

BUREAU OF SERVICES FOR BLIND PERSONS

The mission of the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons is to provide opportunities to individuals who are blind or visually impaired to achieve employment, and/or achieve maximum and meaningful independence in life through comprehensive rehabilitation services.



YOUTH LOW VISION PROGRAM

Youth Low Vision (YLV) Services are

- Provided to individuals from birth through age 13 with low vision assessments and wearable devices who are currently enrolled students or those participating in a qualified educational program (including home school, alternative school, and registered online school programs.)
- Include low vision assessments and wearable devices such as telescopic and microscopic glasses, complex contact lenses, light-filtering eyewear, prescription sports goggles, bifocals, and prismatic lenses.
- Eligibility requires the child to be diagnosed with:
 - an acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye with the best correction or;
 - have visual field of 40 degrees or less in the better eye with a documented deteriorating condition.
- Youth low vision services are provided biennially.
- At referral parents or guardians will be requested to provide an eye report or a letter, dated no more than two years from the date of referral, from either an ophthalmologist or optometrist. The medical provider will need to confirm program-specified eligibility requirements with diagnosis and prognosis as documentation.
- Parents or guardians may complete the referral for services at <https://forms.leo.state.mi.us/et/bsbp-services-referral-form/>
- Parents or guardians may request information from their local teacher consultant for the visually impaired (TCVI) by calling their Intermediate School District or their child's school.



The YLV program focuses on fully utilizing a student's residual vision in the classroom and other activities with their peers through coordination with the Intermediate School District (ISD) and Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP).

The Youth Low Vision program is funded by state general fund dollars. Based on available funds, reasonable costs will be paid by the Youth Low Vision Program for wearable devices recommended by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Limits may be imposed on the number of items and the cost of items. It is expected that the individual's private or public health/vision insurance, if available, will be used to cover costs before Youth Low Vision Program funds are used.