# VR-SFP Chapter 20: Premiums

Revised: Nov. 1, 2022

# 20.11 Blind Premium [Notice: New section]

## 20.11.1 Service Description

A service provider is eligible for the Blind Premium if:

* the customer has been determined to have one of the following TWC eligibility criteria related to a visual impairment:
* **Blindness** – a visual acuity with best correction of 20/200 or less in the better eye; a visual field of 20 degrees or less; or a combination of both;
* **Low Vision** – a visual acuity with best correction of 20/70 or less in the better eye; a visual field of 30 degrees or less in the better eye; or a combination of both; or
* **Significant Visual Impairment** – a condition or disease of the eye that does not meet the definitions of Blind or Low Vision but does create a significant impediment to employment and cannot be corrected with glasses or contact lenses;
* the VR counselor determines that the customer requires intervention to remove barriers to employment that are directly related to a visual impairment; and
* the direct service provider has a current University of North Texas Workplace Inclusion and Sustainable Employment (UNTWISE) Blind Premium Endorsement.

The service provider, as needed, removes any barriers related to the customer's visual impairment. Intervention can include, but is not limited to developing compensatory strategies, skills training, and setting up accommodations.

In order to obtain the UNTWISE Blind Premium Endorsement, the direct service provider must complete the following training and receive certificates of completion for:

* the National Rehabilitation Training Center on Blindness & Low Vision (NRTC) trainings, which include:
* Improving Business Development Skills: A Training for Rehabilitation Professionals (17.25 hours.); and
* Working with Employers: What Is Important and What Successful Agencies Do (1 hour.); and
* the TWC-VR for Blind and Visual impairment Training for Service Providers.

For a contractor to eligible to invoice for the blind premium, a service authorization must be issued, and the contractor’s staff member must:

* maintain the staff member’s qualifications for the services being delivered to the customer; and
* have a current University UNTWISE Blind Premium Endorsement. <https://wise.unt.edu/user>.

Note: The free, self-paced NRTC trainings can be found online at: <https://nrtc.catalog.instructure.com/>.

The Blind Premium may be available for the services covered in:

* [Chapter 4: Employment Assessments](https://www.twc.texas.gov/standards-manual/vr-sfp-chapter-04)
* [Chapter 13: Work Readiness Services](https://twc.texas.gov/standards-manual/vr-sfp-chapter-13)
* [Chapter 14: Work Experience Services](https://twc.texas.gov/standards-manual/vr-sfp-chapter-14)
* [Chapter 17: Basic Employment Services](https://twc.texas.gov/standards-manual/vr-sfp-chapter-17)
* [Chapter 18: Supported Employment Services](https://twc.texas.gov/standards-manual/vr-sfp-chapter-18)
* [Chapter 19: Self Employment](https://twc.texas.gov/standards-manual/vr-sfp-chapter-19)

## 20.11.2 Process and Procedures

A contracted service provider's staff member who provides a direct service to the customer must:

* meet the staff qualifications identified for the base service; and
* maintain a current UNTWISE Blind Premium Endorsement.

The contracted service provider receives authorization for both the base service and the Blind Premium through a service authorization.

The referral and/or service authorization for both the primary employment service and UNTWISE Blind Premium Endorsement identified the categories in which the customer may need intervention to remove barriers related to the customer's visual impairment.

The service provider's staff member:

* ensures all deliverables for the base service are provided as outlined in the VR Standards for Providers;
* must remain onsite or be remotely available to provide interventions, as needed, to remove any barriers related to the customer's visual impairment;
* identifies interventions and compensatory techniques to address and/or remove the barriers directly related to the customer's visual impairment; and
* completes and signs the [VR1883,](https://twc.texas.gov/forms/index.html) Blind Premium Report.

The VR1883, Blind Premium Report, must be submitted each time the primary service is invoiced.

The Blind Premium is paid only after all outcomes have been achieved and approved by the VR counselor for primary service.

