





Iowa Department for the Blind

Operational Plan

FY2027

IOWA | Department for the Blind

Strides in Services for Every Age and Stage

The Iowa Department for the Blind is committed to advancing state agency and community programs to better serve Iowans at every stage of life. By leveraging all its initiatives, IDB ensures that individuals—ranging from our youngest clients to our seniors—can access vital resources, services, training, and programs centered on education, employment, and independence.

Mission

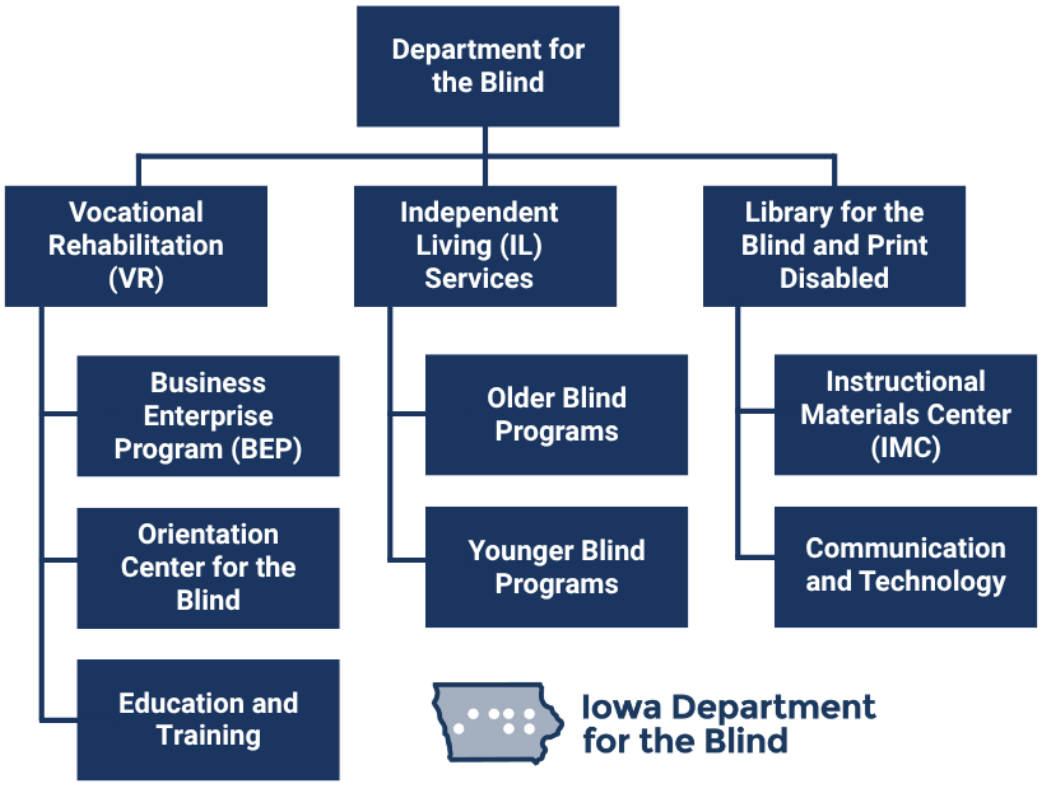
Empowering blind Iowans to work, live independently, and pursue the lives they choose.

Vision

A future where every blind Iowan can build a career, contribute their talents, and thrive in their communities.

Iowa Commission for the Blind

The Iowa Commission for the Blind consists of three members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. It determines the policies that will be carried out by the Iowa Department for the Blind (https://blind.iowa.gov/iowa-commission-blind)



Iowa Department for the Blind's Operational Plan

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Supports Governor's Priorities: Expanding Educational Freedom

- Determines eligibility, provides and arranges for the provision of VR services to all blind VR clients in the State of Iowa
- Provides itinerant adjustment to blindness training in communities, schools, and workplaces throughout the state preparing blind VR clients for education and employment
- Provide services, training and resources to employers and partner agencies
- Provides opportunities for eligible VR clients to own their own business through the Business Enterprise Program (BEP)
- Orientation Center for the Blind provides comprehensive adjustment to blindness training
- Young Adult Pre-Employment Transition services (pre-ETS) provides intensive adjustment to blindness training in the areas of living, learning, and working to help blind students meet Individual Educational Plan (IEP) goals in an empowering and supportive environment

Performance Measures and Performance Targets:

- Percentage ratio of the average VR wage to the average state wage is 70%
- 27% of clients exiting in employment (this includes only clients exiting after being determined eligible for services).
- 100 students who are blind will participate in Pre-Employment Transition Services.
- 30 clients will participate in adult skills retreats.
- 100% of participants accessing disability skills training and achieving measurable skill gains.
- 60 clients will participate in post-secondary education or training.
- 12 clients participating in the Business Enterprise Program (BEP)
- Average net income of Business Enterprise participants is $48,000.00.
- 50 clients will receive training in our Orientation Center for the Blind

Independent Living

Supports Governor's Priorities: Expanding Educational Freedom

- The Younger Blind Program (54 years and younger) and the Older Blind Program (55 years and older) provide tools and training necessary for Iowans experiencing significant vision loss to remain independent and active in their homes and communities

- The programs work to build self-confidence and expand possibilities so that these individuals may reconsider joining the workforce

Performance Measures and Performance Targets:

- 255 clients will receive services through the Independent Living division.
- 745 training objectives will be completed by Independent Living clients.
- 30 clients will attend the statewide adult skills retreats.
- 20 clients will exit the Independent Living Program with completed plans.

Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled and Instructional Materials Center

Supports Governor's Priorities: Expanding Educational Freedom

- Serves as the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled regional library providing a library collection in alternative formats, accessible information, access services, and programs to blind and print disabled Iowans of all ages
- The Instructional Materials Center (IMC) provides centralized, cost-effective, and responsive access to educational materials in braille, large print, audio, and electronic formats to blind and low vision students, preK-12 and post-secondary, across the state of Iowa
- Provides information, resources and trainings to educators, schools, and organizations in the use of accessible materials

Performance Measures and Performance Targets:

- 6,000 Iowans will be registered as library patrons.
- 250,000 items (books, magazines, audio players, braille eReaders) will be checked out to library patrons.
- 50 youth (0-18 years of age) attended library programs.
- 1,500 individuals will attend outreach events and programs held by the library.
- 10 educators will participate in braille and accessible educational material (AEM) education courses and trainings provided by the library.
- 1,000 accessible educational and vocational material transcription requests will be completed in alternative media and filled by the library's Instructional Materials Center.
- 98% of accessible educational materials will be completed on time for students.
- 1,500 materials will be produced in alternative formats and added to the library collection (audio, braille, large print and electronic text).

Iowa Department for the Blind Gifts and Bequests Fund Program

Supports Governor's Priorities: Expanding Educational Freedom

- Funds that can be loaned or granted to any blind Iowan, regardless of whether they are currently an active client in an IDB program.

- Individuals can apply to receive these funds, and distribution is at the discretion of Commission for the Blind.

Performance Measures and Performance Targets:

- 10 Iowans will be provided with funds for adaptive technology.
- 230 Iowans will be provided with funds for adaptive tools.
- 40 Iowans will receive funds to allow them to participate in blindness skills trainings.