



Kim Reynolds  
Governor

Chris Cournoyer  
Lieutenant Governor

Sarah Willeford  
Interim Director

September 29, 2026

The Iowa Department for the Blind is requesting a \$438,878 increase in state appropriations. This funding is necessary to maintain operational continuity and preserve the department's baseline service delivery models. It will also support workforce stability, ensuring the department has the capacity required to meet its mandated service obligations. The additional resources will be directed toward critical service delivery functions. The department's federal grant has been fully utilized for FY2028 in the proposed budget, increasing pressure on the department's core infrastructure could disrupt services for Iowans.

Demand for the department's services continues to grow—particularly within library services through the Instructional Materials Center and Independent Living programs. This rising utilization directly increases workload across production, outreach, and one-on-one service delivery, intensifying strain on existing resources.

The service areas at greatest risk of disruption include:

- Library services including the production and delivery of accessible educational materials for PreK–12th students—impacting classroom learning and equity compliance.
- Services for Iowans which are essential for maintaining and increasing independence.
- Vocational Rehabilitation services that support blind Iowans in achieving stable employment outcomes—creating constraints on the department's ability to provide specialized employment services.

This funding increase is a sustainability measure required solely to secure the Iowa Department for the Blind's existing services and operational standards.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Willeford".

Sarah Willeford  
Interim Director, Iowa Department for the Blind

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Iowa Department for the Blind  
Interim Director's Report: Sarah Willeford  
September 29, 2026

## FY2028 Iowa Department for the Blind Budget Revisions

Enclosed please find the revised FY2028 budget and the accompanying memo that will be submitted to the Department of Management.

After reviewing the budget approved on September 15, 2026, additional savings were identified. These savings allowed the reduction of the overall increase in requests and focus specifically on the areas where additional funding is necessary to maintain services. The department's federal grant has been fully utilized for FY2028 in the proposed budget.

Items that were removed from the previous budget request will be addressed through other funding sources, removed or shifted to a future budget year. This ensures that the current request is limited only to the most immediate and essential needs for maintaining service levels.

The FY2028 revised budget request is an increase of \$438,878.00 to the FY2027 base budget. This increase will be reflected in the Aids to Individuals budget line. Additional funding in this area will enable the agency to maintain service levels across its programs and address growing demand and strain on key services, particularly independent living services and the library's Instructional Materials Center.

# IOWA DEPARTMENT FOR THE BLIND 2028 PROPOSED BUDGET

|                                          |                  |             | Total Department Request |  |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--|
|                                          | 2027 BASE BUDGET | Adjustments | FY 2028                  |  |
| RESOURCES                                |                  |             |                          |  |
| Appropriations TOTAL:                    | \$ 3,207,190     | \$ 438,878  | \$ 3,646,068             |  |
| Receipts                                 |                  |             |                          |  |
| Federal Support                          | 8,656,991        |             | 8,656,991                |  |
| Gov Fund Type Transfers - Other Agencies | 305,000          |             | 305,000                  |  |
| Refunds & Reimbursements                 | 1                |             | 1                        |  |
| Other                                    | 2                |             | 2                        |  |
| Receipts TOTAL:                          | 8,961,994        | -           | 8,961,994                |  |
| TOTAL RESOURCES:                         | \$ 12,169,184    | \$ 438,878  | \$ 12,608,062            |  |
| DISPOSITION OF RESOURCES                 |                  |             |                          |  |
| Expenditures                             |                  |             |                          |  |
| Personal Services-Salaries               | \$ 7,314,629     |             | \$ 7,314,629             |  |
| SLIP                                     | 10,032           |             | 10,032                   |  |
| Personal Travel In State                 | 162,212          |             | 162,212                  |  |
| State Vehicle Operation                  | 40,082           |             | 40,082                   |  |
| Depreciation                             | 17,776           |             | 17,776                   |  |
| Personal Travel Out of State             | 21,555           |             | 21,555                   |  |
| Office Supplies                          | 35,103           |             | 35,103                   |  |
| Facility Maintenance Supplies            | 27,893           |             | 27,893                   |  |
| Equipment Maintenance Supplies           | 8,297            |             | 8,297                    |  |
| Other Supplies                           | 3,037            |             | 3,037                    |  |
| Printing & Binding                       | 476              |             | 476                      |  |
| Food                                     | 6,348            |             | 6,348                    |  |
| Postage                                  | 3,522            |             | 3,522                    |  |
| Communications                           | 61,734           |             | 61,734                   |  |
| Rentals                                  | 24,143           |             | 24,143                   |  |
| Utilities                                | 151,234          |             | 151,234                  |  |
| Professional & Scientific Services       | 2,465            |             | 2,465                    |  |
| Outside Services                         | 288,705          |             | 288,705                  |  |
| Advertising & Publicity                  | 1,622            |             | 1,622                    |  |
| Outside Repairs/Service                  | 202,586          |             | 202,586                  |  |
| Reimbursement to Other Agencies          | 476,066          |             | 476,066                  |  |
| ITS Reimbursements                       | 136,069          |             | 136,069                  |  |
| IT Outside Services                      | 10,463           |             | 10,463                   |  |
| Gov Transfer Auditor of State            | 14,756           |             | 14,756                   |  |
| Equipment                                | 334,129          |             | 334,129                  |  |
| Equipment - Non-Inventory                | 105,348          |             | 105,348                  |  |
| IT Equipment                             | 400,247          |             | 400,247                  |  |
| Other Expense & Obligations              | 20,124           |             | 20,124                   |  |
| Aid to Individuals                       | 2,288,532        | 438,878     | 2,727,410                |  |
| Expenditures TOTAL:                      | \$ 12,169,185    | \$ 438,878  | \$ 12,608,063            |  |