## 20.11.3 Outcomes Required for Payment

The service provider is eligible for the Blind Premium if:

* the VR counselor confirms and approves the customer has achieved all outcomes required for the base service, as outlined in the corresponding chapter of the VR- Standards for Providers manual;
* the staff member providing the base service must maintain the current UNTWISE Blind endorsement; and
* the staff member with the current UNTWISE Blind Premium Endorsement provides interventions, as needed, to address any barriers related to the customer's visual impairment.

The premium is paid after:

* the documentation required for the base service is approved; and
* the VR counselor approves a complete, accurate, signed, and dated:
* [VR1883,](https://twc.texas.gov/forms/index.html) Blind Premium Report; and
* invoice.

Note VR customers who qualify for the Blind Premium can also qualify for the Deaf Premium simultaneously.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services does not pay for fees related to excused or unexcused absences or holidays.

## 20.11.4 Fee

For more information, refer to 20.12 Premium Fee Schedule.

# 20.12.4 Fee

## 20.12.9 Blind Premium Fee Schedule

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| **Career Planning Assessment** | **Fee** |
| Career Planning Assessment | $312 |
| **Job Placement Services** | **Fee** |

| Non-Bundled Employment Data Sheet, Application, and Résumé Training | $120 |
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| Non-Bundled Interview Training | $96 |
| Bundled Job Placement (Basic) Benchmark C | $720 |
| Bundled Job Placement (Enhanced) Benchmark C | $960 |

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| **Job Skills Training** | **Fee** |

| Job Skills Training (Individual) | $12 per hour |
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| Job Skills Training (Group) | $6 per hour |

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| **Self-Employment** | **Fee** |
| Customer Profile & Self-Employment Exploration  | $84 |
| Concept Development - Only – Simple | $60 |
| Concept Development - Only – Comprehensive  | $84 |
| Concept Development - Only – Supported | $36 |
| Feasibility Study – Only – Simple | $144 |
| Feasibility Study – Only – Comprehensive  | $252 |
| Feasibility Study – Only – Supported | $360 |
| Concept Development & Feasibility Study – Simple  | $204 |
| Concept Development & Feasibility Study - Comprehensive | $336 |
| Business Plan Review – Only – Simple | $60 |
| Business Plan Review – Only – Comprehensive  | $84 |
| Business Plan - Simple  | $240 |
| Business Plan – Comprehensive  | $360 |
| Business Plan – Supported  | $420 |
| Financials – Simple  | $84 |
| Financials – Comprehensive  | $144 |
| Financials – Supported  | $144 |
| Supported Self-Employment Assessment  | $240 |
| Benchmark 1: Supported Self-Employment Services Plan  | $36 |
| Benchmark 2: Supported Self-Employment Business Start-Up | $528 |
| Benchmark 3: Supported Self-Employment Business Maintenance  | $264 |
| Benchmark 4: Supported Self-Employment Business Stability  | $264 |
| Benchmark 5: Supported Self-Employment Service Closure  | $792 |
| **Supported Employment** |

| Supported Employment Job Development and Placement Benchmark | $492 |
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| Supported Employment Job Retention Benchmark (every 28 days) | $480 |
| Supported Employment Closure Benchmark | $960 |

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| Vocational Adjustment Training: | **Fee** |

| VAT—Job Search Training | $120 |
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| VAT—Disability Disclosure | $120 |
| VAT—Entering the World of Work | $60 |
| VAT—Explore the You in Work | $60 |
| VAT—Money Smart | $180 |
| VAT—Soft Skills for Work Success | $90 |
| VAT—Soft Skills to Pay the Bills—Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success | $120 |
| VAT—Transportation Training-Individual | $12 per hour |
| VAT—Transportation Training-Group | $6 per hour |
| VAT—Specialized (evaluation and training) | $6 per hour |
| VAT—  Exploring Postsecondary Education and Training | $60 |
| VAT- For Younger Students | $90 |

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| **Work Experience:** | **Fee** |

| Work Experience Placement  | $240 |
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| Work Experience Training—Individual | $12 per hour |
| Work Experience Training—Group | $6 per hour |