

North Carolina Division of Services for the Blind

North Carolina Division of Services for the Blind assists eligible Lee County residents with independent living services, such as aids and appliances along with training, for visually impaired/blind individuals. Persons of all ages who are visually impaired or blind learn daily living skills and obtain the assistance they need to become self-sufficient.

Services include:

- Adjustment Services: Counseling, personal care skills, home management skills, labeling and identification and leisure activities.
- Health Support Services: Counseling on health, nutrition and diet.
- Family Adjustment Services: Providing information and support to help family members adjust to the changes necessary to support the individual's independence.
- Safe Travel Skills: Teaching individuals to use sighted guide, white cane and safety techniques to travel independently.
- Medical Eye Care: Assist with some medical assistance. Must make application to see if qualified.

Lee County residents who meet eligibility requirements set by the NC Division of the Blind are eligible. An application must have a visual acuity of 20/70 or worse in the better eye with a documented eye condition. Eligibility for independent living services (ILS) requires that the client have a limited visual field of 20/70 or worse in the better eye and requires ILS services to live more independently in their homes.

Clients may apply at Lee County Department of Social Services. The Social Worker for the Blind is typically in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays but it is best to call and make an appointment. The client must provide documentation of their visual acuity and eye condition, usually found on an eye report from their optometrist or ophthalmologist.

Referrals are made to various agencies within the community based on the client's need. Usual referrals are to transportation resource, rehabilitation counselors, nursing eye care consultants, mobility specialists, etc.