Core Function Organizational Structure

Iowa Department for the Blind (IDB)

Library Service



The Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled provides books and other materials in alternative formats to Iowa residents who are unable to read standard print materials.

Independent Living



The Independent Living program provides comprehensive in-home and community-based services to support Iowans living with vision loss.

Vocational Rehabilitation



The Vocation Rehabilitation program helps blind or low vision Iowans prepare for, obtain, and retain employment in a wide variety of occupations.

Business Enterprise Program



The Business Enterprises Program (BEP) provides opportunities for legally blind clients of the Vocational Rehabilitation program to manage their own businesses.

Iowa Blindness Empowerment and Independence Center



The emersion training program provides a curriculum for vocational rehabilitation clients of the Iowa Department for the Blind ages 17 and older to learn alternative skills for everything from cooking to computer and technology.

Education and Training



The Education and Training program providing meaningful and high-quality vocational rehabilitation services to blind and low-vision transition-age youth across the state.

Communication and Technology



Provide the technology and training that empowers clients and staff to become selfsufficient and prepare them to obtain employment.

Administration



Provides, strategic and operational planning, continuous improvement, oversees budget process, accounting & reporting.

2. Core Functions and Services, Products and/or Activities

To support the Department for the Blind's mission, the Vocational rehabilitation (VR) services assist persons who are blind in preparing for, obtaining, and retaining employment. Crucial among these services are disability related skills training, counseling and guidance, and rehabilitation technology. This service is provided in our Blindness Empowerment and Independence Center, Young Adult Transition Program, summer youth program, in client's homes, schools, or worksites by field Education and Training teachers, or in small group community-based trainings held periodically throughout the state. Furthermore, the VR Communication and Technology services provide services to employers and partner agencies. As part of VR the Business Enterprise Program, BEP provides entrepreneurial opportunities to blind lowans

To support the Department for the Blind's mission, the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled provides reading materials free of charge to lowans who cannot use standard print because of blindness, physical disability, or reading disability including employment-related materials. The library's instructional materials center (IMC) produces, transcribes or otherwise makes accessible textbooks and other educational materials for lowa's PreK–12 and college students who cannot use standard print. The library circulates books and magazines in audio, braille, and large print to eligible borrowers throughout the state.

To support the Department for the Blind's mission, the Independent Living Rehabilitation (IL) services for blind lowans of all ages who are not participating in our VR program are provided training in the skills they need to live independently and participate actively in family and community life.

To support the Department for the Blind's mission, the IDB Administration provides strategic and operational planning, continuous improvement, oversees budget process, accounting, state reporting and federal reporting.

3. Operational Goals for the Next Fiscal Year

The Library for the Blind and Print Disabled's goal for FY 2025 is to serve 6,000 lowan's needing access to alternative media, SPA 40-0001, by increasing outreach to VR client, OB clients, students, schools and higher educational institutions to ensure that all blind individuals have access to alternative media to meet their needs.

This supports governor's priority 1 (Elevating Education for Every Student. This supports governor's priority 2 (Preparing the Next-Gen Workforce) This supports governor's priority 4 (Supporting Health and Well-Being)

The Department for the Blind Independent Living program's goal for FY2025 is to serve 190 blind lowans of all ages who are <u>not</u> participating in our VR program by providing training in the skills they need to live independently and participate actively in family and community life, SPA 82300.

This supports governor's priority 4 (Supporting Health and Well-Being)

The Department for the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation program's goal for FY2025 is to increase the productivity and independence of Blind Iowans as measured by the ratio of average IDBVR wage to average state wages as a percentage for FY2025 75%, SPA 82-001, by providing training in the skills they need to live independently and obtain competitive employment.

This supports governor's priority 1 (Elevating Education for Every Student. This supports governor's priority 2 (Preparing the Next-Gen WorkForce) This supports governor's priority 4 (Supporting Health and Well-Being)

The IDB Administration Goal of FY 2025 is to ensure that 100% of federal reports and state required reports are submitted on time and are accurate, SPA 67100, by maintaining internal controls over the accounting and reporting to federal and state funding agencies.

This supports governor's priority 5 (Holding Government Accountable)

4. Metrics and Measures Used to Monitor Operations

Measures for Library for the Blind and Print Disabled:

- 1. Number of lowans using Library services6,000 lowan's needing access to alternative media, SPA 40-0001
- 2. Number of items, books, magazines, playback units, circulated in alternative media, SPA 40100-001, FY2025 Goal 350,000
- 3. Number of items downloaded from BARD, SPA 40100-002 GY2025 Goal 40,000
- 4. Total requests filled for alternative media materials from the library's instructional materials center. Number of Items produced in alternative media, SPA 40200-002 FY2025 Goal 1,500
- 5. Total number of educational requests filled by Instructional Materials Center, SPA 40300-001, FY2025 Goal 1,200
- 6. Percentage of Instructional Materials Center requests filled in a timely manner, SPA 40300-002, FY2025 Goal 98%
- 7. Increase in the number of Pre-Employment Transition Services programs provided by the Library. SPA 82100, FY2025 Goal 8
- 8. Total number of educators participating in braille education courses offered by the library. SPA 82100 FY2025 Goal 10

Measures for IDB Independent Living Rehabilitation Program:

- 1. Number of clients served in Independent Living program, SPA 82300 , FY2025 Goal 190
- 2. Number of older blind individuals successfully completing their training objectives and exiting the program, SPA 82300, FY2025 Goal 550

- 3. Number of ILYB client being referred to VR during the State fiscal year SPA 82300, FY2025 Goal 25
- 4. Number of Inservice training sessions conduct for community service providers, SPA 82300-004, FY2025 Goal 25
- 5. Number of new referrals to Independent Living program, SPA 82300-007 FY2025 Goal 100

Measures for IDB Vocational Rehabilitation program:

- 1. Average hourly wage at an exit ratio of average VR wage to average state wage as a percentage, SPA 82-001, FY2025 Goal 75%
- 2. Percentage of clients exiting in employment (this includes only clients exiting after being determined eligible for services). SPA 82100-007 FY2025 Goal 40%
- 3. Percentage of students with disabilities enrolled in high school participating in preemployment transition services and programs, SPA 82100-013 FY2025 Goal 40%
- 4. Percentage of participants accessing disability skills training and achieving measurable skill gains, SPA 82100-012, FY2025 Goal 70%
- 5. Number of clients participating in post-secondary education or training, SPA 82100-FY2025 Goal 30
- 6. Average net income of Business Enterprise participants, SPA 82400-001, FY2025 Goal \$46.000
- 7. Results on skills and attitude assessments for students who have completed orientation center training, SPA 82100-012, FY2025 Goal 90%

Measures for IDB Administration:

- 1. All required State of Iowa Reports are submitted in a timely manner: SPA 67100-002-001, FY2025 Goal 100%
- 2. The number reportable comments on the annual audit, SPA 67-002, FY2025 Goal 0
- 3. The number of compliance issues raised by federal agency during monitoring visits, SPA 67-002, FY2025 Goal 0

Data for goals are currently tracked in the Department for the Blind's case management system and the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled's library system and IMC system. These measures are being tracked for FY2024 and will be reported when FY 2024 is completed.