



Iowa Department for the Blind

Operational Plan

FY2026

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, independence, and employment.

Vision

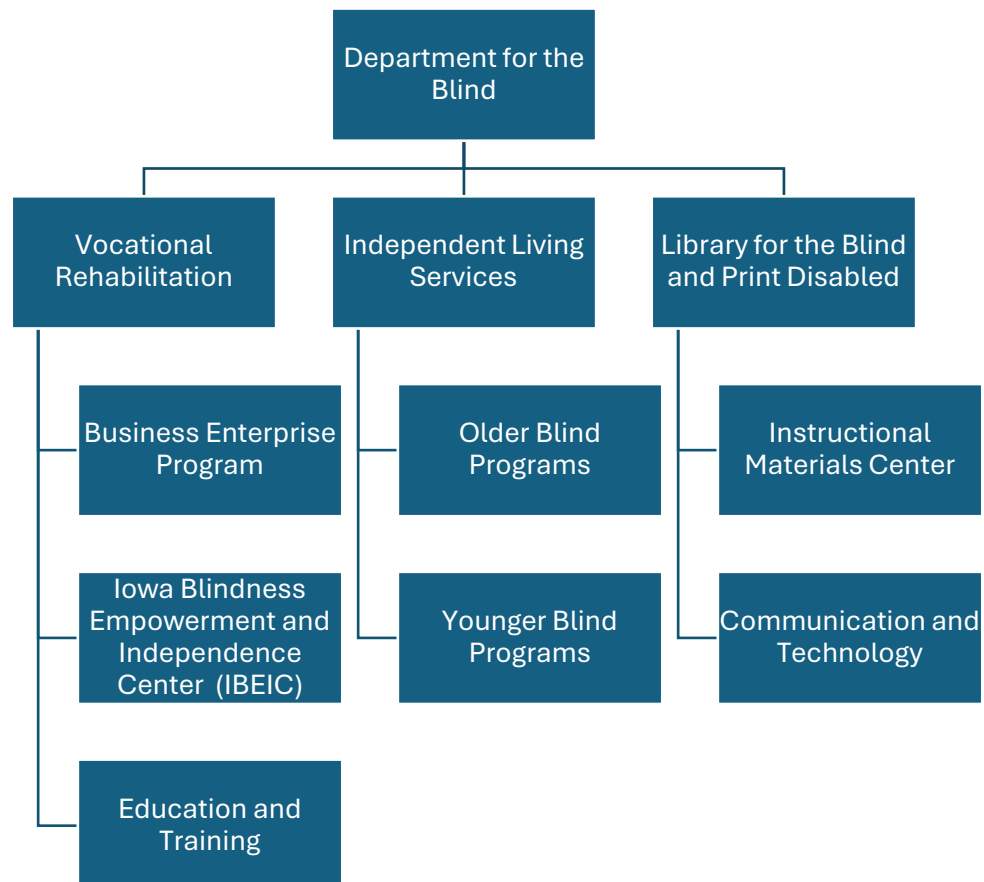
To be the world's leader in blind rehabilitation services.

Mission

Empower blind Iowans to be gainfully employed and live independently.

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: Education and Workforce

- 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)
- Iowa Blindness Empowerment and Independence Center provides comprehensive adjustment to blindness training
- Young Adult Pre-Employment Transition services 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:

- Average hourly wage at an exit ratio of average VR wage to average state wage is 75%.
- 40% of clients exiting in employment (this includes only clients exiting after being determined eligible for services).
- 40% of students with disabilities enrolled in high school participating in pre-employment transition services and programs.
- 70% of participants accessing disability skills training and achieving measurable skill gains.
- 30 clients will participate in post-secondary education or training.
- Average net income of Business Enterprise participants is \$46,000.00.
- Results on skills and attitude assessments for students who have completed orientation center training will be 90%.

Independent Living Younger and Older Blind

Supports Governor's Priorities: Education and Workforce

- Younger Blind Program (54 years and younger) and the Older Blind Program (55 years and older) provides 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:

- 190 clients will be served in Independent Living program.
- 5 older blind individuals will successfully completing their training objectives and exiting the program.
- 25 younger blind clients will be referred to Vocational Rehabilitation services.
- 25 inservice training sessions will be conducted for community service providers.
- 100 new referrals to Independent Living program.

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

Supports Governor's Priorities: Education and Workforce

- 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 using Library services.
- 300,000 items, books, magazines, playback units, circulated in alternative media.
- 40,000 items downloaded from Braille and Audio Reading Download application.
- 1,200 requests filled for educational and vocational materials in alternative media filled by the Instructional Materials Center.
- 1,500 individual items produced in alternative media.
- 98% of Instructional Materials Center requests filled in a timely manner.
- Increase in the number of Pre-Employment Transition Services programs provided by the Library by 8 more programs.
- 10 educators participating in braille education courses offered by the library.