

Quick Overview of Commonly used Acronyms, Abbreviations and Jargon in the Field of Blindness and Low Vision Older Blind Version

7-OB	The name of the form of aggregate data that is to be completed by DSA agencies annually
911	Name of the federal form that must be completed when a consumer is closed from VR Services
AAA	Area Agencies on Aging – local programs serving older persons
ACB	American Council of the Blind (consumer group) www.acb.org
ACCESSWORLD	Publication of AFB that reviews and discusses current technology for persons who are blind
ACL	Administration for Community Living (program of the U. S. Department of health and Human Services to support persons with disabilities living in their home communities) www.acl.gov
ACVREP	Academy for the Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (certifies VRT, OMS, and LVT) www.acvrep.org
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
ADL	Activities of Daily Living (an instructional area for VRTs or rehabilitation teachers)
AER	Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (professional association of workers with persons who are blind or visually impaired) AKA AERBVI www.acvrep.org
AFB	American Foundation for the Blind www.afb.org
AHEAD	Association for Higher Education and the Disabled (college support services personnel professional organization) www.ahead.org
ALDA	Association of late-Deafened Adults www.alda.org
AOTA	American Occupational Therapy Association www.aota.org
APH	American Printing House for the Blind (provides educational aids and materials to blind children and adults in training) www.aph.org
AREDS	Age-Related Eye Disease Study
ARMD or AMD	Age-Related Macular Degeneration
ASA	American Society on Aging (to enhance the skills and knowledge of those working with older adults and their families) www.asa.org
AT	Assistive Technology
AVRT	Association of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists (formerly MACRT) www.avrt.org
BANA	Braille Authority of North America (sets US Braille code standards) www.brailleauthority.org
BEP	Business Enterprise Program (program to assist persons who are blind to have their own small business) funded by the Randolph-Sheppard Act and administered through VR

Bioptic Driving	A special technique to allow person who are legally blind to drive a car using special telescopic devices.
BVA	Blinded Veterans Association (consumer group) www.bva.org
B/VI	Blindness and/or Visual Impairment
CAP	Client Assistance Program (designed to provide advocacy and mediation for VR clients)
CAT	Computer Access Technology (primarily referencing adaptations for those who are blind or visually impaired)
CATIS	Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist (certification for AT instructors from ACVREP)
CDC	Center for Disease Control www.cdc.gov
CEC	Council for Exceptional Children (professional association for teachers) www.cec.org
CIL	Center for Independent Living (organizations that encourage empowerment and self-advocacy for individuals with disabilities to enable them to remain independent as possible)
CLVT	Certified Low Vision Therapist (from ACVREP)
COMS	Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (from ACVREP)
Consumer	Person who is blind or vision impaired and receiving services or had received services in the past from an agency for persons who are blind or visually impaired. Often used to describe people who are blind/visually impaired as opposed to blindness professionals. More widely accepted term than client.
CRC	Certified Rehabilitation Counselor
CRP	Program that can directly provide, or facilitate the provision of, one or more vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to individuals with disabilities as one of its major functions
CSAVR	Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation www.rehabnetwork.org
CVI	Cortical Visual Impairment
CVRT	Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (aka Rehabilitation Teacher) (from ACVREP)
DB	Deafblind (those who are severely visually impaired and also have a severe hearing loss)
DSA	Designated State Agency (VR Agency)
DSA	Deaf Seniors of America www.deafseniors.us
Eccentric viewing	Technique used by people with central vision loss, by which the person looks slightly away from the object in order to view it peripherally with another area of the visual field
FIP	Field Initiated Proposal (funding opportunity from NIDILRR)
FVA	Functional Vision Assessment (done by a vision professional in a natural setting – home, work, etc.)
GSA	Gerontological Society of America (multidisciplinary society for professionals in the field of aging, focuses on promoting the scientific study of aging) www.geron.org

