

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland

MISSION

The mission of Blind Industries and Services of Maryland (BISM) is twofold: 1) to provide stable career opportunities, innovative rehabilitation programs, and quality products and services; and 2) to develop resources for training and education. The mission of the Rehabilitation Department is to empower blind consumers through comprehensive rehabilitation and adjustment programs that instill a positive philosophy of blindness and a fundamental belief that with proper training and opportunity the blind can compete on terms of equality with their sighted counterparts.

KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1. To assist consumers who are blind or low vision to gain skills of blindness and confidence necessary to live independently.

Obj. 1.1 Annually BISM will provide at least 45,540 hours of training in blindness skills - braille, cane travel, computer, independent living, career exploration, physical fitness, adjustments to blindness, and community-based training - to adult and senior citizens who are blind or low vision.

Performance Measures	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Est.	2023 Est.
¹ Number of participants	231	312	398	382	209	200	200
¹ Number of training hours	54,684	58,400	53,194	49,375	19,096	45,540	45,540
Percent of participants achieving independent living goals	89%	93%	93%	92%	91%	88%	88%
Consumer satisfaction	92%	94%	96%	95%	95%	89%	89%

Goal 2. To assist blind or low vision consumers to be successful in career paths commensurate with their skills, abilities, interests.

Obj. 2.1 BISM will continue to assist consumers to obtain employment, higher education, or independent living goals.

Performance Measures	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Est.	2023 Est.
Number of graduations and completions in the CORE program	10	12	11	8	6	13	13
Number of program alumni (previous 5 years) gaining employment or higher education during current fiscal year	28	18	20	19	14	10	10
CORE consumer satisfaction	93%	93%	92%	95%	95%	88%	88%

NOTES

¹ COVID-19 decreased enrollment and severely limited BISM's ability to work with students.