**Executive Summary**

**California 2022 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.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, all service providers continued providing services to OIB consumers who are generally considered high risk for COVID-19. Some key facts of this report are as follows:

* In 2022 OIB had $3.81 million in expenditures to 17 service providers, with 78% spent on direct services to 4,883 consumers.
* The number of consumers served increased by 391, which is attributed to ongoing hybrid service delivery methods.
* OIB service providers delivered services to OIB consumers in 56 of the 58 counties (all but Alpine and Inyo) in California.
* Of 4,883 consumers served, 37.3% were minorities (non-white).
* OIB service providers delivered services to 1,268 consumers over the age of 85.
* The number of female consumers served is approximately double the number of male consumers, 65.1% and 34.9% respectively.
* 23,749 unduplicated core services were given to the 4,883 consumers; an average of 4.86 core services per consumer.
* Of those surveyed, 99.6% or more, of the consumers reported functional gains in the two service outcome areas of assistive technology and independent living and adjustment training services.