**Blind Field Services Program Report**

**Fourth Quarter 2023-2024**

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 in this report is from the fourth quarter of the State Fiscal Year (SFY) July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024**

**Highlights**

* Applications are at the second highest level in five years.
* Applications for Students with Disabilities (SWD) are only slightly down from one year ago. At 154 SWD applications, this is still significantly higher than the average of the prior five years which was 116 per year.
* BFS has served 5,290 individuals this year. This is the highest number in the past five years.
* BFS wages continue to be the highest of all DOR districts.

**Total Applications Including Students with Disabilities**

Applications as of June 2024. 1,199

Applications as of June 2023: 1,267

Applications as of June 2022: 1,074

Applications as of June 2021: 758

Applications as of June 2020: 921

**Applications for** **Students with Disabilities**

Students with Disabilities (SWD) is defined by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) as “…in general, an individual with a disability in a secondary, postsecondary, or other recognized education program who is not younger than the earliest age for the provision of transition services…and is not older than 21 years of age…”

SWD Applications as of June 2024: 154

SWD Applications as of June 2023: 168

SWD Applications as of June 2022: 81

SWD Applications as of June 2021: 85

SWD Applications as of June 2020: 123

SWD Applications as of June 2019: 122

**Total Number of Individuals Served**

**Note that this data point is replacing the currently Open Cases data. It is a better reflection of the work done by BFS over the past year.**

Total individuals served in 23/24: 5,290

Total individuals served in 22/23: 5,247

Total individuals served in 21/22: 5,010

Total individuals served in 20/21: 4,660

Total individuals served in 19/20: 4930

**Total SWD open cases on June 30, 2024**

SWD Open cases in June 2024: 605

SWD Open cases in June 2023: 664

SWD Open cases in June 2022: 604

SWD Open cases in June 2021: 501

SWD Open cases in June 2020: 589

**Successful Competitive Closures**

Successful closures as of June 2024: 336

Successful closures as of June 2023: 352

Successful closures as of June 2022: 373

Successful closures as of June 2021: 254

Successful closures as of June 2020: 340

Successful closures as of June 2019: 333

**Hourly and Median Wage Information Year to Date as of 5/31/2024**

* Average Hourly Wages at time of Employment: BFS has the highest average wages out of all DOR Districts at $28.78 per hour. The Statewide average is $22.20 per hour.
* Median Hourly Wages at Time of Employment: BFS has the highest median hourly wages out of all Districts at $23.42 per hour. The Statewide median hourly wage is $19.00.
* Average Hours Worked Per Week at Time of Employment:

BFS and the Statewide average hours worked per week are both 32 hours per week.

* Median Hours Per Week: BFS and the Statewide average are both 40 hours per week.

**Top 40 Successful Closures based on Average Hourly Wages:**

Mental Health Counselors, $115.38, 14 Hours per week

Judges And Magistrates, $83 65, 40 Hours per week

Management Analysts, $75.00, 40 Hours per week

General Managers and Top Executives, $73 56, 40 Hours per week

Human Resources, Training, and Labor Relations Specialists, All Other

$66.24, 45 Hours per week

Medical Scientists, $57.69, 40 Hours per week

Marriage and Family Therapists, $57.69, 32 Hours per week

Arbitrators, Mediators, and Conciliators, $53.94, 40 Hours per week

Computer Support Specialists, $49. 27, 40 Hours per week

Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers, $40.38, 40 Hours per week

Clinical and Counseling Psychologists, $40.00, 20 Hours per week

Environmental Engineers, $38.93, 25 Hours per week

Vocational And Educational Counselors, $38.46, 40 Hours per week

Lawyers, $38.46, 40 Hours per week

Advertising and Promotions Managers, $38.37, 50 Hours per week

Psychologists, All Other, $35.53, 40 Hours per week

Teaching Assistants, Special Education, $35.00, 37 Hours per week

Special Education Teachers, All Other, $34.61, 30 Hours per week

Teachers, Special Education, $34.13, 40 Hours per week

Public Relations Specialists, $34.13, 40 Hours per week

Social Science Research Assistants, $33.65, 40 Hours per week

Chiropractors, $33.65, 40 Hours per week

Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, $33. 00, 35 Hours per

week

Directors, Religious Activities and Education, $32.50, 40 Hours per week

Receptionists And Information Clerks, $32.00, 40 Hours per week

Biological Scientists, $30.00, 25 Hours per week

All Other Teachers and Instructors, $28.85, 40 Hours per week

Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners, $28.00, 40 Hours per week

Landscape Architects, $27.00, 40 Hours per week

Librarians, $27.00, 40 Hours per week

Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, $27.00, 40 Hours per week

Bookkeeping, Accounting, And Auditing Clerks, $26.88, 40 Hours per week

All Other Clerical and Administrative Support Workers, $26.69, 32 Hours per week

Training and Development Specialists, $26.00, 10 Hours per week

Customer Service Representatives, $26.00, 40 Hours per week

Public Relations Managers, $25.00, 30 Hours per week

Teachers, Preschool, $25.00, 40 Hours per week

Logisticians, $24.04, 38 Hours per week

Barbers, $24.00, 20 Hours per week

**Paid Work Experiences for SFY 2023-2024**

**•** 67 Student work experiences.

• 112 Adult work experiences.

**SB 105 Mandatory Training**

BFS continues to plan for the in-person SB 105 annual training which will be held from September 22-25, 2024, at the Hilton Sacramento, Arden West. The three main areas of focus are serving Deaf Blind individuals, Assistive Technology and Student Services.

**BFS Staff Updates**

Travis Otteson has joined the San Diego unit as a QRP in the Chula Vista office.

The vacant QRP position in Stockton has been re-posted after the person recently offered the position took another counseling position outside DOR.

The Operations Unit recently hired an Account 1 Specialist and an Office Technician (OT-T).

The BFS team manager in the Oakland office (Sky Ntxwj) recently accepted a new Team Manager position with the Independent Living Section of DOR in Sacramento. BFS is finalizing an offer to a new BFS Team Manager who will be in the DOR Oakland Office.

BFS and other DOR Districts continue to have difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified staff for most positions. This is especially true for some key positions such as QRPs and Team managers. There are currently approximately 40 vacant QRP positions in DOR throughout the State. This is especially true in high cost of living locations such as the Bay Area and Los Angeles. Fortunately, BFS has been able to fill most of its vacancies. However, the ability for BFS to keep doing so has become much more difficult in recent years.