

## **Oregon Commission for the Blind Medical Criteria for VR Eligibility**

The Oregon Commission for the Blind serves individuals throughout the state who are legally blind or who have eye conditions which might lead to blindness.

A blind person is defined as "a person whose central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with best correction or whose visual acuity, if better than 20/200, is accompanied by a limit to the field of vision to such a degree that its widest diameter subtends an angle of no greater than 20 degrees."

Basically a person would be considered to be blind if their central vision was measured at 20/200 or worse after using the best possible correction with lenses. Normal visual acuity is 20/20. 20/200 means that a blind person would need to be 20 feet close to what a normally sighted person could see at 200 feet. Legal blindness depends on the central visual acuity of the "better" eye so both eyes are involved.

Visual field refers to an individual's peripheral or side vision. A person could be legally blind with normal central visual acuity but have severely constricted peripheral vision (tunnel vision).

A person is not considered blind who has a functional disorder that does not have a known organic or structural cause.