**Individuals who are Blind Program Report**

**February 2025**

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.

AB2480 established the DOR’s ability to provide OIB equivalent services to the 18 and older population who are not interested in seeking employment. This program is established through the OIB service provider network as the legislation allows for a non-competitive distribution of the funds allocated for this purpose. This program serves people 18-54 who are not seeking employment. The goal of the program is consistent with that of the OIB program as the intent is to increase independence for people who are not seeking employment. We have named this program following the OIB naming convention and now refer to the program as “Younger Individuals who are Blind” (YIB).

Below are updates since the last meeting of the Blind Advisory Committee (BAC) in November 2024.

# Program Reviews and Site Visits

Grant staff have continued a full review schedule. Three reviews have been conducted since the November BAC meeting. Reports are being issued and responses required if findings occurred during the program review.

# 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. Significantly, all counties in California have both OIB and YIB services available to eligible residents. This required three RFAs but resulted in the availability of grant services no matter where an individual resides in California. Grant staff completed all grant amendment packages to ensure continued consumer services. An additional $4,000,000 in Social Security Administration reimbursement dollars has been incorporated into the grants to provide enhanced funding for OIB programs and to extend OIB services to the 18-54 population. This brings the total of California DOR blind service grant awards to $8 million for the 2024-25 grant year.

# OIB Match

For the 2024-25 federal fiscal year the OIB program has negotiated match pledges from two match partners. Vista Center for the Blind in Palo Alto and Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael are the match partners for the 2024/25 grant year.

# 7-OB Report

The 7-OB report was submitted on December 24, 2024. This was an on-time submission prior to the December 30 deadline. See the data portion of this report for further information.

# Data

After finalizing all grant invoicing for the 2023/24 grant year, more than $7 million in invoices were received. Programs have invoiced for $4 million of the SSR funding, which completely spent the SSR funds that were allocated. This is the total of the OIB and YIB invoices. Collectively the OIB programs spent 99% of the allocated grant funding!

The following information was gathered from the 7-OB report and the corresponding YIB report.

# OIB 2024 Stats

* 3,979 people served
* $6.41 million spent on OIB program
* Admin percentage was down 5% to 15.6%
* Roughly 66% Female and 34% male people served
* 36% minority population served
* 1,158 people who are 85 or older served
* An average of 4.29 services/person were provided
* Over 99% of the People surveyed reported feeling more independent after services

# YIB Stats

* 547 people served
* $1.47 million in SSR/State dollars expended for YIB program
* The number of people increased in each age category, demonstrating greater participation in the program as folks age.
* Roughly equal Female/Male people served
* 58.8% minority population served
* 12 people served who were unhoused
* An average of 3.67 services/person were provided
* Over 93% of the People surveyed reported feeling more independent after services

List of 2024/26 Provider Agencies and their Counties of Service

(Through September 30, 2026)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency Name** | **Counties Served** | **Contact Information** |
| Access to Independence | Imperial | Website: [https://accesstoindependence.org](https://accesstoindependence.org/)  Phone: 619-293-3500  Email:[accessmedia@accesstoindependence.org](mailto:accessmedia@accesstoindependence.org) |
| Blindness Support Services | Riverside, San Bernardino, part of Los Angeles | Website: <http://www.blindnesssupport.com/>  Phone: 951- [341-9244](tel:9513419244)  Email: [info@blindnesssupport.com](mailto:info@blindnesssupport.com) |
| Blind and Visually Impaired Center of Monterey | Monterey | Website: <https://blindandlowvision.org/>  Phone: 831-649-3505  Email: [steven@blindandlowvision.org](mailto:steven@blindandlowvision.org) |
| Center of Vision Enhancement | Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Inyo | Website: <https://covemerced.org>  Phone: 209-722-8118  Email: [cove4u@gmail.com](mailto:cove4u@gmail.com) |
| Community Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired | San Joaquin | Website: <https://www.communitycenterfortheblind.org/>  Phone: 209-466-3836  Email: [info@CommunityCenterForTheBlind.org](mailto:info@CommunityCenterForTheBlind.org) |
| Dayle McIntosh Center | Orange | Website: <https://daylemc.org/>  Phone: 714-621-3300 |
| Independent Living Resource Center Inc. | San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura | Website: <https://ilrc-trico.org/>  Phone: 805-963-0595  Email: [info@ilrc-trico.org](mailto:info@ilrc-trico.org) |
| Lions Center for the Visually Impaired | Alameda | Website: <https://lcvi.org/>  Phone: 800-750-3937  Email: [info@LCVI.org](mailto: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, Sonoma, Tehama, Trinity | Website: <https://lighthouse-sf.org/>  Phone: 415-431-1481  Email: [infor@lighthouse-df.org](mailto:infor@lighthouse-df.org) |
| San Diego Center for the Blind | San Diego | Website: <https://www.sdcb.org/>  Phone: 619-583-1542  Email: [info@SDCB.org](mailto: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: 916-452-8271  Email: [info@societyfortheblind.org](mailto:info@societyfortheblind.org) |
| Valley Center for the Blind | Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Tulare | Website: <https://myvcb.org/>  Phone Fresno Office: 559-222-4447  Phone Bakersfield Office: 661-865-5115  Email: [info@valleycenterfortheblind.org](mailto:info@valleycenterfortheblind.org) |
| VISTA Center | San Benito, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz | Website: <https://vistacenter.org/>  Phone: 650-858-0202  Email: [info@vistacenter.org](mailto:info@vistacenter.org) |
| Visually Impaired Persons Support (VIPS) | Stanislaus, Tuolumne | Website: <https://www.vipsmodesto.org/>  Phone: 209-846-9027  Email: [tim@vipsmodesto.org](mailto:tim@vipsmodesto.org) |
| Wayfinder | Los Angeles | Website: <https://www.wayfinderfamily.org/>  Phone: 323-295-4555 Ext 451  Email: [rdeerr@wayfinderfamily.org](mailto:rdeerr@wayfinderfamily.org) |