**Older Individuals who are Blind Program Report**

**August 2024**

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 May 2024.

Program Reviews and Site Visits

OIB resumed program reviews in March 2024. The first four program reviews were completed, and two program review reports have been issued to the first two programs who were reviewed. All reviews included Board, staff, and consumer interviews along with case file reviews and fiscal reviews of invoices and backup documentation.

OIB Services

The new grant cycle began October 1, 2023. DOR made 3-year awards with an option to extend for two additional one-year periods in order to facilitate funding stability for the grantees. All counties in California have OIB services available to eligible residents. An additional $4,000,000 in Social Security Administration reimbursement dollars has been incorporated into the OIB grants to provide enhanced funding for OIB programs and to extend OIB equivalent services to the 18-54 population.

The OIB programs have invoiced $1,542,636 of the $3,100,000 OIB funds, which is about 50% of the OIB funds that were awarded. The programs have invoiced for $2,299,209 of the $4,000,000 of SSR funds which is approximately 58% of those funds. For reference all grantees have invoiced through May, some through June, and so the grant year is approximately 67% elapsed. OIB has been working with the various programs to provide support and technical assistance in how they can expend the funds that were awarded.

OIB Match

For the 2023-24 federal fiscal year, the OIB program has negotiated match pledges from two match partners. Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael and Vista Center for the Blind in Palo Alto have pledged match totaling $836,928. To date, $551,127.29 has been received, meeting the needed match for the grant year.

Staffing

The Division is recruiting for the Analyst position who assists with Division priorities. Melissa Drake promoted to another position at DOR. The analyst will help support the work of OIB invoice processing, reviewing reports, and doing on-site reviews as well as assisting the Division with key operational tasks. Nicholas Moore has also joined the SSD team supporting the OIB program as a Support Services Assistant (General).

Reports

OIB staff completed the annual RSA 7-OB report and submitted early on December 20, 2023. The Executive Summary and full report are available at the OIB webpage ([www.dor.ca.gov/home/OIB](http://www.dor.ca.gov/home/OIB)).

List of 2023/26 Provider Agencies and their Counties of Service

(Through September 30, 2026)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency Name** | **Counties Served** | **Contact Information** |
| Access to Independence | Imperial | Website: [https://accesstoindependence.org](https://accesstoindependence.org/)Phone: 619-293-3500Email:accessmedia@accesstoindependence.org |
| Blindness Support Services | Riverside, San Bernardino, part of Los Angeles | Website: <http://www.blindnesssupport.com/>Phone: 951- 341-9244Email: cpineda@blindnesssupport.com |
| Blind and Visually Impaired Center of Monterey | Monterey | Website: <https://blindandlowvision.org/>Phone: 831-649-3505Email: steven@blindandlowvision.org |
| Center of Vision Enhancement | Inyo, Mariposa, Merced, Mono | Website: <https://covemerced.org>Phone: 209-722-8118Email: cove4u@gmail.com |
| Community Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired | San Joaquin | Website: <https://www.communitycenterfortheblind.org/>Phone: 209-466-3836Email: info@CommunityCenterForTheBlind.org |
| Dayle McIntosh Center | Orange | Website: <https://daylemc.org/>Phone: 714-621-3300 |
| Earle Baum Center | Sonoma | Website: <https://earlebaum.org/>Phone: 707-523-3222Email: ebc@earlebaum.org |
| Independent Living Resource Center Inc. | San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura | Website: <https://ilrc-trico.org/>Phone: 805-963-0595Email: info@ilrc-trico.org |
| Lions Center for the Visually Impaired | Alameda | Website: <https://lcvi.org/>Phone: 800-750-3937Email: info@LCVI.org |
| LightHouse for the Blind | Alameda, Alpine, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Plumas, San Francisco, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity | Website: <https://lighthouse-sf.org/>Phone: 415-431-1481Email: infor@lighthouse-df.org |
| San Diego Center for the Blind | San Diego | Website: <https://www.sdcb.org/>Phone: 619-583-1542Email: info@SDCB.org |
| Society for the Blind | Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Solano, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba | Website: <https://societyfortheblind.org/>Phone: 916-452-8271Email: info@societyfortheblind.org |
| Valley Center for the Blind | Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Tulare | Website: <https://myvcb.org/>Phone Fresno Office: 559-222-4447Phone Bakersfield Office: 661-865-5115Email: info@valleycenterfortheblind.org |
| VISTA Center | San Benito, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz | Website: <https://vistacenter.org/>Phone: 650-858-0202Email: info@vistacenter.org |
| Visually Impaired Persons Support (VIPS) | Stanislaus, Tuolumne | Website: <https://www.vipsmodesto.org/>Phone: 209-846-9027Email: tim@vipsmodesto.org |
| Wayfinder  | Los Angeles  | Website: [https://www.wayfinderfamily.org](https://www.wayfinderfamily.org/)Phone: 323-295-4555 Ext 451Email: rdeerr@wayfinderfamily.org |