

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Washington D.C. 20202

FISCAL YEAR 2015

ANNUAL REPORT

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR  
OLDER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND

GRANTEE Southwest Center for Independence

GRANT NO. PO IHA 1462152

FFY: 10/01/2015 - 09/30/2016

Title VII Chapter 2, of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended  
Section 752(l)(2)(A) of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended

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**PART I: FUNDING SOURCES FOR EXPENDITURES AND ENCUMBRANCES**

<b>Title VII-Chapter 2 federal grant award for reported fiscal year</b>	\$ 45,310.62
<b>Other federal grant award for reported fiscal year</b>	\$ 0
<b>Title VII-Chapter 2 carryover from previous year</b>	\$ 0
<b>Other federal grant carryover from previous year</b>	\$ 0
<b>A. Funding Sources for Expenditures and encumbrances in Reported FY</b>	<b>Expended or encumbered</b>
A1. Title VII-Chapter 2	\$ 45,210.62
A2. Total other federal (a)+(b)+(c)+(d)+(e)	\$ 0
(a) Title VII-Chapter 1-Part B	\$ 0
(b) SSA reimbursement	\$ 0
(c) Title XX - Social Security Act	\$ 0
(d) Older Americans Act	\$ 0
(e) Other	\$ 0
A3. State (excluding in-kind)	\$ 0
A4. Third party (AAA)	\$ 13,516.91
A5. In-kind	\$
A6. <b>TOTAL MATCHING FUNDS (A3+A4+A5)</b>	\$ 13,516.91
A7. <b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS EXPENDED (A1+A2+A6)</b>	\$ 58,827.53
<b>B. Total expenditures and encumbrances allocated to administrative, support staff, and general overhead costs</b>	\$ 0
<b>C. Total expenditures and encumbrances for direct program services (Line A7 minus Line B)</b>	\$ 58,827.53

**PART II: STAFFING**

FTE (full time equivalent) is based upon a 40-hour workweek or 2080 hours per year.

<b>A. Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Program Staff</b>	<b>Administrative &amp; Support</b>	<b>Direct Service</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
A1. FTE State Agency	a. 0	b. 0	c. 0
A2. FTE Contractors	a. 0.1	b. 1.0	c. 1.1
A3. <b>TOTAL FTE (A1 + A2)</b>	a. 0	b. 0	c. 0

<b>B. Employed or advanced in employment</b>	<b>No. employed</b>	<b>FTE</b>
B1. Employees with Disabilities (include blind and visually impaired not 55 or older)	a. 1	b. 0.1
B2. Employees with Blindness Age 55 and Older	a. 0	b. n/a
B3. Employees who are Racial/Ethnic Minorities	a. 0	b. n/a
B4. Employees who are Women	a. 2	b. 1.1
B5. Employees Age 55 and Older (not blind and visually impaired)	a. 1	b. 0.1
<b>C. Volunteers</b>		
C1. FTE program volunteers (no. of volunteer hours ÷ 2080)		0.06

### PART III: DATA ON INDIVIDUALS SERVED

Provide data in each of the categories below related to the number of individuals for whom one or more services were provided during the reported fiscal year.

<b>A. INDIVIDUALS SERVED</b>	
A1. Number of individuals who began receiving services in the previous FY and continued to receive services in the reported FY	88
A2. Number of individuals who began receiving services in the reported FY	31
A3. <b>TOTAL</b> individuals served during the reported fiscal year (A1+ A2)	119
<b>B. AGE GROUPS</b>	
B1. 55-59	10
B2. 60-64	14
B3. 65-69	17
B4. 70-74	8
B5. 75-79	9
B6. 80-84	18
B7. 85-89	16
B8. 90-94	20
B9. 95-99	4
B10. 100 & over	3
B11. <b>TOTAL</b> (Add B1 through B10, must agree with A3)	119

