Employment and independent living for people with disabilities since 1963.
The California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) “At A Glance” describes DOR’s programs that support Californians who were born with or acquired a disability later in life in achieving their potential and contributing to our economy. Data included in this report reflects our funding and accomplishments between July 2016 and June 2017.

Our work is guided by our core values which include our belief in the talent and potential of people with disabilities, our commitment to preserving the public’s trust through compassionate and responsible service, and our staff who are hard-working and passionate about our mission. We share our accomplishments with our partners: extraordinary staff of public and private businesses including government officials, disability rights organizations, and thousands of Californians with disabilities whom we serve.

Last year, DOR supported more than 121,000 Californians with disabilities, provided services to students as young as age 14 in greater numbers than ever, worked with an increased number of businesses in employing talented individuals, and witnessed an increase in median annual earnings for individuals we supported by more than fourteen percent. DOR also continued to raise awareness of public and private businesses by adapting and building services so that Californians with disabilities have equal access and by demonstrating our commitment to an inclusive and barrier-free society. While we celebrate progress, we also recognize there is much more work to be done.

Next year, we expect to provide work experiences and counseling to at least 29,000 students with disabilities, significantly increasing our outreach to better prepare them for success earlier in life. We are also developing innovative approaches to improving services for our primary customers, Californians with disabilities, business owners and managers.

As a person with a disability who can enjoy equal opportunity because of DOR’s support, I am reminded daily that our work is essential and that without our support, and yours, many Californians would continue to live in poverty, dependent upon social programs for support. Please continue to invest in and advance programs that support Californians with disabilities so that our workforce is as diverse as our state’s landscape, which will lead to better ideas and solutions. Let’s work together for our present and future generations.

Joe Xavier, Director
**EXPENDITURES BY FUND** ($ in thousands)

- **Federal Funds** $371,541
- **General Fund** $62,568
- **Reimbursements** $7,494
- **Vending Stand Fund** $2,361
- **Traumatic Brain Injury** $1,060

Total Expenditures: $445,024

**DISABILITY**

- Psychiatric Disability: 26.41%
- Learning Disability: 19.76%
- Physical Disability: 17.93%
- Intellectual/Developmental Disability: 11.47%
- Cognitive Impairment: 8.20%
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing: 6.02%
- Blind/Visually Impaired: 5.61%
- Not Reported: 3.34%
- Traumatic Brain Injury: 1.26%

**AGE**

- 16-21: 28.09%
- 22-29: 20.43%
- 40-49: 13.64%
- 50-59: 15.42%
- 30-39: 15.21%
- 60 & Above: 7.05%
- 15 & Below: 0.16%
- Not Reported: 0.01%

**ETHNICITY**

- White: 36.93%
- Hispanic: 36.75%
- African American or Black: 16.76%
- Asian: 4.97%
- Multi: 2.84%
- American Indian: 0.83%
- Not Reported: 0.59%
- Pacific Islander: 0.33%
DOR assists individuals with disabilities to build viable careers and live independently in their community. In FY 2016 - 2017, vocational rehabilitation counselors provided employment services to 100,442 eligible job-seeking adults and youth. DOR’s Vocational Rehabilitation Program provides a variety of services including career guidance and counseling, job search and interview skills training, independent living skills, on the job training, employment preparation, assistive technology, and other services.

**Programs & Services**

**Vocational Rehabilitation**

Cooperative Programs

DOR has established 178 cooperative agreement partnerships with county mental health agencies, secondary education agencies, adult schools, community colleges, and University and California State colleges. Through the cooperative agreements, DOR consumer and family members receive training in vocational readiness skills, career exploration, work experience placements, as well as employment services that include job development, and placement in a competitive integrated employment.

California Promise (CaPROMISE)

DOR and San Diego State University administer California Promise, a federal grant that funds a coordinated set of services, and supports SSI recipients ages 14-16 and their families. CaPROMISE, funded through September 2019, is designed to increase economic self-sufficiency.

