, FL
- **Long Beach BRC, Long Beach, CA**
- Cleveland BRC, Cleveland, OH
- Boluxi BRC, Boluxi, MS



# Identifying Blind / Visually Impaired Veterans

What YOU can do:

YOU can help by being aware of veterans with severe visual problems.

(can no longer drive, glasses do not help, use magnifiers to read, walk tentatively or with assistance, spouse or other relatives notice and mention visual difficulties)

# The Referral Process to the VIST

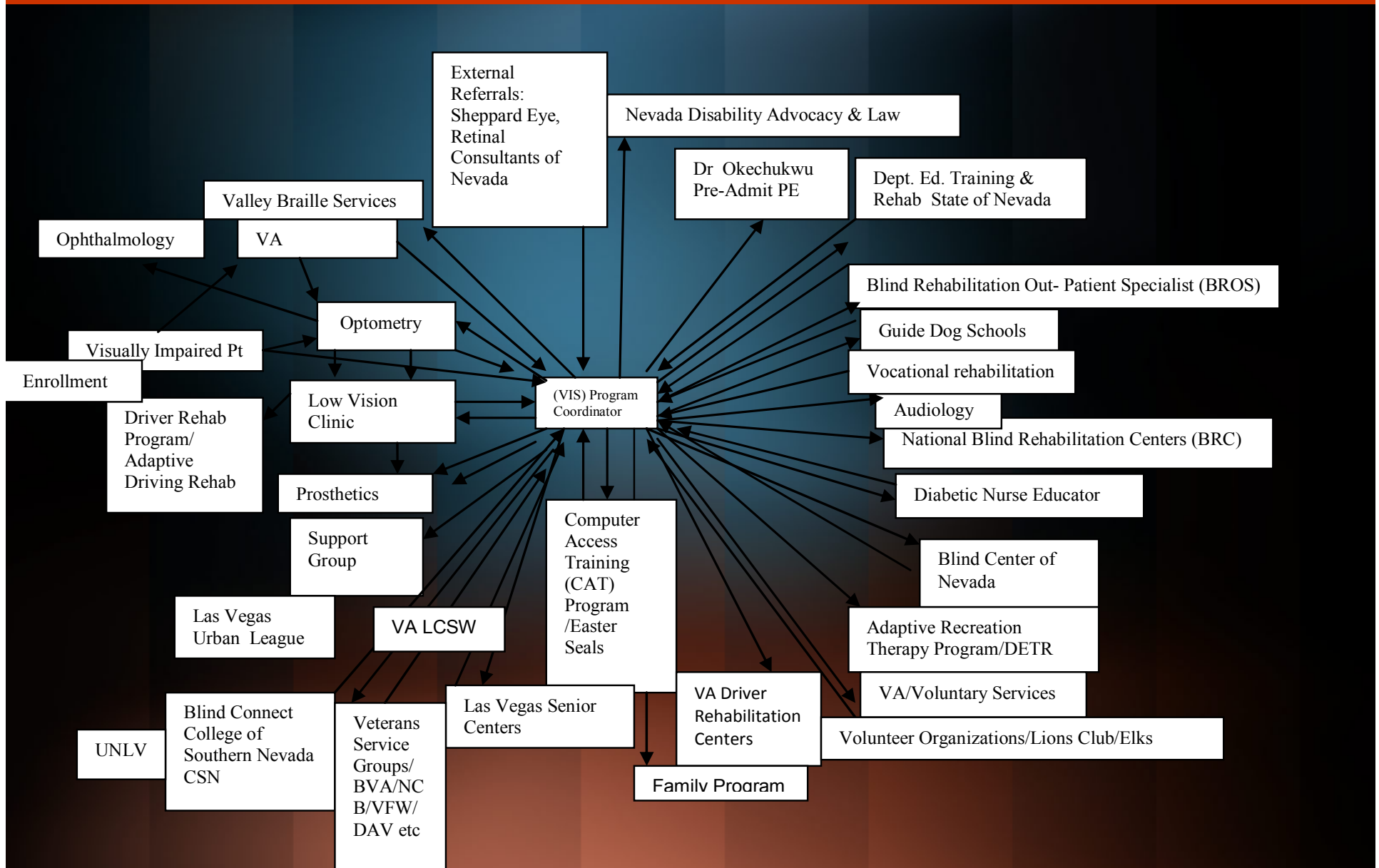
- Have Pt or family member call me directly  
791-9000 ex 15981
- Email – [paul.rice@va.gov](mailto:paul.rice@va.gov)
- VIST Mobile Phone 702-336-9281
- FAX ext. 754-4605

## Steps to access care

- Get enrolled need DD214 and ID
- Make vesting apt with PCP
- See eye Dr.
- See other Specialists

# VIST Flow Chart-Community Partners and Visual Impairment Services (VIS) Program of SNHCS

September 2012



# VA SNHCS Resources & Services

## What Blind/Vision Rehabilitation Services do here in Southern Nevada:

### Resource/ Referrals

Assess, Train and Issue adaptive devices, assistive technologies

Assess and introduce adaptive techniques

Low Vision Services / Visual skills training

CAT Program

Orientation and Mobility (O/M)

Support group – address issues related to vision loss

Adaptive Recreational Program

Adaptive Driving Program

Community referrals Guide dogs, Library of Congress, Local Transportation, Veterans Service Organizations

# Resources & Websites

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

[www.va.gov/blindrehab/](http://www.va.gov/blindrehab/)

<http://www.blindedvetsandfriends.org/>

<http://www.bva.org/>

<http://www.lasvegas.va.gov/>

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov>