

ICBVI

State Only Prevention of Blindness and Sight Restoration Program

Manual

Our mission is to empower persons who are in danger of legal blindness, blind or visually impaired by providing sight restoration services related to procedures which preserve, stabilize and restore vision; encouraging persons in their efforts to become socially and economically independent; and serve as a resource to families and employers by expanding public awareness regarding the potential of all persons who are blind or visually impaired.

The Goal of ICBVI's State Only Program is the Prevention of Blindness and Sight Restoration

The purpose of the ICBVI's State Only program is to assist clients with blindness or visual impairment to prevent the onset of legal blindness or make a significant improvement in their visual impairment, to allow individuals to maintain or seek employment and remain independent in their home and community.

SO Eligibility (Status 80)

To be eligible for State Only services through ICBVI, a client must meet the following criteria:

1. Have legal or functional blindness, or
2. Be in immediate danger of legal blindness, immediate being defined as occurring within 24 months
3. Demonstrate financial need
4. Be a resident in Idaho for at least 6 months

SO Plan for Services (Status 88)

The plan for SO services is developed between the client and VRA with input from the client's medical doctor and the ICBVI Medical Consultant.

Services can include the cost of:

- medical and physician fees and medication, if needed
- hospital services
- nursing services
- maintenance while the client is away from the home
- transportation to the physician or hospital and return home
- nursing home care when such care is necessary
- aids and appliances (one time only)
- diabetes education

Post-operative reports should be placed in the file and referenced in the RCR if they are received.

ICBVI has a \$5000 lifetime limit per person on State Only services.

Exceptions may be granted in certain circumstances after a review by the IL/SO Coordinator.

Services in the State Only Program can only be provided if there are sufficient General Funds allocated by JFAC and the Legislature each state fiscal year.

When the funds are exhausted, then Applications will be taken and put on a waiting list until the next year's funding is allocated on July 1st of each year.

The priority on the waiting list will be:

- assist client to maintain employment
- when Medical Consultant indicates that vision loss is imminent
- all others

SO Application (Status 72)

Any individual who is legally or functionally blind or who is in danger of legal blindness within two years may apply for the State Only Program services at ICBVI. The purpose of the SO program is to assist clients to maintain employment and independence in the community. All State Only services will be provided by the ICBVI Vocational Rehabilitation Assistants (VRAs).

Citizenship is not a requirement for ICBVI State Only assistance. However, the individual must be present in the state, have resided in Idaho for at least 6 months and is not just visiting the state, to receive SO services. The individual must also be in the country legally and have a green card (registered alien), work permit or other documentation.

There is no age limit for State Only services.

The prevention of blindness and sight restoration means treatment or operations to prevent blindness or restore vision to clients of services for the blind who are without the financial resources to procure such services for themselves. This includes all necessary expenses incurred in connection with the diagnosis, treatment or surgery to prevent blindness and restore vision.

Necessary expenses can include the cost of getting service, the cost of services, medical and physician fees, hospital services, nursing services, maintenance while the client is away from the home, transportation to the physician or hospital and return to his home, and the cost of nursing home care when such care is necessary.

ICBVI has a \$5000 lifetime limit per person on State Only services.

Exceptions may be granted in certain circumstances after a review by the IL/SO Coordinator.

To apply for SO services:

The client and VRA must meet, complete and sign the Application. The client can assist in providing medical or other information that substantiates that he/she is legally or functionally blind or is in danger of legal blindness within two years.

The medical information must then be staffed with the ICBVI Medical Consultant to verify the danger of imminent legal blindness and to determine the need for treatment.

Forms and reports should be placed in the case file and then referenced in the RCR. The RCR needs to be concise but effectively chronicle the client's progress.

Client and VRA must explore any comparable benefits, and then the client must apply for and use any comparable benefits that are available.

SO Case Closures and Post Closure Services

Ineligible – Status 78

State Only cases may be closed ineligible:

- The applicant does not have a severe visual impairment and is not in danger of becoming blind within two years
- Services would not improve or stabilize vision
- There are no further SO general funds available in the state fiscal year
- Client received services through comparable benefits

A certificate of ineligibility is not needed but a closure letter may be sent outlining the reason for ineligibility.

Successful Closure – Status 96

State Only cases are closed successfully when the client has been provided SO services, the surgery is successful and the services completed and/or the maximum

expenditure limit has been reached. All bills must be paid or authorizations decreased out.

No closure plan is needed but a closure letter may be sent.

Unsuccessful Closure – Status 98

State Only cases are closed unsuccessfully when planned services are not provided. This may be caused by further loss of vision, illness, and lack of follow through or the inability to benefit from the provision of SO services.

A closure plan is not needed but a closure letter may be sent.

All unsuccessful State Only closures should be referred to VR or IL for services

Post Closure Services – Status 99

Post closure services can be provided to the State Only client when another service, such as eyeglasses or further surgery, is needed if the service is related to the presenting disability, the client is experiencing complications related to the services provided and the client has not exceeded the \$5000 lifetime cap.

A new case should be opened if the client presents with a new visual disability or comprehensive services are needed, however, the spending cap of \$5000 will be brought forward to the new case.

Post closure services will be permitted in the State Only Program only until the new SO Application format is available in the ICMS system. This will then allow the VRA to copy the previous case information to open a new SO file for the client and then provide services.