California Career Innovations

During 2016, DOR was awarded a federal grant designed to identify innovative work experience for youth that will better prepare them for postsecondary success. Currently, we work with several school districts.
PROGRAMS & SERVICES

SPECIALIZED SERVICES

Specialized Services Division focuses on assisting persons who are blind, and visually impaired, and deaf and hard of hearing to gain competitive employment, increase economic opportunities, and to enhance independence and self-sufficiency. Specialized Services was established with the enactment of SB 105 in 2002, which identified the need for a more formalized and tailored approach to providing vocational rehabilitation, job training, and placement services to individuals with sensory disabilities.

Blind Field Services (BFS)

BFS is a statewide district that provides specialized and comprehensive vocational rehabilitation services to eligible individuals with vision loss. BFS utilizes a team approach to service delivery through nine statewide units of Rehabilitation Counselors for the Blind.

Business Enterprises Program (BEP)

BEP was created through the Federal Randolph-Sheppard Act of 1936 to provide persons who are blind with paid employment through the operation of vending facilities on federal owned property. California adopted state law to apply the same type of priority for blind vendors on state property. The program trains and licenses blind persons to operate cafeterias, snack bars, and automatic vending machines on federal and state property.

Orientation Center for the Blind (OCB)

OCB is a DOR owned and operated residential training facility that assists adults who are visually impaired and blind adjust to their vision loss. Credentialed teachers and qualified rehabilitation professionals provide a full curriculum of classes and experiences tailored to assist each student to achieve a more independent life in support of achieving a competitive employment. The residential facility can support 36 students at any given time. With state-of-the-art assistive technology and an office training area for student computer training, OCB students have opportunities to develop pre-vocational and independent living skills.

Independent Living Skills for Older Individuals Who Are Blind (OIB)

OIB fosters independent living, empowerment, and full inclusion of visually impaired individuals age 55 and older. OIB administers grants to programs who provide services and resources to individuals who are age 55 and older and are blind or visually impaired to enable them to remain independent within their community.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS)

DHHS provides technical guidance and consultation to DOR Vocational Rehabilitation teams across California. Additionally, DHHS supports Deaf Sensitivity and other in-service trainings, resources in American Sign Language, and other accessibility inclusive efforts such as Video Phones and captioning.
PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The Independent Living Division of DOR is one part of California’s independent living network. The network is dedicated to the idea that communities become fully accessible and integrated so all persons with disabilities can live, work, shop, and play where they choose. DOR administers the Independent Living Center Program in California and provides technical assistance and financial support.

INDEPENDENT LIVING

California Committee on Employment of Peoples with Disabilities (CCEPD)
CCEPD was established to advance the employment of people with disabilities in the state. The primary function of the CCEPD is to consult with and advise the Secretary of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and the Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency on all issues related to full workforce contribution of people with disabilities.

Assistive Technology (AT)
AT is any item used to make life easier for persons with disabilities - devices, gadgets, tools, hardware, and/or software that can help people live, work, learn, and play more independently. The United States Congress passed the Assistive Technology Act to increase access to, availability of, and funding for AT through state efforts and national initiatives. DOR administers federal funds to provide AT goods and services that assist our clients to live independently and participate in their local communities.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
TBI is caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain. Not all blows or jolts to the head result in a TBI. The severity of a TBI may range from "mild" (i.e., a brief change in mental status or consciousness) to "severe" (i.e., an extended period of unconsciousness or memory loss after the injury). Most TBIs that occur each year are mild, commonly called concussions. DOR provides services to individuals with traumatic brain injury through the TBI Program. DOR began administration of the California TBI Program in January 2010 with a small percentage of funding from the Seat Belt Penalty Fund. DOR’s seven grant recipients that implement TBI service provided 893 TBI survivors with ongoing individualized services, 3,647 service providers and caregivers with TBI education and training, and responded to 7,851 requests for information and referral.

Disability Access Services (DAS)
DAS provides technical assistance to state and local governments and businesses to afford persons with disabilities access to public buildings, transportation, and services.
Chanel Abraham
Pet Groomer

Haben Girma
Disability Rights Lawyer

Jerri Schlachter
Federal Government Analyst

Michael Kinoshita
Paralympic Hopeful

Ivonne Lauscher
Brain Injury Advocate

Carson Everett
Retail Employee

Serafin Garcia
Employment Program Representative

Jason Chu
Google Employee

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