

**Title: Accessible Resources and Services Eligibility Policy**

**Effective:** September 3, 2024

**Review Date:** September 3, 2024

**Status:** New Policy

**1.0 Purpose and Need**

- A. The Virginia Beach Public Library provides accessible materials and equipment to customers who are blind or otherwise print disabled as a subregional for the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled.

**2.0 Acronym(s)**

ARS – Accessible Resources and Services

COVB – City of Virginia Beach

NLS – National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled

VBPL – Virginia Beach Public Library

**3.0 Definitions**

- A. Materials - braille books, books on digital cartridge, descriptive DVDs, large print books, or any specialty items on loan from Accessible Resources and Services.
- B. Equipment – digital book machines, braille eReaders, and any accompanying accessories.
- C. Customer - patrons of the service, their care partners, and potential patrons of the service.

**4.0 Eligibility**

Any COVB resident meeting the requirements put forth by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) is eligible to materials and equipment from VBPL Accessible Resources and Services.

- A. Per NLS guidelines, service is available to individuals with any of the following conditions:
  - 1. Blindness with visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses, or with widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.

2. Other visual disability that prevents the reading of standard printed material.
  3. Physical limitations that prevent reading or using standard printed material.
  4. Reading disabilities resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent their reading printed material in a normal manner.
- B. If eligible, customers contact VBPL's Accessible Resources and Services for an application:
1. The application requires the signature of a "competent authority". Once a complete application is submitted to VBPL ARS, the customer will be contacted to receive equipment and materials from Accessible Resources and Services.
- C. NLS defines "competent authority" to include:
1. Doctor of Medicine
  2. Doctor of osteopathy
  3. Ophthalmologist
  4. Optometrist
  5. Registered nurse
  6. Therapist
  7. Professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or private welfare agencies (e.g., social workers, case workers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers, and superintendents).
  8. Professional librarian or by any person whose competence under specific circumstances is acceptable to the Library of Congress.

Approved by

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. B. Knight". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimberly Knight, Director of Libraries