

U.S. Currency Reader Program Eligibility Requirements

Blind and visually impaired citizens and legal residents of the United States, including territories, insular possessions, the District of Columbia, and American citizens living abroad, are eligible to receive a currency reader at no cost. For this purpose, such individuals must meet the following criteria:

1. Their visual acuity, as determined by competent authority, is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses, or their widest diameter of visual field subtends angular distance not greater than 20 degrees; or
2. Their visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, is certified by competent authority as preventing the reading of regular printed material.

Certifying Authority

Certifying authority includes doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, ophthalmologists, optometrists, registered nurses, therapists, and professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or private welfare agencies (e.g., social workers, case workers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers, and superintendents). In the absence of any of these, certification may be made by professional librarians or by any person whose competence under specific circumstances is acceptable to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the Library of Congress.

The Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) processes all applications received under the U.S. Currency Reader Program as provided in the Interagency Agreement with the BEP. The BEP does not collect, use, or store any information provided in the application.