# Iowa Department for the blind Gifts and Bequests Fund Application

# 2024 National Federation of the Blind of Iowa Braille Camp

Submitted by Rebecca Young

National Federation of the Blind of Iowa BELL Coordinator

byoung@nfbi.org

(515) 553-9270

## Key Details

**Who**: Blind and low vision Iowans ages 4-13.

**What**: A one-week summer day camp filled with fun learning activities focused on braille literacy and other age-appropriate skills to build self-confidence, independence, and a positive view of blindness.

**When**: August 5-9, 2024; 9:00 AM-4:00 PM.

**Where**: Grand View University, Des Moines

**Why**: Because too many blind children reach high school behind their peers, because blind kids deserve the opportunity to have fun inclusive accessible summer activities, and because adult blind role models can make an enormous impact in children’s lives.

## Background

The National Federation of the Blind holds summer camps each year in many locations across the country to increase the availability of fun educational opportunities for blind and low vision children in order to address deficits common among blind and low vision children including literacy, social, orientation and mobility, and independent living skills. The programs emphasize literacy because of the correlation between literacy skills and employment among blind and low vision adults. The National Federation of the Blind of Iowa held programs in 2016 and 2017. NFBI is beginning this program again in 2024 as an annual event with the goal of growing the program over the coming years in length, scope, and number of children served. For the 2024 program, NFBI is hoping to serve five to ten children from around the state. Transportation will be provided to all children if needed, and lodging will be offered to families who live outside the Des Moines area. Below is the current program budget. Note: roughly half of this money has been raised as of this time. NFBI has two specific requests:

1. $2,500 toward the cost of the program.
2. Distribution of program flyers to library patrons and independent living clients in the targeted age range.

## Budget as of 5/21/2024

Anticipated costs based on ten participants.

$1,250: Classroom space, Grand View University.

$1,500: Transportation for children to and from program each day. Unknown at this time how many participants will need transportation assistance, and how far each lives from the camp location. Using IDB’s transportation rate to estimate costs, transportation for one child who lives fifty miles from the site for five days can easily cost over $500 if there aren’t other participants who live in the same direction.

$1,200: lodging for families from outside the Des Moines area. The plan is to provide a hotel room for each participant and a parent/guardian for families who live too far away to commute each day. Current hotel cost is $80/night for $400 per participant for the week.

$1,250: lunch, snacks, and other food items. Several in-kind donation requests are pending with local locations.

$500: printing and postage for sending marketing flyer to potential attendees.

$500: Supplies including braille paper, games, and arts/craft materials.

$350: Background checks for all volunteers as required per NFB policy.