



Business Enterprise Program

\$51,115
Median yearly
earnings for
20+ operators

A program for legally blind Coloradans seeking a career in food services



COLORADO
Division of Vocational
Rehabilitation

Department of Labor and Employment

Are you a blind Coloradan interested in operating your own business? Are you interested in running your own food and vending services? The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) provides priority for people who are legally blind to operate and manage food, vending, and other business services in federal and state government office buildings and properties.

Facilities include:

- cafeterias
- military dining halls
- snack bars
- convenience stores
- MicroMarkets
- vending machine routes
- rest area maintenance
- commercial janitorial services

Steps to join the BEP:

- Contact a local Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) counselor for a referral to the program and to assess eligibility
- Complete the Personal Adjustment Training and the Vocational Evaluation Programs (two weeks)
- Complete BEP training which takes 6 to 18 months and includes assessment of food service aptitude, classroom and online training

After successful completion of training:

- Graduates become certified to be a manager of a BEP food service location with the ability to compete for open locations in Colorado and become licensed blind operators.
- BEP purchases the initial inventory, supplies and equipment at these food service locations.
- Subsequent inventory and supplies are replenished at the operator's expense, and blind operators are responsible for all management functions.

To learn more:

Business Enterprise Program

2211 West Evans Avenue, Bldg B
Denver, CO 80223

Ellie Karre

Business Enterprise Program Trainer
P 303-866-3429 | F 303-866 3933 | C 720-237-2514
ellie.karre@state.co.us

Troy Larson

Business Enterprise Program Manager
P 303-866-3425 | F 303-866 3419 | C 720-448-4242
troy.a.larson@state.co.us

dvr.colorado.gov/dvr-programs-and-services/blind-and-low-vision

The BEP provides priority for people who are blind to operate and manage food, vending, and other business services in federal and state government office buildings and properties. Median of net vendor earnings is over \$50,000 (2017).

Facilities include:

- cafeterias
- Micro-markets
- military dining halls
- vending machine routes
- snack bars
- rest area maintenance
- convenience stores
- commercial janitorial services

Steps to join BEP:

- Contact a local Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) counselor for a referral to the program and to assess eligibility
- Complete the Personal Adjustment Training and the Vocational Evaluation Programs (two weeks)
- Complete BEP training which takes 6 to 18 months and includes assessment of food service aptitude, classroom and online training
- After successful completion of training:
 - Graduates become certified to be a manager of a BEP food service location with the ability to compete for open locations in Colorado and become licensed blind operators.
 - BEP purchases the initial inventory, supplies and equipment at these food service locations.
 - Subsequent inventory and supplies are replenished at the operator's expense, and blind operators are responsible for all management functions.

To learn more contact:

[Troy Larson troy.a.larson@state.co.us](mailto:troy.a.larson@state.co.us) | [Ellie Karre ellie.karre@state.co.us](mailto:ellie.karre@state.co.us)
