



Business Enterprise Program

What is the Business Enterprise Program?

The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) provides business management opportunities for eligible and qualified people to become licensed blind vendor managers so they may operate various food service and vending operations throughout the state. BEP, one of five programs in the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA), was authorized by the federal Randolph-Sheppard Act of 1936 and was established in Georgia in 1944.

BEP Locations

As the recognized State Licensing Agency (SLA), BEP has priority for operating businesses on federal property and may also operate sites on other properties. Sites include snack bars, cafes, cafeterias, coffee bars, food courts, gift and sundry shops, military dining facilities, vending routes, interstate rest areas and welcome centers.

Hosting a BEP Vendor

If you are an agency or business interested in providing your customers and/or employees with convenient on-site food, vending or beverage service, the BEP would be happy to discuss our various levels of service based on customer specifications. It will be our pleasure to assist in the design and layout of the service you request, provide all equipment and merchandise inventory, as well as select a licensed blind vendor manager to operate your location.

Becoming a BEP Vendor

VR Counselors make referrals to the BEP training unit, and the training department makes decisions on applicants' readiness. The minimum criteria are:

- Certified as legally blind by an ophthalmologist or optometrist
- Minimum 18 years of age
- Demonstrated 12th grade math and reading levels
- High School Diploma or GED
- Successful completion of psychological and vocational evaluations, as well as a criminal back ground check with no confirmed felonies
- TB testing with confirmed negative results

For more information on the advantages of partnering with the BEP, please call our main office number in Tucker, GA at (770) 724-6590.

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