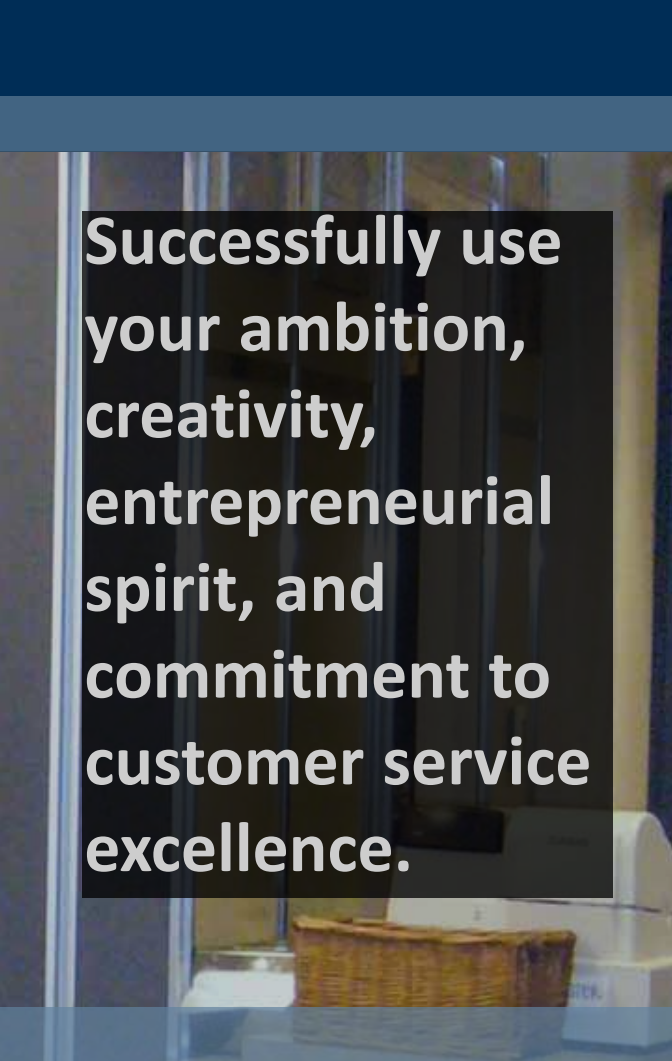


Department of Services
for the Blind



choice
challenge
confidence
careers

**Business
Enterprise Program**



**Successfully use
your ambition,
creativity,
entrepreneurial
spirit, and
commitment to
customer service
excellence.**

The Business Enterprise Program is a service of the Washington State Department of Services for the Blind. For more than 60 years, the Business Enterprise Program has provided training and opportunities for qualified legally blind individuals to become successful, independent entrepreneurs.

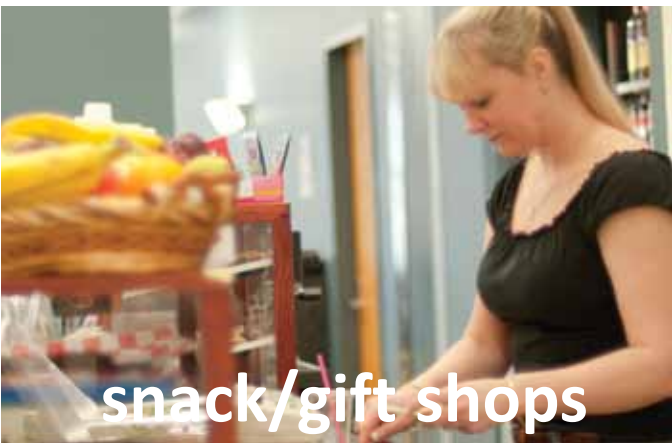
**The Business Enterprise Program
is the first step on the road
to business ownership.**



What is the Business Enterprise Program?

Business Enterprise Program (BEP) training educates blind individuals in all facets of food service facility operation. The training program is five to six months of classroom and hands-on experience.

Upon successful completion of training, participants will become BEP Licensees, allowing them to apply for program opportunities as they become available.



snack/gift shops

What does the Business Enterprise Program do?

The Business Enterprise Program:

- Provides food service management training to people who are legally blind.
- Publicly demonstrates the abilities, capabilities and competence of individuals with disabilities.
- Establishes quality food service programs offering excellent customer service; healthy, delicious products; and competitive prices.



cafeterias

How does the Business Enterprise Program work?

The BEP ensures qualified applicants receive the training they need to become a licensee in the program and to effectively operate and manage one of many fine food service facilities.

The program provides facilities with essential food service equipment, assists new operators in opening their location, and provides ongoing management guidance.



espresso stands

What will you gain?

Through the Business Enterprise Program you will gain:

- Extensive restaurant management training and work experience.
- Business start-up assistance including equipment.
- Ongoing training and consultation from Business Enterprise Program.
- The opportunity to be sole proprietor of a food service business.

Is the Business Enterprise Program for you?

Trainees in the Business Enterprise Program must live in Washington State, have an aptitude for business management and receive an official referral from the Department of Services for the Blind.

Program participants must also:

- Be legally blind
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Have good health and physical stamina
- Be able to pass a background check
- Have no current or recent drug or alcohol abuse
- Have practical mathematics, problem-solving, and communications skills
- Have adequate alternative skills in reading and writing
- Have independent mobility and living skills
- Have business interpersonal skills



Washington State Department of Services for the Blind

Business Enterprise Services

800-552-7103
info@dsb.wa.gov
www.dsb.wa.gov

**Inclusion, Independence, and
Economic Vitality for People with
Visual Disabilities.**