



**Mission Statement:** The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) was founded in 1926 to enable blind and visually impaired Vermonters to be more independent, cultivate adaptive skills, and improve their quality of life.

**Recurring request:** We request \$250 from the Town of Charlotte every year. The amount requested for FY26 has remained consistent with last year's request.

**Financial information:** VABVI receives financial support from a wide variety of sources. Please see the attached Form 990 and Organizational Budget for FY24.

**How Charlotte residents have benefited from VABVI's services:**

In Fiscal Year 2024, the agency provided services to a total of 1,083 Vermont residents. This total includes 3 adults and 2 students in Charlotte, and 218 adults and 61 students in Chittenden County.

Adult Services – Services for adults include: low-vision screenings; orientation and mobility training; assistance in adapting the home low-vision requirements; recommendations for service; and training in and procurement of the various aids and appliances necessary for completing everyday tasks without vision. Certified rehabilitation staff work with clients at home, remotely, or in VABVI offices, demonstrating techniques and showcasing aids that will enable these individuals to adapt to and work around their vision loss. It costs approximately \$1,000 to provide one year of service to each individual adult client.

We offer technology training for adult clients ages 55+ through our SMART Device Training Program, and organize peer support groups for adult clients through our PALS (Peer Assisted Learning and Support) Program. We also provide transportation services for our clients through a statewide, volunteer-led transportation program.

Children's Services - VABVI's Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs) are licensed by the Vermont Agency on Education. They work with children from infants through high school graduation in many capacities, including:

- Providing direct consultation services.
- Conduct assessments in areas related to the Expanded Core Curriculum.
- Develop visual impairment activities and materials for families and schools.
- Evaluate the need for low vision equipment and assistive technology.

Our Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMS) graduated are certified through the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP). Their primary goal is to help the child move independently and safely in the home, neighborhood, school and all other environments in society, while providing direct consultation services.