

## BEP Regional Offices

### Western Region

#### NYSCB-BEP

295 Main Street, Suite 591

Mail to: Suite 545

Buffalo, NY 14203

Telephone: 716-847-3518

### Central Region

#### NYSCB-BEP

52 Washington Street, Suite 202, South Bldg.

Rensselaer, NY 12144

Telephone: 518-474-5198

### Southern Region

#### NYSCB-BEP

80 Maiden Lane, 4th Floor, Suite 401

New York, NY 10038

Telephone: 212-383-1740

## NYSCB Office Locations

### Buffalo-NYSCB

295 Main Street, Suite 590

Mail to: Suite 545

Buffalo, NY 14203

Telephone: 716-847-3516

### Rochester-NYSCB

259 Monroe Avenue, Suite 303

Rochester, NY 14607

Telephone: 585-238-8110

### Syracuse-NYSCB

100 S. Salina Street, Suite 105

Syracuse, NY 13202

Telephone: 315-423-5417

### Albany-NYSCB

52 Washington St., Room 202, South Bldg.

Rensselaer, NY 12144

Telephone: 518-473-1675

### Westchester-NYSCB

117 East Stevens Avenue, Suite 300

Valhalla, NY 10595

Telephone: 914-993-5370

## NYSCB Office Locations-cont.

### Harlem-NYSCB

163 West 125th St., Suite 1315

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: 212-961-4440

### Lower Manhattan-NYSCB

80 Maiden Lane, Suite 401

New York, NY 10038

Telephone: 212-825-5710

### Garden City-NYSCB

711 Stewart Avenue, Suite 210

Garden City, NY 11530

Telephone: 516-743-4188

For more information, contact your VR counselor or nearest BEP office, or contacts below:

**1-866-871-3000**

-OR-

Visit our website: [visionloss.ny.gov](http://visionloss.ny.gov)

NYSCB is part of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

The services described in this brochure are funded, in part, with federal funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Employment Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Supported Services, and the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) programs.

For purposes of the VR program, the federal VR grant paid 78.7% of the total costs of the program. In federal fiscal year (FFY) 2021, the VR agency received \$24M in federal VR funds. These funds were matched at 21.3% from non-federal sources.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services will make this material available in an accessible, preferred format upon request.

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Commission  
for the Blind

# Business Enterprise Program (BEP)



BEP vendor at store counter, with cash register and lottery terminal

## Business training and management opportunities for eligible participants

Visit our website:  
[visionloss.ny.gov](http://visionloss.ny.gov)

## What is the Business Enterprise Program (BEP)?

The Business Enterprise Program was created in 1936 through federal legislation called the Randolph Sheppard Act.

Government statutes that govern this program provide a priority for blind vendors to operate food service facilities in federal and state government buildings.



BEP vendor at cash register, ready to serve customers

## Who is eligible for the BEP Program?

Any United States citizen, 18 or over, who is legally blind and is a New York State resident may be eligible.

## How does BEP work?

BEP teaches eligible New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) participants how to successfully manage a food service business, vending route or newsstand.

Qualified program participants learn business math, labor and merchandise management, purchasing, legal requirements and customer service.

Participants will also earn (through study and passing a test) the nationally accredited ServSafe® food safety certification from the National Restaurant Association.

When training is successfully completed, vendors receive an interest-free, three-year loan to buy their initial product inventory.

Once the business is up and running, a BEP business services specialist visits monthly to provide support and assist with any issues.



BEP vendor waiting on customer



BEP vendor smiling as she greets customers

To learn more about becoming a Business Enterprise Program (BEP) vendor:

For current NYSCB participants, contact your Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselor.

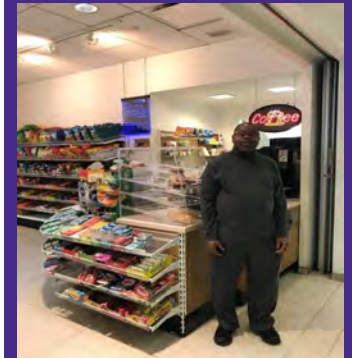
If you are not yet an NYSCB participant, contact the New York State Commission for the Blind by phone, toll free, at

**1-866-871-3000**

Indicate that you are interested in the Business Enterprise Program when you call, or include that information in the "Remarks" section when you fill out an NYSCB

**OCFS-1002**, *Application for Services*, located on our website.

**visionloss.ny.gov**



BEP vendor at entrance to store