**Blind Field Services Program Report**

**First Quarter 2024 - 25**

**July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024**

It is the vision of BFS to increase the number of successful employment outcomes for consumers seeking competitive employment and ensure that every blind and visually impaired Californian who wants to work, obtains employment; and every blind and visually impaired Californian who may not believe they can work, is provided the necessary counseling and guidance to overcome their individual barriers to employment.

Unless otherwise stated, all data is 7/1/2024 through 9/30/2024. Data was gathered from Aware and the DOR Dashboard.

**BFS Statistics for State Fiscal Year to Date (SFYTD) 2024 – 2025**

**Total Applications as of 9/30/2024: 326**

Applications as of the same date in 2023; 296

Applications as of the same date in 2022; 373

Applications as of the same date in 2021; 224

Applications as of the same date in 2020; 161

Applications as of the same date in 2019; 237

**Services to Students with a Disability (SWD) Applications**

The Term "Student with a Disability" means, in general, an individual with a disability in a secondary, postsecondary, or other recognized education program who is aged 16-21.

**SWD Applications of the total number above:**

**9/30/2024: 26 or 8% of the total number of applications**

SWD as of the same date in 2023; 48 or 16% of total apps.

SWD as of the same date in 2022; 49 or 13% of total apps.

SWD as of the same date in 2021; 197 or 43 % of total apps.

SWD as of the same date in 2020; 122 or 76% of total apps.

SWD as of the same date in 2019; 39 or 16 % of total apps.

**Total Number of Individuals Served this quarter 4260**

Of that number 568 individuals are SWD. This is 13% of the total population currently served by BFS. WIOA requires that the DOR spend 15% of its funds on Student Services.

**Total Successful closures as of 9/30/2024: 55**

Successful closures as of the same date in 2023; 61

Successful closures as of the same date in 2022; 62

Successful closures as of the same date in 2021; 69

Successful closures as of the same date in 2020; 50

Successful closures as of the same date in 2019; 75

**Successful Closure Information - Placements earning $25 per hour or more**

* Rehabilitation Counselors; $150.00 per hour/12 hours per week
* Machine Tool Cutting Operators And Tenders, Metal And Plastic; $125.00 per hour/20 hours per week
* Marriage and Family Therapists; $100.00 per hour/16 hours per week
* Radiologic Technologists; $68.68 per hour/40 hours per week
* Financial and Investment Analysts; $57.69 per hour/40 hours per week
* Nuclear Engineers; $53.37 per hour/40 hours per week
* Management Analysts; $52.88 per hour/30 hours per week
* Customer Service Representatives; $43.27 per hour/20 hours per week
* Special Education Teachers, All Other; $40.24 per hour/40 hours per week
* All Other Managers And Administrators; $36.00 per hour/40 hours per week
* Employment Interviewers, Private Or Public Employment Service; $35.00 per hour/20 hours per week
* Operating Engineers; $35.00 per hour/40 hours per week
* Marketing Managers; $35.00 per hour/40 hours per week
* Special Education Teachers, All Other; $34.77 per hour/32 hours per week
* Social Workers, Except Medical And Psychiatric; $34.00 per hour/32 hours per week
* Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists; $33.33 per hour/15 hours per week
* Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants; $32.05 per hour/40 hours per week
* Computer Support Specialists; $30.00 per hour 40/hours per week
* Marriage and Family Therapists; $30.00 per hour/40 hours per week
* Rehabilitation Counselors; $29.34 per hour/40 hours per week
* Loan Officers And Counselors; $27.69 per hour/50 hours per week
* All Other Teachers And Instructors; $26.00 per hour/40 hours per week
* Arbitrators, Mediators, and Conciliators; $25.00 per hour/20 hours per week
* Adult Literacy, Remedial Education, and GED Teachers and Instructors; $25.00 per hour/33 hours per week
* All Other Clerical And Administrative Support Workers; $25.00 per hour/40 hours per week
* Brokers, Real Estate; $25.00 per hour/20 hours per week

**Wage Data**

This is information is only covering the month of July 2024. August and September have not been posted.

BFS has the highest hourly wages at $36.93 per hour. The statewide average was $23.55 per hour.

The median hourly wage for BFS was $26.35. The statewide median hourly wage was $20.00

The average hours worked per week for BFS was 33. The statewide average hours per week was 34

The median hours worked per week for BFS was 37. The statewide median hours per week was 40.

**Aware updated feature to capture job retention and career advancement documentation**

A new feature in Aware will allow staff to capture participants who are receiving services related to job retention. CIE is Competitive Integrated Employment. At the time of the initial IPE, staff can now select one of four options including:

1. CIE, Requires Services to Maintain Employment

2. CIE, Seeking Career Advancement

3. Not CIE, Seeking CIE

4. Not Employed

**Key Staff Updates Promotions**

Rene Garza to Team Manager in the Greater East Bay

**Retirement Announcements**

Peter Dawson, Regional Director – 24 years

Laura Rasmussen, District Administrator – 36 years

Frank Blais, Qualified Rehabilitation Professional – 31 years

Doug Mochidome, Qualified Rehabilitation Professional – 24 years

**Training**

A full SB105 training with all BFS staff was held on September 23 – 25 at the Hilton Arden Fair in Sacramento. The Management Team had a presentation about Culture Change by Mark Erlichman, Deputy Director, VRED. This was similar to a presentation that he did at Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation.

On Monday afternoon the BFS staff heard from the keynote speaker Deputy Director Sue Pelbath. Sue shared how her experience prior to becoming a DOR consumer shaped how she came to DOR. She also explained from her own experience that having a counselor who was accepting, consumer oriented and compassionate helped to facilitate her success.

By most accounts the highlight of the training was the assistive technology program on Tuesday afternoon. Many assistive technology vendors were invited to participate. The vendors were each given a brief opportunity to introduce themselves and inform the audience of the companies they represent. Each BFS unit was given a scenario of a consumer who would need assistive technology. Working together, the teams talked with vendors and developed options to present to the consumers.

BFS Staff also heard information and updates on the following programs:

* Orientation Center for the Blind
* Older Individuals who are Blind Program
* Community Living Fund Program
* Mississippi State University - Rehabilitation Certificate Vision Specialist Program (BFS has two QRPs in the program)
* Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) - Best Practices for Serving DOR Deaf-Blind Consumers Seeking Employment
* Introduction to the Community Resources Development (CRD) Section and Becoming a Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP)
* Overview of Student Services
* Presentation of best practices for student services as modeled by the School for the Blind and DOR partnership