



Something for Everyone

The Iowa Department for the Blind, a state agency dedicated to improving the lives of all blind and visually impaired Iowans, provides services that benefit more than those who have experienced significant vision loss.

The state of Iowa also benefits from the vocational rehabilitation and independent living services provided by the Department.

Investing in vocational rehabilitation for an individual with vision loss pays off.

- An blind person at 25 years old, drawing the average payment of \$1,004 a month in Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), will receive a total of \$480,000 in SSDI by age sixty-five.
- If that person receives rehabilitation and training through the Department and goes on to work earning \$9.75 an hour, he or she will pay about \$150,000 in federal and state taxes during the course of his or her working life. Our clients average \$15 an hour.
- Working, instead of relying on SSDI, results in a savings of about \$600,000 from this single client.

\$150,000 (in taxes paid)
+ \$480,000 (in SSDI savings)
= ~\$600,000 (in total savings)

The state of Iowa also retains a valuable, hard-working and dedicated employee to help grow the state's economy. The Iowa Department for the Blind ranks second nationally in the percentage of employment cases reaching successful closure.

Investing in independent living services for an individual keeps older blind adults active and engaged as citizens. Those who receive our Independent Living services are more likely to:

- Live independently in their own homes and out of Medicaid-funded nursing homes.
- Continue to serve as volunteers, board members, employees and active participants in their communities.
- Enjoy such leisure activities as using our library, traveling, and shopping.

The Department's commitment to helping people with vision loss live active, productive lives brings economic activity, community engagement, and a healthier, more inclusive community to Iowa.