**Business Enterprises Program Report**

**April 2024**

**Vision:** The California Business Enterprises Program (BEP) is the preferred food service of choice. This self-employment option expands the economic opportunities for the blind while providing an enjoyable experience for the customer. The program’s advances affirm that people with disabilities are integral to the social and economic success of our world.

Below are significant updates that have occurred since the last Blind Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting.

**BEP Staffing**

**Central Office:**

As of March 1, 2024, Oscar Chavez Ruiz has been selected to fill the position as the Business Enterprise Consultant (BEC) for the Central Valley, marking the beginning of his state service. The BEP is looking forward to his addition to the team and expect the program and Central Valley vendors to mutually benefit from his managerial experience and knowledge within the customer service industry. He looks forward to engaging with our vendors to advise on excellent business practices to push revenue growth.

In addition, the Central Office has filled another vacancy for the Budgets and Reports Analyst position as of March 18, 2024. Joshua Pitts joins BEP as a seasoned professional in administrative operations, marketing, and financial analysis within major food industry chains. We are confident that his skill sets will bring an impactful addition to the program’s overall financial operations and its stakeholder’s interests alike.

The program is actively searching to fill the vacancy of the Location Development Officer (LDO) position in Central Office. The BEP is grateful for the dedication of the program’s Training Officer, Marc Leyva, stepping in to perform dual roles temporarily as we continue to find a permanent staff member to fill the LDO position. Prospective interviews will continue within the upcoming weeks as the position filing date has closed.

**Northern Field Office:**

Since February 13, 2024, BEP is pleased to announce that Ryne Meyers has accepted the Out of Class Staff Service Manager I position and will be leading the Northern Field Office in this capacity.

**Southern Field Office:**

The Southern Field Office completed the interviews for the 4th time to fill the Office Technician (OT) vacancy since September 1, 2023. We are in the selection process and anticipate having the selection completed by May 15, 2024.

**Public Records Requests**

The Southern Field Office handled one (1) request for public records this quarter.

The Northern Field Office handled one (1) request for public records this quarter.

**Location Announcements, Awards, and Selections**

January 20, 2024 – April 22, 2024

**Location Announcements:**

Interim Location 1059: May Lee Office Complex – Department of General Services (DGS), was announced on April 8, 2024. Selection interviews will take place on May 3, 2024.

**Awarded Locations:**

Satellite location 697: California Public Retirement System (CalPERS) and Cal Victims Compensation Board, was awarded to Joni Patche.

**Pending Selections:**

Primary location: TheUnited States West Coast Marine Corps (USMC) Regional Garrison Food Services, Department of the Navy, USMC. Selection interviews will be held from May 7 to May 9, 2024.

**Procurement Section Overview**

January 20, 2024 – April 22, 2024

* 4 pieces of equipment totaling $31,985
* 17 Vending Machines $118,135

Procurement total for all equipment is $150,120 for this period.

**BEP Training**

Currently there are five interested consumers going through the Pre-Requisite process. Of the five, there are three that have already attended and completed their assessment at the Orientation Center for the Blind. Of the three mentioned, two of those individuals have completed and received an updated ServSafe Manager Certificate. The two individuals have also met with their counselor and Training Officer to schedule 20 Day Pre-Evaluations to start in the next two to three weeks. If the interested consumers continue to move through the Pre-Requisite process an anticipated start date for the curriculum to begin would be in Mid-June. There are also three individuals from other states expressing interest in moving to California to get connected with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and begin their process of joining the Business Enterprises Program here in California due to potential more opportunities in quality locations.