

## ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHTS

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Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

MCB was established on July 13, 1906. It was originally comprised of 3 men and 2 women, including Ms. Helen Keller. This group functioned as a board of directors and was charged with establishing a state agency to provide services to individuals who were blind. That original agency was organized primarily around two residential workshops for the blind, one for men, the other for women. In 1919, the then Commission was incorporated into the State Department of Education and renamed the Division of the Blind. In 1966, the agency was reestablished as the separate commission that it remains today. Currently MCB is one of fifteen agencies in the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS).

MCB is the designated agency and point of entry for rehabilitation and social services for residents of the Commonwealth who are declared to be legally blind by an eye professional. Under a newly established category, MCB will expand service to qualifying individuals who have low vision with a progressive visual impairment. These services prepare individuals for productive independence and full community participation.

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-for-the-blind>



The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) promotes equality, empowerment and independence of individuals with disabilities. These goals are achieved through enhancing and encouraging personal choice and the right to succeed or fail in the pursuit of independence and employment in the community.

MRC provides comprehensive services to people living with disabilities that maximize their quality of life and economic self-sufficiency in the community. All programs have their own intake criteria including financial, medical, and other eligibility requirements.

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-rehabilitation-commission>



**WORK Inc.** is New England's leading agency providing the skills and supportive services needed to help people with disabilities achieve their career goals. For over 50 years WORK Inc. has been at the forefront of vocational services providing meaningful work, and often, the first paychecks, for the individuals we are privilege to serve.

WORK Inc. is the largest employer of people with disabilities in the region. The agency has a myriad of programs — Commercial Services, Day-Habilitation, Deaf Services, Family Support, Employment and Residential Services — which all converge toward one goal: "To make the lives of individuals with disabilities better."

Today, WORK Inc. serves over 1000 individuals with all types of disabilities. We are proud to be New England's leader of the Federal Ability One contracts, which has 150 individuals with disabilities working in our Federal buildings. Through the program WORK Inc. provides complete facilities management for

many Federal buildings such as the Tip O'Neill Building, Moakley Courthouse, the John F. Kennedy Library, a national landmark, and many others.

We operate 19 twenty-four hour residential sites serving 60 individuals and assists another 100 individuals with its supported living programs. With a current budget of 40 million dollars, WORK Inc.'s dedicated staff and managers continue its mission to provide vocational training and placement services enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities and encouraging more independence.

WORK, Inc. is positioned for the future and looks forward to continuing its role as a leader and guiding force in the field, ensuring those with disabilities to are able to pursue their goals, hopes and dreams.

<https://www.workinc.org/>

# WorkWithoutLimits

Putting abilities to work in Massachusetts.

Work Without Limits is a network of employers, educational institutions, employment service providers, and state and federal agencies.

Through collaboration and partnership, our goal is to increase the employment of people with disabilities until it is equal to those without disabilities.

Work Without Limits programs and services are geared to meet the needs of businesses that actively recruit people with disabilities, individuals with disabilities who are seeking jobs, and the employment providers that serve them.

We provide training and consulting services to help build the capacity of employers, employment service providers, state agency personnel, and educational institutions in advancing workplace disability inclusion.

Work Without Limits offers Disability:IN Massachusetts members opportunities to share best practices and build confidence and success when including people with disabilities in their workplaces.

Our Benefits Counseling service assists individuals with disabilities to understand how work earnings or wage increases affect eligibility for public benefits, such as SSI, SSDI, Medicaid and/or Medicare.

Our Administrative Employment Network (AEN) provides the administrative functions that allow community based organizations to access payments through the Social Security Ticket to Work program. The AEN also offers on-going benefits counseling to support Social Security beneficiaries as they work and increase their earnings.

<http://www.workwithoutlimits.org/>