

THE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

A. What is the Business Enterprise Program and what is its purpose?

The purpose of the Wisconsin Business Enterprise Program (BEP) is to enlarge economic opportunities for the legally blind. We establish, maintain and provide vending and food services across Wisconsin through our statewide small business program. Our partnership combines the resources of both public and private sectors, with a focus on matching qualified blind business operators with the private and public facilities that need vending and food services.

The Wisconsin BEP strives to enhance the program in order to provide more and better employment opportunities for blind individuals across Wisconsin.

B. What are the minimum requirements to becoming a Licensed Operator in the BEP?

To become a Licensed Operator in the BEP, a person must meet the requirements mandated in Wisconsin Statute Chapter 47 and Chapter DWD 60, Wis. Adm. Code.

C. What types of businesses does the BEP develop and support?

The types of businesses developed and administered include:

1. Vending Machine Businesses
 - a. Stationary locations
 - b. Routes
2. Cafeteria and Snack bar/Deli
3. Other alternate business plans will be reviewed as needed

D. Where does the BEP receive its funding?

The funding for the program derives from federal and state governments, set aside assessments on BEP blind vendor operations, and unassigned commissions received from private parties.

E. What authority does the BEP operate under?

The legal basis for the BEP is derived from the Randolph Sheppard Act 20 USC 107, Wisconsin Statute Chapter 47 and Chapter DWD 60, Wis. Adm. Code.

The Randolph-Sheppard Act provides the authority for the State Licensing Agency (SLA) to carry out the provisions of the act. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is the designated SLA in Wisconsin. Currently the SLA has designated through a written agreement for nominee agency services with Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of Wisconsin (RSVW).

The provisions of the Randolph-Sheppard Act, Wisconsin Statute Chapter 47, Department of Administration Chapter 2.12 provides the SLA with an exclusive authority to develop vending, cafeteria and snack bar/deli businesses in all federal and state owned and leased buildings and properties. The SLA is authorized under the federal law to select, train and license persons who are eligible to operate these vending businesses.