

## **ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY**

**Program Name:** Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

**Policy Number:** VR-13.6-v1

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008

**Last Revision:** March 31, 2021

**CHAPTER 13:** Assistive Technology Services

**Section 13.6:** Bioptic Telescope

### **I. Policy Statement**

This policy provides the guidelines for the provision of bioptic telescope lens system (BTLS) (a visual aid for driving) for clients in order to achieve a successful employment outcome as listed on their most recent and approved IPE.

### **II. Authority**

Authority for policies contained in this document includes the following:

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), 29 U.S.C. § 3101 et seq.
- Title IV Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq.
- State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program, 34 C.F.R. §§:
  - Scope of vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities 361.48 (b)(17)
  - Comparable services and benefits 361.53 (b)(5)
  - Participation of individuals in cost of services based on financial need 361.54 (b)(1-2)
  - United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Policy Directive RSA-PD-16-04, Other Services Data Elements Rehabilitation Technology XIV (C)
- A.R.S. §§ 23-502 and 503

### **III. Applicability**

This applies to circumstances when BTLS may be determined necessary for clients in order to achieve a successful employment outcome. The client must:

- A. Actively participate in planned VR services.
- B. Meet the criteria set forth by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) in the Arizona Administrative Code Title 17 Article R17-4-503 for driving with BTLS.

- C. Pass the standard driving test with an Arizona Department of Transportation driving instructor and demonstrate the ability to perform all regular driving tasks such as speed control, merging, driving in traffic and effective use of mirrors.
- D. Have an ADOT Driver's Vision form completed by the client's eye doctor on an annual basis.

#### **IV. Standards**

- A. VR must require the client to complete a vision exam by a qualified optometrist or physician to determine whether the client is a candidate for driving with BTLS.
- B. The VR Counselor must provide the service provider for vision exam with the following referral information:
  - 1. Pertinent background information regarding the client's disability and vocational objectives, and
  - 2. A specific list of questions regarding the implications of the client's disability in terms of employment.
- C. The VR Counselor must determine the vocational necessity of the bioptic telescope lenses for employment outcome based upon the following:
  - 1. Medical documentation from a qualified optometrist and/or ophthalmology physician, and
  - 2. Feedback from an VR medical or low vision consultant.
- D. Economic need does not apply.
- E. Comparable benefits do not apply.
- F. VR must require that a client who is interested in using BTLS for driving meet the ADOT's criteria:
  - 1. Use no more than a 4X bioptic telescope.
  - 2. Have binocular or monocular vision and visual acuity of 20/40 in at least one eye.
  - 3. Have a field of vision 70 degrees temporally, and 35 degrees nasally, in at least one eye.
- G. The VR Counselor and client must review the recommendations of the assessments and determine if BTLS is appropriate.
- H. In the event that BTLS is appropriate, the VR Counselor must:
  - 1. Complete a comprehensive case note to describe the results of the client's vision assessments, the results of staffing, and justification for the need of BTLS.

2. Plan and authorize the purchase of BTLS and training to use BTLS.

## **V. Procedure**

- A. Refer to IV. B (1-2), C. (1-2), G, and H (1-2) above.
- B. Refer to Standard Work, if available.
- C. Refer to the RSA Allowable Services Spreadsheet, contracts (if available) and provider requirements. For non-contracted service, refer to RSA Contracts Unit for guidance whether the service is to be procured via:
  1. Arizona Health Care Cost Containment (AHCCCS) Fee for Services, or
  2. Other procurement methods, or
  3. Direct payment to the client via CPA.
- D. The VR Counselor must complete the agency Referral for Services form for Assessment -Vision Exam which must be provided by an optometrist or physician.
- E. The VR Counselor must task the Purchasing Technician to create RSA Purchase Authorization(s) for the service(s) listed in V. D.
- F. The Purchasing Technician must submit the RSA Purchase Authorization for the service listed in V. D along with the referral information to the provider(s).
- G. Upon receipt of the provider's report, the VR Counselor must review the report for completeness, approve the provider's invoice and process for payment after confirming that the reporting documentation is complete.
- H. If BTLS is recommended by the examining optometrist or physician, the VR Counselor must task the purchasing technician to purchase the BTLS including fitting services.
- I. The Purchasing Technician must submit the RSA Purchase Authorization for the service listed in V. H along with the referral information to the provider.
- J. Upon receipt of the provider's reporting documentation, the VR Counselor must review the report for completeness, approve the provider's invoice and process for payment after confirming that the reporting documentation is complete.

## **VI. Documentation Requirements**

The client's electronic case file must include the following:

- A. Documentation supporting the service need,
- B. Documentation demonstrating the client meets the ADOT criteria,
- C. Referral information,

- D. RSA Purchase Authorization(s),
- E. Vision exam report,
- F. Provider invoice for BTLS, and
- G. Provider report relating to the training to use BTLS.