<b>C. GENDER</b>	
C1. Female	77
C2. Male	42
C3. <b>TOTAL</b> (Add C1 + C2, must agree with A3)	119
<b>D. RACE/ETHNICITY</b>	
D1. Hispanic/Latino of any race or Hispanic/ Latino only	16
D2. American Indian or Alaska Native, not Hispanic/Latino	3
D3. Asian, not Hispanic/Latino	1
D4. Black or African American, not Hispanic/Latino	0
D5. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, not Hispanic/Latino	0
D6. White, not Hispanic/Latino	81
D7. Two or more races, not Hispanic/Latino	1
D8. Race and ethnicity unknown, not Hispanic/Latino (only if consumer refuses to identify)	17
D9. <b>TOTAL</b> (Add D1 through D8, must agree with A3)	119
<b>E. DEGREE OF VISUAL IMPAIRMENT</b>	
E1. Totally Blind (LP only or NLP)	15
E2. Legally Blind (excluding totally blind)	68
E3. Severe Visual Impairment	36
E4. <b>TOTAL</b> (Add E1 through E3, must agree with A3)	119
<b>F. MAJOR CAUSE OF VISUAL IMPAIRMENT</b>	
F1. Macular Degeneration	69
F2. Diabetic Retinopathy	13
F3. Glaucoma	11
F4. Cataracts	3
F5. Other	23
F6. <b>TOTAL</b> (Add F1 through F5, must agree with A3)	119
<b>G. OTHER AGE-RELATED IMPAIRMENTS</b>	
G1. Hearing Impairment	12
G2. Diabetes	12
G3. Cardiovascular Disease and Strokes	20
G4. Cancer	3
G5. Bone, Muscle, Skin, Joint, and Movement Disorders	37
G6. Alzheimer's Disease/Cognitive Impairment	14
G7. Depression/Mood Disorder	18
G8. Other Major Geriatric Concerns	17

<b>H. TYPE OF RESIDENCE</b>	
H1. Private residence (house or apartment)	100
H2. Senior Living/Retirement Community	0
H3. Assisted Living Facility	10
H4. Nursing Home/Long-term Care facility	9
H5. Homeless	0
<b>H6. TOTAL (must agree with A3)</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>TYPE OF LIVING ARRANGEMENT</b>	
( ). No Caregiver Needed	16
(3). Data not recorded	21
(1). Living Alone	39
(2). Has Caregiver	43
<b>(H3). TOTAL (must agree with A3)</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>J. SOURCE OF REFERRAL</b>	
J1. Eye care provider (ophthalmologist, optometrist)	4
J2. Physician/medical provider	5
J3. State VR agency	1
J4. Government or Social Service Agency	21
J5. Veterans Administration	30
J6. Senior Center	5
J7. Assisted Living Facility	0
J8. Nursing Home/Long-term Care facility	16
J9. Faith-based organization	20
J10. Independent Living center	7
J11. Family member or friend	6
J12. Self-referral	0
J13. Other	4
<b>J12. TOTAL (must agree with A3)</b>	<b>119</b>

**PART IV: TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED AND RESOURCES**

**ALLOCATED** - Provide data for the number OIB Consumers receiving each type of service & the resources committed to each type of service.

<b>A. Clinical/functional vision assessments and services</b>			
A1.	a. Total Cost from VII-2 funds	0	<b># Persons Served</b>
	b. Total Cost from Other funds	0	
A2.	Vision screening/vision examination/low vision eval	0	

A3. Surgical or therapeutic treatment to prevent, correct, or modify disabling eye conditions		0
<b>B. Assistive technology devices and services</b>		
B1. a. Total Cost from VII-2 funds b. Total Cost from Other funds	0	# Persons Served
	\$13,516.91	
B2. Provision of assistive technology devices and aids		40
B3. Provision of assistive technology services		55
<b>C. Independent living and adjustment training and services</b>		
C1. a. Total Cost from VII-2 funds b. Total Cost from Other funds	\$45,310.62	# Persons Served
	0	
C2. Independent living and adjustment skills training		2
C3. Orientation and Mobility training	9	
C4. Communication skills	68	
C5. Daily living skills	119	
C6. Supportive services (reader services, transportation, personal attendant services, support service providers, interpreters, etc)		21
C7. Advocacy training and support networks		119
C8. Counseling (peer, individual & group)		10
C9. Information, referral and community integration		119
C10. Other IL services		36
<b>D. Community Awareness Activities/ Information and Referral Services</b>		
D1. a. Total Cost from VII-2 funds b. Total Cost from other funds	\$5,700	# Persons Served
	0	
D2. Information and Referral (optional)		
D3. Community Awareness: Events/Activities	a. 5	920

**PART V: COMPARISON OF PRIOR YEAR ACTIVITIES TO CURRENT REPORTED YEAR**

	Prior FY	Reported FY	Change (+ / -)
A1. Program Cost (all sources)	a. 56,256	b. 58,827	c. +\$2571
A2. No. Individuals Served	a. 92	b. 119	c. +27
A3. No. of Minority Individuals Served	a. 22	b. 20	c. -2

A4. No. of Community Awareness Activities	a. 25	b. 5	c. -20
A5. No. of Collaborating agencies and Organizations (other than sub-grantees)	a. 50	b. 50	c. 0
A6. No. of Sub-grantees	a. 0	b. 0	c. 0

**PART VI: PROGRAM OUTCOMES/PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Provide the following data for each of the performance measures below. This will assist RSA in reporting results and outcomes related to the program.

