

Executive Summary

2016 Annual OIB Report, 7-OB

The federal government's Title VII Chapter 2 describes the Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) program. The federal government, through the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), provides 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 funds independent living skills training services, conducts activities that will improve or expand services, and conducts activities 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 at the end of each federal fiscal year. It includes the funding expenditures, data about the staffing of the service provider agencies, the numbers and statistics concerning the persons served, the quantities and varieties of services provided, and some first-hand narratives from many of the service providers. The data for this report is compiled from the monthly and quarterly reports sent to the DOR OIB unit from the service providers. The DOR OIB unit submitted this 2016 report on December 30, 2016, meeting the RSA submittal date.

Some key facts relevant to this report are as follows:

- California had 22 service providers (sub-grantees) in 2016
- The providers have multiple service locations and serve citizens from San Diego to Eureka
- The providers served 6,737 persons with severe visual impairments aged 55 or older
- This number of persons served was down around 440 from last year. This slight decrease can be accounted for by one organization, who had previously been reporting their numbers incorrectly and the 2nd organization cut their number to approximately 1/3 of their prior count (down to 500 from 1,500) because they were asked to not report those OIB eligible individuals who received services, but who the OIB dollars were not directly responsible for the service.
- Of these 6,737, 42.5% were minorities (non-white)
- OIB funded approximately \$6.25 million in expenditures

Some positive highlights of the report are as follows:

- The providers participated in 983 community awareness events reaching a reported 33,459 people
- There is a healthy dispersion of consumers in the degree of visual impairment, with 43% of the consumers served being totally or legally blind while 57% have severe visual impairments.
- Approximately 19,609 unduplicated core services were given to the 6,737 consumers for an average of about 2.91 core services per consumer