

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind
Decision Package Code/Title: A0 Mandatory Reduction Proposal
Budget Period: 2015-17
Budget Level: PL - Performance Level

Recommendation Summary Text:

The Department of Services for the Blind provides comprehensive skills training and counseling to individuals and their families who are blind or losing their vision. This proposal will reduce state funding for these activities by 15% which will generate a negative impact to the children and adults whose quality of life, independence, and ability to be successfully employed residents are dependent on the services that we provide.

Recent federal legislative revisions to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 have implications on these reductions. Section 503 has been revised to require all contractors with federal contracts in excess of \$10,000 take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities. Section 504 has been revised to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities, public or private, that receive federal financial assistance, including special education in the State's school systems. With continued funding, DSB is in a unique position to assist implementation of these new provisions.

Fiscal Detail

Operating Expenditures		<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>	
001-1	General Fund - Basic Account-State	(334,000)	(332,000)	(666,000)	
001-2	General Fund - Basic Account-Federal	(1,108,000)	(1,109,000)	(2,217,000)	
Total Cost		(1,442,000)	(1,441,000)	(2,883,000)	
Staffing		<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Annual Average</u>	
	FTEs	-15.7	-15.7	-15.7	
 Revenue					
<u>Fund</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>	
001	General Fund	0384 Dept of Education	(1,108,000)	(1,109,000)	(2,217,000)
Total Revenue		(1,108,000)	(1,109,000)	(2,217,000)	

Package Description:

Our mission at the Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) is inclusion, independence, and economic vitality for people with visual disabilities.

* DSB provides services that enable our clients go to work in competitive jobs with benefits. They develop the skills necessary to take charge of their lives, support their families, stay independent in their homes, pay taxes and contribute to their communities. We assist clients with entrepreneurial talent to start up small businesses and we help individuals who may be losing vision while already employed to keep their jobs.

* DSB provides blind and visually impaired residents of Washington with ever-improving assistive technologies, enabling them to thrive in our local communities.

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind**Decision Package Code/Title: A0 Mandatory Reduction Proposal**

- * DSB assists families with a blind child to set high expectations for that child, to access resources and training that will assure that child a future of success in school and eventually in a career.
- * DSB provides in-home services to the increasing older blind population so that those individuals can stay independent in their homes in spite of the effects of vision loss and aging.

This budget proposal reduces funding to the three primary state-funded program areas of services provided by DSB by 15% across the board.

The largest DSB program area is based on the Vocational Rehabilitation grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration. Services in this area focus on client employment and results in a positive return on investment. This activity will suffer a \$600,000 biennial loss of state funds and \$2,217,000 in federal grant funds. Additionally, DSB will be subjected to Maintenance of Effort penalties of \$600,000 in the 2018 and 2019 fiscal years. The combined impacts would place DSB into an "Order of Selection" designation which determines which clients receive services before others based on federal rules.

The next largest program area is the Services for Older Blind Individuals grant, also referred to as Independent Living - Older Blind (ILOB) or Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB). This program provides services designed to help seniors age 55 and older maintain or increase their lifestyle options and remain independent in the community despite significant vision loss. The biennial financial impact will be \$20,000 in state funds and \$180,000 in federal grant resources. The program is already in financial jeopardy as independent service providers earn 33% to 50% less than their state counterparts. It is becoming increasingly difficult to attract and retain qualified service providers. Another factor for the impact to services is that census data has indicated that this market has grown by 12% over the past ten years. The proposed reductions would result in a significant loss of service capacity and would only be feasible in areas of higher population density.

The last major program area is Independent Living - Part B grant. The IL-B, or simply IL grant provides services to two demographic sectors. The Birth through Thirteen segment focuses on early learning and family services in order to prepare the child for a future full of opportunities. The other sector is for adults who are not orientated to the job market, but who still need skills for adaptation to the skills of blindness. This program will suffer a \$40,000 reduction in state funds. This reduction would impact DSB's ability to provide outreach to the families of blind children and will reduce the ability to partner with other agencies providing social and educational services to children.

Many of the costs associated with operating DSB are relatively fixed, such as rent, utilities and data connectivity. This leaves the reductions to be covered with a 20% reduction to staff related expenditures and client services expenditures. The primary result of the cuts will be limits to the services we provide to our clients, including the loss of employment opportunities.

Narrative Justification and Impact Statement

What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?

The reduction in service will result in reduced caseload capacity and performance for Vocational Rehabilitation by 25%. For Independent Living, we expect a caseload capacity decrease of 20% and a decrease of 15% in the Older Individuals who are Blind program.