<b>VI. PROGRAM OUTCOMES/PERFORMANCE MEASURES</b>	<b>No. of People</b>	<b>% of People</b>
A1. Number of individuals receiving AT (assistive technology) services and training	55	46%
A2. Number of individuals receiving AT (assistive technology) services and training who maintained or improved functional abilities that were previously lost or diminished as a result of vision loss. (closed/inactive cases only)	15	13%
A3. Number of individuals for whom functional gains have not yet been determined at the close of the reporting period.	24	20%
B1. Number of individuals who received orientation and mobility (O & M) services	90	76%
B2. Of those receiving orientation and mobility (O & M) services, the number of individuals who experienced functional gains or maintained their ability to travel safely and independently in their residence and/or community environment as a result of services. (closed/inactive cases only)	15	13%
B3. Number of individuals for whom functional gains have not yet been determined at the close of the reporting period.	43	36%

C1.	Number of individuals who received communication skills training	18	15%
C2.	Of those receiving communication skills training, the number of individuals who gained or maintained their functional abilities as a result of services they received. (Closed/inactive cases only)	3	3%
C3.	Number of individuals for whom functional gains have not yet been determined at the close of the reporting period.	8	7%
D1.	Number of individuals who received daily living skills training	119	100%
D2.	Number of individuals that experienced functional gains or successfully restored or maintained their functional ability to engage in their customary daily life activities as a result of services or training in personal management and daily living skills. (closed/inactive cases only)	36	30%
D3.	# individuals for whom functional gains have not yet been determined at the close of the reporting period.	12	10%
E1.	Number of individuals served who reported feeling that they are in greater control and are more confident in their ability to maintain their current living situation as a result of services they received. (closed/inactive cases only)	24	20%
E2.	# of individuals served who reported feeling that they have <i>less</i> control and confidence in their ability to maintain their current living situation as a result of services they received. (closed/inactive cases only)	0	0
E3.	# of individuals served who reported no change in their feelings of control and confidence in their ability to maintain their current living situation as a result of services they received. (closed/inactive cases only)	0	0%
E4.	Number of individuals served who experienced changes in lifestyle for reasons unrelated to vision loss. (closed/inactive cases only)	22	18%
E5.	Number of individuals served who died before achieving functional gain or experiencing changes in lifestyle as a result of services they received. (closed/inactive cases only)	3	3%



## **Part VII: TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS**

*Please enter a brief description of training and technical assistance needs that you may have to assist in the implementation and improvement of the performance of your Title VII-Chapter 2 program in your state.*

- We could probably use some training on how to make the data base better represent what we are doing.
- We need training on what to do every October, if CDLE is not willing to either release the federal funds before they arrive or change the fiscal year of the OIB grants.
- The OIB phone conferences are very helpful.

## **PART VIII: NARRATIVE**

*A. Briefly describe the agency's method of implementation for the Title VII-Chapter 2 program (i.e. in-house, through sub-grantees/contractors, or a combination) incorporating outreach efforts to reach underserved and/or unserved populations. Please list all sub-grantees/contractors.*

All reported services and supports occur in house with so subcontracts. Basic services available through our OIB program include:

- Support Groups that include presentation and training in Archuleta County (Pagosa Springs), Dolores County (Cahone), La Plata County (Durango, Bayfield, Ignacio, Southern Ute Reservation, Allison), Montezuma County (Cortez, Dolores, Mancos) and San Juan County (Silverton). These groups allow us to outreach to areas that are very rural, giving us the opportunity to meet our OIB consumers on their own terms.
- Provided 100 large print wall calendars, and many many color dots, 20/20 pens and other low tech visual aids.
- Home visits to provide individual services such as peer mentorship, skills training, advocacy, information and referral/ options counseling, AT assessments and recommendations, setting up your home, teaching your partner, etc.
- Lunch activity groups that meet at local restaurants as well as potlucks in other community meeting places.
- Loaning of magnifiers and CCTVs from AT dealers and from our donation room.

- Low Vision fairs that bring Providers, consumers together in an effort to provide a “one stop” conference for all things vision.
- Consult with Home health nurses and professional eye doctors about assistive devices.
- Assist with access to low vision technology for individuals.