HKNC	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (located in Sands Point, NY with 10 regional offices) www.hknc.org
HLAA	Hearing Loss Association of America www.hearingloss.org
IADL	Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (complex skills needed to successfully live an independent life style)
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (education legislation)
IEP	Individualized Education Program for K-12 special education students (no longer in use)
IL(S)	Independent Living (Services) (rehabilitation services for persons without vocational objectives)
Informed Consent	A current movement to empower consumers through information and knowledge
IOL	Intraocular Lens (used after cataract surgery)
IPE	Individualized Plan for Employment for VR consumers
ITP	Individualized Transition Program
IWRP	Individualized Written Rehabilitation Program
JAWS	Speech software program to allow persons who are blind to access text on a computer
JVIB	<i>Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness</i>
LB	Legally blind (refers to a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the best possible correction, and/or a visual field of 20 degrees or less)
Learning Ally	Provides accessible audio textbooks for high school, college and university students and adult learners www.learningally.org
LPO	Light Perception Only (can locate sources of light and see some bright colors but not distinguish what they are visually)
LVA	Low Vision Aid (optical or non-optical device to enhance visual functioning)
LVE	Low Vision Exam (done by an eye care professional in a clinical setting such as a doctor's office)
LVT	Low Vision Therapist certified by ACVREP
N4A	National Association of Area Agencies on Aging www.N4A.org
NAPVI	National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments
NASUAD	National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities www.nasuad.org
NASW	National Association of Social Workers www.socialworkers.org
NBPCB	National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NOMC and NCLB) www.nbpcb.org
NCDB	National Center on Deaf-Blindness www.nationaldb.org
NCIL	National Council on Independent Living (advocacy group that advances independent living and the rights of people with disabilities) www.ncil.org
NCLB	National Certification in Literary Braille (from NBPCB)
NCOA	National Council on Aging www.ncoa.org

NCOBA	National Caucus and Center on the Black Aging, Inc. www.ncba-aged.org
NCPAB	National Council of Private Agencies for the Blind (now changed to VisionServe Alliance)
NCRTB	National Certified Rehabilitation Teacher for the Blind (from NBPCB)
NCRTM	National Clearinghouse on Rehabilitation Training Materials www.ncrtm.ed.gov
NCSAB	National Council of State Agencies for the Blind www.ncsab.org
NET	National Employment Team (program of CSAVR)
NFB	National Federation of the Blind (consumer group) www.nfb.org
NHCOA	National Hispanic Council on Aging www.nhcoa.org
NIDILRR	National Institute on Disability and Independent Living Rehabilitation Research (formerly NIDRR)
NLP	No Light Perception
NLS	National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped www.loc.gov/nls/
NOMC	National Orientation & Mobility Certification (from NBPCB)
NRTC	National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision at Mississippi State University
O&M	Orientation and Mobility
OAA	Older Americans Act (supports a range of home and community-based services, such as meals-on-wheels and other nutrition programs, in-home services, transportation, legal services, elder abuse prevention, and caregivers support)
OIB	Title VII, Chapter 2- Older Individuals who are Blind Program also known as Independent Living for Older Individuals who are Blind (administered by state VR agencies and funded by RSA as part of the VR program)
OIB-TAC	RSA-funded Technical Assistance center to assist older blind programs, located at the NRTC at Mississippi State University www.OIB-TAC.org
OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs (federal office with oversight for educational programs for children with disabilities)
OSERS	Office on Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (federal office comprised of RSA, NIDILRR, and OSEP)
OT	Occupational Therapist (some have add-on training in providing low vision services)
PETS	Pre-employment Transition Plan (for youth age 14-24)
PWD	Person with a Disability
RCD or RCB	Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf or Rehabilitation Counselor for the Blind
Research and Practice in Visual Impairments and Blindness	(AER Journal) from 2008-2012 professional journal of AER
RESNA	Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America (certifies Assistive Technology Specialists) www.resna.org

RE:view	Until 2008 was the professional journal of AER
RFB&D	Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic (provides audio textbooks - now known as Learning Ally)
RFP	Request for Proposals (federal grant request)
ROP	Retinopathy of Prematurity
RP	Retinitis Pigmentosa
RSA	Rehabilitation Services Administration (federal agency charged with oversight of programs for adults with disabilities)
RSA 911	Name of the federal form that must be completed when a consumer is closed from VR Services
RT	Rehabilitation Teacher (now known as VRT or if certified CVRT)
SWD	Student with a Disability
TAC	Technical Assistance Center
TACC	Technical Assistance Center Consortium (RSA sponsored group of their Training and Technical Assistance Centers)
Title VII, Chapter 2 (AKA 7-2 or 7-OB)	Legislative section that provides for IL services for older blind (OB) persons
TTAC	Training and Technical Assistance Center
UEB	Unified English Braille Code used by English speaking countries and adopted by the US in 2014
Uniform Guidance	Federal regulations for the administration of federal funds to VR and OIB programs
US	Ushers Syndrome which causes vision and hearing loss
VisionAware	Web-based community of practice supported by AFB that provides encouragement, information, ideas, and tips for consumers and professionals working with older adults with vision loss www.visionaware.org
VisionServe Alliance	Organization of private agencies serving individuals who are blind or visually impaired www.visionservealliance.org
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation (federal/state program designed to help persons with disabilities find employment and become independent)
VRT	Vision Rehabilitation Therapist also known as Rehabilitation Teacher (RT) or if certified CVRT
WIIA	Work Incentives Improvement Act replaced by WIOA
WIOA	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014

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