

**By Beth Cunningham, M.A., CRC, CVE,
Administrator**

Our Mission

Our mission is to empower people who are blind or visually impaired by providing vocational rehabilitation, skills training, and educational opportunities to achieve self-fulfillment through quality employment and independent living.

Chapter 54, Title 67, Idaho Code, 67-5401 describes our purpose

- 41.12 FTPs – No vacancies currently
(25% of our staff are blind or visually impaired)
- Boise Headquarters and 5 Regional Offices across the state
- In FY2022 we served 1748 Idahoans.

FY 2022

Appropriation (\$5,277,680) vs. Expenditures (\$4,790,370) = \$487,310

90.77% expended

For explanation: Reverted - 79K in Federal PC (2 retirements and 2 staff left), 80K in Federal OE, 149K in Federal T/B, & 4K in CO. We currently have no vacancies.

FY2023 and FY2024 appropriation LBB page 6-63

- FY 2023

No line items. This was a standard maintenance budget.

- Adjustments – removal of OITS \$85,800

- FY2024

Line items: Request for 2 positions

A Rehabilitation Teacher position is needed for ICBVI to maintain current and future services for visually impaired citizens throughout southwestern Idaho. Rehabilitation teachers teach skills that empower students/clients to remain independent and able to achieve their personal and professional goals.

The three main areas of training are:

Activities of daily living - medication management, cooking, cleaning, personal hygiene, financial management, advocacy and community integration just to name a few.

Assistive technology - independently utilizing a smart phone, tablet, computers and other technology to operate within a technological world.

Orientation and mobility - independently being able to navigate their environment to access their freedom in the world around them.

A Business Analyst position for our vocational rehabilitation program-this position will develop, coordinate, and monitor VR program evaluation activities and to create recommendations and strategies to improve our program. Our federal requirements include tracking over 300 data elements to measure program performance.

ICBVI Services

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- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)
 - Assessment & Training Center (ATC)
 - Business Enterprise Program (BEP)
 - Pre-employment Transition services (pre-ets and summer work experiences for students)

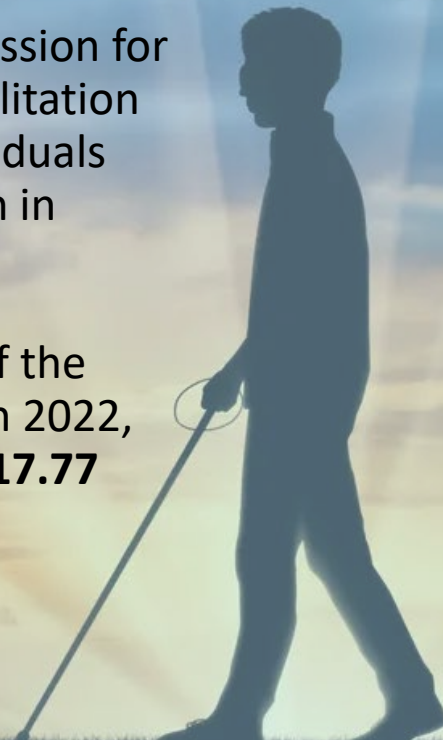
 - Independent Living/Older Blind (IL/OB)

 - Sight Restoration (SR)

 - Low Vision Clinic

 - ICBVI Store

Vocational Rehabilitation



The goal of the Idaho Commission for the Blind's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program is to help individuals with blindness and low vision in preparing for securing and maintaining integrated and competitive employment. Of the individuals placed into jobs in 2022, the average earnings were **\$17.77** per hour.



Assessment and Training Center (ATC)

The Assessment and Training Center at ICBVI serves Idahoans who are blind or visually impaired by teaching non-visual skills for 6 to 9 months that can help compensate for total vision loss or help to supplement low vision. Clients come from all around the state and reside in our dorms at the training center in Boise to learn these skills.

Idaho clients receive training in the ATC in these subject areas:

- Orientation and Mobility
- Braille
- Activities of Daily Living
- Job Readiness training
- Industrial Arts (shop)
- Computers and Assistive Technology

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

It is part of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program to focus on students ages 14-21 who are enrolled in classes earning credits. ICBVI provides this service through our Pre-ETS programs, which are designed to provide activities and opportunities that build skills and knowledge, and empower the individual, ultimately leading to independence.

These programs include:

- College Days
- VIEW – Visually Impaired Experiencing Work
- VISTA Leadership
- Regional Work Based Readiness Activities

Our Pre-ETS programs: 2020 - **93** students, 2021 – **120** students, and 2022 - **124** were served

Independent Living/Older Blind

The Independent Living Program provides guidance, training and other resources for visually impaired individuals. Being elderly and visually impaired doesn't mean a person has to move out of their own home. Our rehabilitation teachers make in-home visits to provide training in these areas:

- Adapting the home environment
- Marking appliances for easier use
- Teaching computer skills for communication and socialization
- Mobility in the community/cane travel

The older blind population is growing in Idaho, and we are working hard to continue to meet the needs of our state's growing population. These services help prevent the older blind from pre-maturely entering nursing care facilities. We also provide peer support groups in several counties across Idaho.

IL/OB – 795 people served FY22

Sight Restoration

This program is designed to offer financial assistance for medical expenses related to procedures which preserve, stabilize and restore vision. Examples include:

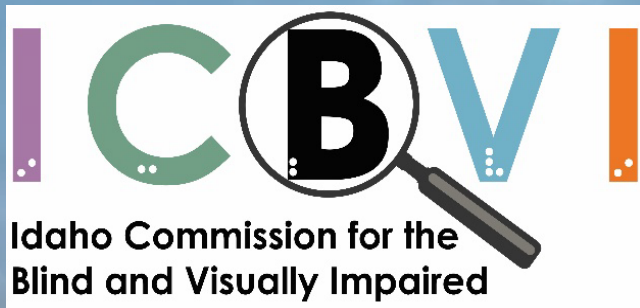
- Cataract extraction
- Treatment for diabetic retinopathy
- Procedure to prevent the onset of legal blindness or to make a significant improvement in functional vision.

**ICBVI provided this service to 48
individuals in 2022**

Audit update

ICBVI had 2 findings in the FY20 Single Audit. One of these was fully corrected and closed, while, the other one was partially corrected. This finding has now been fully corrected. The audit team indicated this finding closure will be reflected on their next audit report at the end of March.

Our most recent audit was a management review covering FY19, FY20 and FY21. We had no findings and received a report in October of 2022, **which concluded that we had no deficiencies.**



*Thank you for listening and
for the ongoing support for
our agency!
I am open for questions.*