**IL Service Model Options**

In order to provide the highest quality services possible to Independent Living clients under the age of 55 given ongoing funding limitations, IDB is recommending to the Iowa Commission for the Blind the below policy options for the Board’s consideration:

**Option #1**

In October 2023, current IL Teacher, Susan Howard will retire. Instead of replacing this position with another IL Teacher, the IL Program Administrator will hire a statewide small group training coordinator (classification Service Specialist for the Blind 2). This IL team member will be responsible for creating, organizing, and publicizing small group trainings for IL clients in a wide variety of locations across the state of Iowa. This team member will work with Iowa Blindness Empowerment and Independence Center staff on scheduling and organizing IL Integration weeks and other training opportunities for IL clients in the IDB building. While this position will serve as the lead teacher for these community-based trainings, other IL teachers will also provide training to maximize the quantity and quality of training provided during each event.

If a client between the ages of 14 and 54 is not interested in Vocational Rehabilitation services, the IL program service model or training model will include the following options:

* An initial, one-time in-home visit by the ILR teacher to complete the IL application, certification of eligibility, and develop the IL plan using the S.M.A.R.T. Goal and Objectives method. All required forms can be handled at that time as well as any questions addressed.
* Community Based Group trainings which will provide training in basic core services such as:
  + Adjustment to blindness counseling
  + Access / Rehabilitation Technology
  + Braille
  + Communication services
  + Home and personal management
  + Orientation & Mobility training (Cane travel, use of public or private transportation systems)
  + Peer counseling
* Independent Living Integration – Offered 2 to 3 times per year. This is A weeklong training session at the Iowa Department for the Blind Center in Des Moines which provides training in the basic core skills listed above.
* Phone or small group braille trainings and Self-Advocacy Seminars
* Online or virtual access technology training
* Information and Referral.

If a client is 13 years of age or younger, the IL program service model or training model may include:

* An initial -home visit by the ILR teacher to complete the IL application, certification of eligibility, and develop the IL plan using the S.M.A.R.T. Goal and Objectives method.
* Adjustment to blindness counseling.
* supplemental access / rehabilitation Technology and training online or in the home or community
* supplemental Braille training online or in the home or community
* home and personal management skills training
* supplemental orientation & Mobility training in the home or community (Cane travel, use of public or private transportation systems).
* Information and Referral.
* Family Services. and programming

**Option 2:**

Beginning November 1, 2023, IL younger services will be provided using the current in-home cluster-based service model until the available Part B funds and state match have been expended. If, when Part B and match funds have been expended, less than $250,000 in Social Security reimbursements have been received in the current federal fiscal year IL services to under the age of 55 will be suspended until either the beginning of the next federal fiscal year or until such time as sufficient Social Security reimbursements are received to cover the program until the start of the next federal fiscal year.

**Rationale for Dollar Amounts and Time Frames**

The figure of $250,000 was chosen to ensure that sufficient SSA funds would be available to cover projected IL Older Blind cost overruns based on the SFY22 figures below. This is allowing for an 8.1% increase in costs due to estimated staff pay increases and inflation.

Federal fiscal year time frames are being used to align with the federal grants and to be able to adjust for possible delays in the federal budgeting process.

**IL Spending SFY22 and SFY23**

Note: SFY23 figures are year to date through approximately 83% of the state fiscal year.

**Total IL Spending all sources:**

total IL FY 22 spent $950,061

total IL FY 23 Year-to-Date spent $548,374  
Projected Total SFY23 Spending: $658,048.80

**Gifts & Bequests IL Spending**

FY22 G&B IL $18,254.67  
FY23 G&B IL $3,972.74

**Total spent Older Blind**

Older Blind FY22 $792,743.67  
Grant award FY22 $303,431.67  
Required Match: $30,343.17  
Additional Social Security Reimbursements Spent: $458,968.83

Older Blind FY23 Spent Year-To-Date: $464,199.20  
Grant award FY23 $299,759  
Projected SFY23 Older Blind Spending: $557,039.04  
Required Match: $29,975.90  
Additional State or SSA Funding Used: $227,304.14

**Total spent IL Younger Blind**

Younger Blind FY22 $139,062.70  
Grant award FY22 $67,743.00  
Required Match: $6,774.30  
Additional Social Security Reimbursements Spent: $64,545.40

Younger Blind FY23 Spent Year-to-Date: $80,202.15  
Grant award FY23 $69,612

Projected SFY23 IL Younger Spending: $96,242.58  
Required Match: $8,020.22  
Additional State or Social Security Reimbursement Used: $18,610.37