

## The E-Advocate

## **MAB Community Services**

## Vision Rehabilitation

Empowering elders adapting to vision loss.

Founded as the Massachusetts Association for the Blind, MAB is the oldest social service organization in the country that serves adults and elders who are blind or visually impaired. After more than a century in the field, we know that vision loss doesn't have to mean the end of a full life. But many people losing their vision don't know how to get help. Our vision rehabilitation services help people with low vision maximize their remaining sight and learn to use adaptive strategies for completing daily tasks. Our trained specialists can help make a home safer and recommend simple devices to make life with low vision easier.

The majority of individuals experiencing vision loss are elders living with macular degeneration, cataracts, glaucoma, or diabetic retinopathy. One in six people over the age of sixty-five has vision loss, and that number rises to half of elders over eighty. MAB partners with respected community and medical groups to create high impact, cost effective services. Find out how vision rehabilitation can change your life.

## In-Home Services

From reading to taking medications to moving safely in the home, there are numerous activities that are made more difficult with low vision. MAB's vision rehabilitation specialists provide functional vision assessments and in-home training in many communities in Massachusetts. Here's how we can help:

- Conduct a home safety assessment
- Evaluate lighting and eliminate glare
- Teach adaptive reading, writing and record-keeping techniques
- Reduce clutter and modify appliances with tape and markings
- Provide information about vision loss and community resources
- Help with healthcare routines and medication management
- Offer strategies for adaptive diabetes management
- Recommend adaptive aids and magnification devices

Because our funding sources vary in different regions, there are some restrictions on our ability to provide this service, based on geography, age, and severity of vision loss. Please contact a local MAB office and we will help you determine your eligibility for services. Our staff speaks several languages, and interpreters can be arranged if needed.

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