# Older Individuals who are Blind Program Report - February 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.

## Program Reviews and Site Visits

OIB has not conducted any program reviews or issued any reports. OIB anticipates resuming on-site visits in March 2024 and will update as regular travel resumes. OIB made a new service provider visit in January to welcome Wayfinder Family Services to the OIB program and provide basics on how the program operates, the review process, and any general questions.

## 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.

## 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, $87,223.62 has been received.

## Request for Applications (RFA) process

OIB released the first of three Request for Applications (RFA) in January and completed the third of these RFAs in September 2023. The results provided coverage for the entirety of the State when the final grant was executed with an effective date of November 1, 2023.

## Staffing

OIB has completed the process of recruiting/hiring an Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) that will be shared with the Division in Central Office. The Division hired Melissa Drake to assist with Division priorities. Melissa helps support the work of OIB invoice processing, reviewing reports, and doing on-site reviews as well as assisting the Division with key operational tasks.

## Provider Agencies

A list of the 2023-26 provider agencies and their counties of services is on pages 3 – 5 of this report.

## Reports

OIB staff completed the annual RSA 7-OB report and submitted early on December 20, 2023. Please see the RSA 7-OB Executive Summary on page 6.

# List of Provider Agencies

| **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 |

**Executive Summary - California 2023 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:

* In 2023 OIB had $4.60 million in expenditures to 17 service providers, with 79.5% spent on direct services to 4,654 consumers.
* OIB service providers delivered services to OIB consumers in 56 of the 58 counties (all but Alpine and Inyo) in California.
* Of 4,654 consumers served, 40% were minorities (non-white).
* OIB service providers delivered services to 1,180 consumers age 85+.
* The number of female consumers served is double the number of male consumers, 67% and 33% respectively.
* 17,988 unduplicated core services were delivered to the 4,654 consumers; an average of 3.87 core services per consumer.
* 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.