

REHABILITATION DIVISION: BVR / BSBVI

Participant Services Policy Manual

Section 25, Title: Older Individuals Who Are Blind



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Overview

The Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) Program is a federally funded program that provides independent living services to visually impaired individuals, aged 55 and older to assist them in maintaining their independence.

Assessment of Eligibility

Determination of eligibility is required and must be completed within forty-five (45) days from the date of the receipt of the application.

The determination of eligibility for the OIB Program services is based on a review of existing information. If additional data is necessary, assessments will be scheduled. Medical documentation of the visual impairment is required to determine eligibility.

In extenuating circumstances, the case manager and applicant may agree to an extension of time.

Eligibility Determination

An individual is eligible for OIB Program services if the individual:

1. Is legally blind or severely visually impaired (severely visually impaired defined as 20/70 best corrected and/or 50% or less field); and
2. Is age 55 or older; and
3. Is in need of Independent Living Rehabilitation services to maintain their independence.

Assessment of Independent Living Needs for Older Individuals Who Are Blind

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As soon as eligibility has been determined and to the extent necessary, the identified staff person, conducts an assessment of independent living needs to determine the nature and scope of needed services.

Financial Need and Determination of the Availability of Comparable Benefits

OIB participants are exempt from financial participation in the costs of independent living services. However, independent living services may be available and used as a comparable benefit if appropriate.

Individualized Written Independent Living Plan (IWILP)

For Individuals eligible for the OIB program, a written, signed Individualized Written Independent Living Plan (IWILP) will be developed within forty-five (45) business days of eligibility determination. Services provided will be developed jointly by the designated staff person and the participant. Services provided must be included on the IWILP and be pre-authorized.

In extenuating circumstances, the case manager and participant may agree to an extension of time.

Closures

All participants and/or their representative will receive a closure letter **written notification in their preferred mode of communication** that includes the reason for closure, notification of appeal rights and the availability of the Client Assistance Program at least 10 days prior to the closure of the case.

1. A case may be closed when the participant is unavailable to participate or complete an assessment of eligibility. The participant will receive at least two written contact attempts **in their preferred mode of communication** in addition to **the a closure notice described above** before the agency proceeds with closure prior to a determination of eligibility.
2. A case may be closed from application status when the participant does not meet eligibility requirements.
3. A case is closed successfully if the participant received services resulting in independent living.
4. A case may close unsuccessful when the participant is unable to complete independent living services.

Case Record

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A case record for each applicant and/or recipient of services will be established and maintained.

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