

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	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
Number of participants	382	209	373	350	306	220	220
Number of training hours	49,375	19,096	44,297	46,761	48,349	45,540	45,540
Percent of participants achieving independent living goals	92%	91%	91%	92%	90%	90%	90%
Consumer satisfaction	95%	95%	93%	93%	92%	90%	90%

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

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

Performance Measures	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
Number of graduations and completions in the Comprehensive Orientation, Rehabilitation, and Empowerment (CORE) program	8	6	7	18	24	13	13
Number of program alumni (previous 5 years) gaining employment or higher education during current fiscal year	19	14	24	21	17	15	15
CORE consumer satisfaction	95%	95%	95%	94%	91%	90%	90%