**Older Individuals who are Blind Program Report**

**February 2022**

Title VII Chapter 2 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, authorizes and funds independent living services to individuals age 55 or older whose visual impairment makes competitive employment difficult to attain, but for whom independent living goals are feasible. The Older Individuals Who Are Blind (OIB) program aims to assist Californians, 55 and older, who are blind or severely visually impaired, live in their community of choice, function at maximum capacity, and feel valued in society.

Below are updates since the last meeting of the Blind Advisory Committee (BAC) in November 2021.

Program Reviews and Site Visits

OIB has not conducted any program reviews or issued any reports. With COVID-19 limiting travel along with preparation of the next Request for Applications (RFA) process, OIB is exploring methods of conducting virtual reviews. OIB anticipates resuming reviews in 2022 utilizing new strategies and will update when travel resumes and/or virtual methods of reviews are implemented.

OIB Services

The new grant year began October 1, 2017. This is the fifth and final year of the grant cycle. DOR made 3-year awards with an option to extend for two additional years to facilitate funding stability for the grantees. All but two counties in California (Alpine & Inyo) have OIB services available to eligible residents.

All OIB grants have been amended for the fifth year of the grant cycle and became effective on October 1, 2021. See the current list of OIB service providers at the end of this report.

7-OB Report

The OIB Program submitted the annual 7-OB report, on time, December 30, 2021. The report is included as an additional attachment for the BAC.

OIB Match

For the 2021-22 federal fiscal year the OIB program has match pledges from two match partners. OIB has match pledged from: VISTA Center in Palo Alto and Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael. The OIB program expresses gratitude to these partners for their voluntary match contributions, and desires the BAC make note of these key contributions.

Request for Applications (RFA) process

The OIB program is planning to release the next competitive RFA in the Spring of 2022. OIB staff is working with internal DOR partners to ensure that the RFA meets and complies with guidelines to ensure the RFA will be completed successfully.

List of 2021/22 Provider Agencies and their Counties of Service

(Through September 30, 2022)

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| Agency Name | Counties of Service |
| Access to Independence | Imperial |
| Blindness Support Services | Riverside & San Bernardino |
| Blind and Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County | Monterey |
| Community Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired | San Joaquin |
| Center of Vision Enhancement  | Mariposa & Merced |
| Dayle McIntosh Center | Orange & Los Angeles |
| Disability Action Center | Colusa, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, & Tehama |
| Earle Baum Center | Lake, Napa, & Sonoma |
| Independent Living Center of Kern County | Kern |
| Independent Living Resource Center Inc. | San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, & Ventura |
| LightHouse for the Blind | Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, & Trinity |
| Lions Center for the Visually Impaired – Diablo Valley | Alameda, Contra Costa, & Solano |
| San Diego Center for the Blind | San Diego |
| Society for the Blind | Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Glenn, Mendocino, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo, & Yuba |
| Valley Center for the Blind | Fresno, Kings, Madera, & Tulare |
| Visually Impaired Persons Support  | Stanislaus, & Tuolumne |
| VISTA Center | San Benito, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz |