Vision loss is a condition that impacts every aspect of a person’s life. It impacts one’s ability to perform everyday activities, socially interact with others, access community services and programs, and more.

A person with vision loss may experience difficulty performing daily living skills such as reading mail, paying bills, identifying canned goods, and crossing the street. These tasks may become more difficult as vision decreases.

The Visual Impairment Services program is designed to improve quality of life by restoring the participants to as independent a life as possible and helping the individual and family members.

Veterans who are legally blind are exempt from copays for inpatient and outpatient medical treatment, VIST services, as well as for medications. If you or a loved one is a legally blind Veteran and is still paying a copay, please contact the VIST Coordinator to discuss your care.

For additional information contact:

Natalie Duarte de Escalante
VIST Coordinator
Phone: 740-773-1141 x 7855

Chillicothe VA Medical Center
17273 State Route 104
Chillicothe, OH 45601
VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SERVICES TEAM

Provides a comprehensive program of services for eligible, legally blind veterans.

These services include:

- Complete eye exam
- Physical exam with referral to specialists as appropriate
- Counseling for Veteran & families
- Annual benefits review
- Low vision aids and devices if eligible
- Referrals to VA Blind Rehabilitation Center programs
- Introduction to community resources such as Talking Books
- Low Vision Support Group
- Blind and Low Vision Veterans Support Group Newsletter

MISSION

♦ To improve Veterans’ quality of life through a holistic approach to Blind Rehabilitation that includes case management, education, rehabilitation, and referral.
♦ To inform Veterans about available benefits through the Department of Veteran Affairs
♦ Providing counseling, services, and referrals to assist the Veteran in his/her adjustment to vision loss.

REFERRALS

Referrals to the VIST program can be made by anyone.

To enroll in the VIST program contact the Optometry Department at 740-773-1141 Ext 6762.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for services through the VIST program, a veteran must:
♦ Have an honorable discharge from the military
♦ Be eligible for VA Healthcare Benefits
♦ Be legally blind or have low vision (these diagnoses are made by an eye doctor)

**A veteran’s vision loss does not have to be service connected

BLIND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

Training is offered in:
♦ Daily Living Skills
♦ Orientation and Mobility
♦ Low Vision and Blindness Technology
♦ Computer Access Training