

Shirley Morrow

From: Amy Deckard
Sent: Thursday, October 06, 2016 4:52 PM
To: 'Kaywolf@me.com'
Cc: Shirley Morrow
Subject: Blind Services

Senator Wolf,

You requested information about the Services for the Blind program at the Department for Children and Families.

Services for the Blind is organized into two programs: Administration and the Business Enterprise Program (BEP).

Administration provides overall administrative and professional direction to the program, services to convert standard print media material to special media of communication (4,805 Braille pages, 3,228 large print pages, 215 binders and 33 compact discs in FY 2014) needed by persons who are blind and office support services.

The BEP implements activities authorized under the federal Randolph Sheppard Act and Kansas law. The Randolph Sheppard Act mandates a priority to blind individuals receiving placement in and operating vending stands and food service in federal buildings and military installations. Kansas law extends this priority to State and local buildings. Qualified legally-blind individuals are trained in the development and maintenance of food service operations and, as openings arise, are placed in federal, State, county, city or other property where they operate cafeterias, snack bars, and vending machines. Once in the program, vendors receive marketing assistance, training in operating their business and accounting services. BEP is administered by Rehabilitation Services in collaboration with the DCF Grants and Contracts Unit.

Funding for the BEP portion of the program, including capital outlay, is either federal vocational rehabilitation funding or funding generated by the blind vending stands program. There is no State General Fund moneys used for the BEP portion of the program. Blind Vending Stands program has an account which is controlled by the operators. This money is used to meet the 21.3 percent Non-Federal (State) funds matching requirement for the Vocational Rehabilitation Basic Support Grant.

We will provide additional information on this subject for you as it is available.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

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