**Blind Field Services Program Report**

**Fourth Quarter 2024 - 2025**

**April 1, 2025 – June 31, 2025**

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 was gathered from Caseload Dashboard and Aware layouts.

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

**Total Applications from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025: 1463**

**Total Applications from April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025: 435**

Applications as of the same date in 2024: 287

Applications as of the same date in 2023; 327

Applications as of the same date in 2022; 324

Applications as of the same date in 2021; 223

Applications as of the same date in 2020; 162

Applications as of the same date in 2019; 314

**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.

**Total SWD Applications from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025: 134**

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

**4/1/2025 - 6/30/2025: 46 or 10.58 % of the total number of applications**

SWD as of the same date in 2024; 20 or 7.0 % of the total apps.

SWD as of the same date in 2023; 57 or 17.43% of total apps.

SWD as of the same date in 2022; 14 or 4.3 % of total apps.

SWD as of the same date in 2021; 18 or 8.07 % of total apps.

SWD as of the same date in 2020; 20 or 12.35% of total apps.

SWD as of the same date in 2019; 16 or 5.1 % of total apps.

**Wage Data**

**This information covers April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025**

BFS has the highest hourly wages at $32.29 per hour. The statewide average was $23.70 per hour.

The median hourly wage for BFS was $24.00.  The statewide median hourly wage was $20.00

The average hours worked per week for BFS was 32.  The statewide average hours per week was 33

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

**Total Successful closures from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025: 379**

**Fourth Quarter - April 1, 2025 to June 30, 2023:  161**

Successful closures as of the same date in 2024; 109

Successful closures as of the same date in 2023; 132

Successful closures as of the same date in 2022; 120

Successful closures as of the same date in 2021; 79

Successful closures as of the same date in 2020; 74

Successful closures as of the same date in 2019; 130

**Total number of individuals served July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025**

Total Number of Individuals Served: **5653**

Of that number **593** individuals are SWD. This is 10.5% of the total population currently served by BFS. WIOA requires that the DOR spend 15% of its funds on Student Services.

**Annual BFS Successful Employment Closure Data Report - SFY 2024-25**

Attached in a separate report is a summary of employment categories obtained by BFS consumers earning $25 or more an hour. It includes the hourly rate (pay) range and range of hours worked per week. Total of 178 of the total successful closures for FY2024-25 earned an hourly rate of $25 or more an hour.

**Department Updates**

**Blind Field Services**

New BFS District Administrator, Deyanire Villachica started June 1, 2025.

Recruitment of position vacated by Deyanire Villachica is currently advertised.

SB105 Annual Conference being held September 22 – 24, 2025, at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West.

**Department-Level Updates**

* Recruitment efforts are ongoing for key leadership positions, including:
* Independent Living Centers (ILC) Deputy Director
* Legislation & Communication Deputy Director
* Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Division (VRED) Assistant Deputy Director
* Chief Counsel
* Redistricting in Bay Area/Coastal Districts.

**Return to Office (RTO) Updates**

* The department is making a good-faith effort to comply with RTO guidance.
* There is a 4,000-parking space deficit in Sacramento, and the Department of General Services (DGS) is exploring parking solutions.
* No additional updates have been provided regarding the initial RTO survey on office space.
* A licensed clinical social worker will be available as a resource for staff navigating RTO transitions.

**Federal Updates**

* The President has eliminated the Department of Education’s executive order, but no immediate reductions in force are occurring. We were asked to either move into the Department of Labor or the Department of Human Services.
* The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) is continuing operations as usual, but the situation remains fluid.
* The federal government is restructuring health and human services, with a planned reduction of 10,000 staff and the elimination of community living programs (e.g., aging and disability services, elder abuse programs, and Meals on Wheels).
* Senior leadership will be attending the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) in April.