# Vocational Rehabilitation Services Manual B-300: Determining Eligibility

Revised June 26, 2023

## B-308: Assessments

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### B-308-3: Selecting a Disability Classification

Disabling conditions are classified according to a structure that combines an impairment with a specific cause or source. Using prescribed categories, select the impairment and then the cause or source that best describes the customer's primary disability that results in a substantial impediment to employment in Vocational Rehabilitation (VR).

Complete the following steps to select the disability code on the ReHabWorks (RHW) Disability Information page:

1. Select the impairment category that best identifies the disability from the following:
   * Blind Sensory
   * Sensory-communicative
   * Physical
   * Mental
2. Select the impairment subcategory within the table, such as:
   * deafness, primary communication visual;
   * respiratory; or
   * cognitive.
3. Select the specific cause or source of the disabling condition, such as:
   * cause unknown;
   * amputation;
   * congenital conditions or birth injury; or
   * digestive.

Using the same sequence of actions, select the secondary impairment that contributes to, but is not the primary basis, of the impediment to employment in VR or to the rehabilitation goals in comprehensive rehabilitation services and independent living services. If there is a tertiary disability, follow the same steps to add the third impairment. For more information see [ReHabWorks (RHW) Users Guide, Chapter 10: Application, 10.2 Disability Information](https://intra.twc.texas.gov/intranet/manuals/rhwhelp/index.html).

For information about eligibility requirements for specific conditions, see [B-308-1: Required Assessments and Policies for Selected Conditions](https://twc.texas.gov/vr-services-manual/vrsm-b-300#b308-1).

#### Primary and Secondary Disability Categories

Use the following in selecting primary and secondary disability categories.

#### Sensory and/or Communicative Impairments

##### **Blindness**

* An impairment that results in the customer being legally blind, which is defined as central visual acuity 20/200 or less in the better eye with best correction, or visual fields restriction of 20 degrees or less (both eyes).

##### **Other Visual Impairments**

* Other visual impairments that do not result in legal blindness.

##### **Deafness, Primary Communication Visual**

* A hearing impairment causing dependence primarily upon visual communication (for example, writing, manual communication, gestures) or when combined with blindness, tactile communication (for example, finger spelling).

##### **Deafness, Primary Communication Auditory**

* The customer uses spoken language primarily for expressive communication and has been identified in the past as being oral deaf or late-deafened adult. This category might include customers who use cochlear implants. These customers might depend primarily on visual communication, such as:
  + speech-to-text translation;
  + lip reading; and/or
  + English-based sign language.

##### **Hearing Loss, Primary Communication Visual**

An unaided hearing loss

* of at least 40 dB (American National Standard Institute (ANSI)), or pure tone average (PTA) in the more useful ear; or
* between 30 and 39 dB loss (ANSI), or PTA in the more useful ear with either
* speech discrimination of less than 70 percent, or
* a statement from a physician skilled in diseases of the ear stating a progressive loss of hearing.

The customer's primary receptive mode of communication is visual (for example, writing, lip reading, manual communication, gestures). The customer's primary expressive mode of communication is spoken language (when the customer voices or speaks).

##### **Hearing Loss, Primary Communication Auditory**

An unaided hearing loss

* of at least 40 dB (American National Standard Institute [ANSI]), pure tone average (PTA) in the more useful ear; or
* between 30 and 39 dB (ANSI), or PTA in the more useful ear with either
  + speech discrimination of less than 70%, or
  + a statement from a physician skilled in diseases of the ear stating a progressive loss of hearing.

The customer's primary receptive mode of communication is auditory with or without the assistance of amplification (for example, hearing aids). The customer's primary expressive mode of communication is spoken language (when the customer voices or speaks).

##### **Other Hearing Impairments**

* Diseases and conditions of the ear or auditory systems that do not cause a hearing loss of at least 30 dB in the conversational range in both ears but that do cause an impediment to employment (for example, tinnitus, Meniere's disease, hyperacusis).

##### **Deaf-Blind**

A customer who is deaf-blind is someone:

* who has:
  + a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses;
  + a field defect in which the peripheral diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees (tunnel vision), or a progressive visual loss having a prognosis leading to one or both conditions;
  + a chronic hearing impairment so significant that most speech cannot be understood with optimum amplification (speech discrimination of less than 50 percent); or
  + a progressive hearing loss having a prognosis leading to this condition; and
* for whom the combination of impairments described above cause significant difficulty in attaining an employment outcome; or
* who, despite the inability to be measured accurately for hearing and vision loss because of cognitive and/or behavioral constraints, can be determined through a functional and performance assessment to have significant hearing and visual disabilities that cause extreme difficulty in attaining an employment outcome.

##### **Communicative Disorder (Expressive or Receptive)**

A disorder that affects a customer's ability to communicate or understand communication.

#### Physical Impairments

##### **Mobility Impairment—Orthopedic or Neurological**

* Mobility that is affected by either an orthopedic or neurological condition.

##### **Manipulation or Dexterity Impairment—Orthopedic or Neurological**

* Orthopedic or neurological conditions that affect manipulation or dexterity.

##### **Both Mobility and Manipulation-Dexterity Impairment—Orthopedic or Neurological**

* Orthopedic or neurological conditions that affect both mobility and manipulation and/or dexterity.

##### **Other Orthopedic Impairments**

For example, seriously limited range of motion requiring accommodations beyond that of an average similarly-situated person

* Limitations caused by other orthopedic impairment

##### **Respiratory Impairments**

* Impairment resulting in reduced breathing capacity.

##### **General Physical Debilitation**

* A physical condition that results in a reduced capacity to work (For example, fatigue, weakness, pain.).

##### **Other Physical Impairments (not listed above)**

#### Mental Impairments

##### **Cognitive Impairments**

* Involves learning, thinking, processing information, and concentration.

##### **Psychosocial Impairments**

* Interpersonal and behavioral impairment, difficulty coping
* A mental condition that affects both psychological and social functioning.

##### **Other Mental Impairments (not listed above)**

#### Long COVID

Long COVID (Post-COVID) conditions are a wide range of new, returning, or ongoing health problems that people experience after being infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

If a customer has a documented diagnosis of Long COVID, VR staff indicates the diagnosis in the Long Covid Impact field on the RHW Disability page.

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