Business Enterprise – Frequently asked questions:

1. **Why is the Commission for the Blind involved in food services?**

Federal and State law requires the Commission to manage this employment program. The Commission (OCB) works with Federal and State agencies to establishes cafeterias, convenience stores, espresso stands and vending machines in publicly owned/operated properties. All of these operations are operated/managed by blind Oregonians, who are trained and licensed by OCB.

Federal info: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/rsarsp/index.html>

State info: <http://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/346.510>

1. **Does my agency/building fall under the Randolph-Sheppard Act?**

If you are a State or Federal agency, most likely you do. There are only a few exceptions.

1. **How can blind people run these types of operations?**

This is the question that everyone has, but is afraid to ask. Being “blind” is a very individual impairment. Some people have low vision, meaning they have some sight remaining; others are totally blind and can see nothing. Blindness does make running a business more of a challenge, but not impossible.

1. **How do I get an operation setup in my building?**

You’ve come to the right place! The Business Enterprise program is here to help. First, we work closely with your agency to determine if the location is suitable. We have agreements with most agencies, but if not with yours, we will get that done. Then we figure out what is needed (equipment, supplies), we provide all that. We then select a blind manager, and soon the operation is up and running. Of course there are lots of details, but this gives you an idea.

1. **I lost money in a vending machine, what do I do?**

Each location should have a process to reimburse you. If not, let us know.

Email: BEPofOregon@state.or.us

1. **I still have questions.**

No problem, just email or call us.