*B. Briefly describe any activities designed to expand or improve services including collaborative activities or community awareness; and efforts to incorporate new methods and approaches developed by the program into the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) under Section 704.*

- Radio and newspaper coverage in rural areas about low vision services
- Email and paper Newsletters
- Contract with local AAA to provide low vision technology and education for qualifying people aged 60 plus.
- Circuit Rider Office hours in outlying regional Senior Centers and other organizations.
- Low vision Expos in Cortez and Durango
- Presentations to local services clubs, senior centers and other organizations.
- Participation at Health fairs and Caregiver Conferences
- Participation on senior advisory councils and adult protective teams
- Lunch activity clubs in Cortez and Durango, encourage individuals with low vision to get out to different activities and restaurants. These types of activities help to combat the loneliness and isolation that is common with vision loss.
- SWCI has set up many information booths at Senior fairs, Health fairs, Senior housing complexes and any other place we feel we may be able to reach individuals 55 and over with visual impairment.
- Open Houses in Durango and Cortez office
- Increasing our AT lab to include more low vision technology including specialized computers

*C. Briefly summarize results from any of the most recent evaluations or satisfaction surveys conducted for your program and attach a copy of applicable reports.*

Virtually every OIB program participant has indicated that they have been happy with the services and supports provided by SWCI. Only one man has refused to participate because of a disagreement with staff – he has chosen to go directly through DVR, even though the services are fewer, and use our regular Independent Living services.

It is difficult to compel the individuals who are served through our OIB program to complete satisfaction surveys. We absolutely need to get better at capturing the work we do with individuals with visual impairment and how what we do changes an individual's access to services, Personal life satisfaction and other positive outcomes. Our program continues to get lots of positive feedback from those we serve, this is particularly true with regard to the low vision expos. We are currently tracking satisfaction of services with a tool from AAA service

*D. Briefly describe the impact of the Title VII-Chapter 2 program, citing examples from individual cases (without identifying information) in which services contributed significantly to increasing independence and quality of life for the individual(s).*

- Several Audio information Receivers were distributed to individuals. All levels of communication accessibility referrals are offered and Colorado Talking Books and AIN have coordinated with our agency to provide services to persons served. A book club for audio readers is being developed.
- Assist individuals to develop natural supports with individuals who are not paid to care for them.
- Encourage OIB consumers to volunteer and become involved in community activities.
- Assisting OIB consumers to access Home and Community Based Services and thereby avoid nursing home placement.
- Assist individuals to access talking books, white canes, CCTVs and computers for the blind, WOW computers, and magnifiers. Readers/scanners, Meals on Wheels, AT catalogs.

- Teaching individuals to use tools to access information and recreation
- Assisting Elders to access OAP, Food Stamps, Medicaid and other available supports and services.
- Assistance with low and high technology demonstrations for persons to design a functional routine for their barriers and maintain independence in their daily living.
- Providing IL training to help people continue to live at home after blindness occurs or spouse passes.

*E. Finally, note any problematic areas or concerns related to implementing the Title VII-Chapter 2 program in your state*

- The billing process with DVR continues to become less cumbersome, thank you.
- Our OIB staff has a great deal of experience with persons experiencing low vision and blindness. She is a certified CRC, Rehabilitation Counselor. This offers counseling experience and specialization in skills training, strategies, and technology as it relates to blindness.
- A collaboration with the local AAA has allowed us to offer a small budget for material aids for low Vision to persons 60+. Any new intake for persons in that age range includes an in-home assessment and low vision equipment as well as home accessibility exploration and referrals for public services and consultation for procurement of various items and technology that will offer independence of access and operation of home appliances and technology. This list includes stand alone magnification, telephones, calculators, clocks, watches, computers, kitchen items etc.... All with the intent of offering independence in the home and daily activities.
- Yet again we are going into a new OIB program year with less than stellar information. We applied for one amount, were granted a different amount, and then were told there would be no payments for services rendered until the federal money trickles down to CDLE.
 

Last year, our contract was substantially reduced (by \$10,000 or 16%) after we made a commitment to hire a full time person based on our award. Three years ago many OIB Coordinators in the state were laid off because there was no funding.

We need to either get the money at the start of the funding period every year, or we need to change the funding period to accommodate a less than stellar congress. Having this same issue every year will sabotage our programs again and again.

**PART VIII: SIGNATURE**

Please sign and print the name, title and telephone number of the IL-OIB Program Director below.

I certify that the data herein reported are statistically accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Martha Mason, Executive Director	970-259-1672
Name	Telephone Number

<i>Martha Mason</i>	10/14/2016
Name (Signature)	Date