**Executive Summary**

**California 2024 Annual Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) Report, 7-OB**

The federal government, through the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), provides Title VII-Chapter 2 grants to support services for individuals age 55 or older whose severe visual impairment makes competitive employment difficult to obtain but for whom independent living goals are feasible. The OIB Program funds independent living skills training services, conducts activities that will improve or expand services, and provides education to improve public understanding of the problems facing older severely visually impaired persons.

The 7-OB report is the federally required annual summary that the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) sends to the RSA on or before December 30. It includes the funding expenditures, data about the staffing of the service providers (subgrantees), the numbers and statistics concerning the consumers served, the quantities and types of services provided, and some first-hand narratives from many of the service providers. The data for this report is compiled from the quarterly reports sent to the DOR OIB Unit by service providers.

Some key facts of this report are as follows:

* $6.41 million in expenditures to 16 service providers, with 84.4% spent on direct services to 3,979 consumers. (An increase of 5% on direct services)
* Services provided in all 58 California Counties
* Of 3,979 consumers served, 36% were minorities (non-white).
* OIB service providers delivered services to 1,158 consumers age 85+.
* The number of female consumers served is roughly double the number of male consumers, 65% and 35% respectively.
* 17,066 unduplicated core services were delivered to the 3,979 consumers; an average of 4.29 core services per consumer (an increase of .5 services/person).
* Of those surveyed, 99.5% or more, of the consumers reported functional gains in the two service outcome areas of assistive technology and independent living and adjustment training services.