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind

Decision Package Code/Title: A0 Mandatory Reduction Proposal

Performance Measure Detail

Activity: A007 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services for the Blind

		Incremental Changes	
		<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>
Outcome Measures			
000091	Number of Department of Services for the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation clients obtaining employment.	(38.00)	(38.00)
000097	Average hourly wage of successful Department of Services for the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation participant employment outcomes.	(\$4.33)	(\$4.33)
Output Measures			
000092	Number of Department of Services for the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation clients served.	(338.00)	(338.00)

Activity: A008 Community Independent Living and Child and Family Programs

		Incremental Changes	
		<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>
Output Measures			
001641	Number of Department of Services for the Blind Independent Living - Part B clients served.	(40.00)	(40.00)
001642	Number of Department of Services for the Blind Independent Living - Older Blind clients served.	(210.00)	(210.00)

Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?

This reduction will adversely impact the DSB strategies of client interaction and the economic benefit of client employment opportunities that would otherwise reduce the burden on other public support programs.

Does this DP provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities?

This reduction will adversely impact the Governor's priority of creating a prosperous economy by impairing DSB's ability to develop quality, competitive employment outcomes for residents with disabilities.

What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

Recent federal legislative revisions to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 have implications on these reductions. Section 503 has been revised to require all contractors with federal contracts in excess of \$10,000 take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities. Section 504 has been revised to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities, public or private, that receive federal financial assistance, including special education in the State's school systems. With continued funding, DSB is in a unique position to assist implementation of these new provisions.

What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?

Alternatives reviewed were the total elimination of the Independent Living program, massive reductions to the Older Individuals who are Blind program and reduction of non-direct staff functions. Selection of these program reductions was not acceptable by the constituent community and the reduction to support services would not allow the agency to function for direct services or regulatory requirements.

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind**Decision Package Code/Title: A0 Mandatory Reduction Proposal*****What are the consequences of adopting or not adopting this package?***

If this proposal is not adopted, DSB will be able to continue to provide a valuable service to the blind and visually disabled community which will preserve employment opportunities for our clients.

What is the relationship, if any, to the state's capital budget?

None.

What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?

Rules would need to be adopted to detail functionality of Order of Selection and to provide latitude to exclude services from rural areas of the state.

Expenditure and revenue calculations and assumptions

Facility related expenditures would not be impacted due to the expectation that reductions would be temporary.

Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?

Potentially ongoing.

<u>Object Detail</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
A Salaries And Wages	(450,000)	(450,000)	(900,000)
B Employee Benefits	(159,000)	(159,000)	(318,000)
E Goods\Other Services	(74,000)	(74,000)	(148,000)
G Travel	(29,000)	(29,000)	(58,000)
J Capital Outlays	(12,000)	(12,000)	(24,000)
N Grants, Benefits & Client Services	(718,000)	(717,000)	(1,435,000)
Total Objects	(1,442,000)	(1,441,000)	(2,883,000)

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind
Decision Package Code/Title: N0 Buyback - Vocational Rehabilitation
Budget Period: 2015-17
Budget Level: PL - Performance Level

Recommendation Summary Text:

The Department of Services for the Blind provides comprehensive skills training and counseling to individuals and their families who are blind or losing their vision to achieve gainful employment or self-sufficiency. This proposal will restore the 15% state funding reduction for the Vocational Rehabilitation program which focuses on developing employment opportunities thus allowing DSB to continue to provide successful services enabling employment opportunities, quality of life, independence, and ability to be successful state citizens are dependent on the services that we provide.

DSB is a key agency with the implementation of section 503 of the federal Rehabilitation act which has established rules relating to employment and individuals with disabilities. Restoration of the budget reduction will allow DSB to maintain their current staffing level to support the federal rule and to develop employment outcomes for our clients to keep them off public assistance and to allow them to contribute to the tax base.

Fiscal Detail

Operating Expenditures		<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>	
001-1	General Fund - Basic Account-State	305,000	303,000	608,000	
001-2	General Fund - Basic Account-Federal	1,018,000	1,019,000	2,037,000	
Total Cost		1,323,000	1,322,000	2,645,000	
Staffing		<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Annual Average</u>	
	FTEs	15.3	15.3	15.3	
Revenue					
<u>Fund</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>	
001	General Fund	0384 Dept of Education	1,018,000	1,019,000	2,037,000
Total Revenue		1,018,000	1,019,000	2,037,000	

Package Description:

Our mission at the Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) is inclusion, independence, and economic vitality for people with visual disabilities.

"DSB provides services that enable our clients go to work in competitive jobs with benefits. They develop the skills necessary to take charge of their lives, support their families, stay independent in their homes, pay taxes and contribute to their communities. We also assist clients with entrepreneurial talent to start up small businesses and we help individuals who may be losing vision while already employed to keep their jobs.

"DSB provides blind and visually impaired residents of Washington with ever improving assistive technologies, enabling them to

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind
Decision Package Code/Title: N0 Buyback - Vocational Rehabilitation

thrive in our local communities.

Funding this proposal will restore \$600,000 of state funds. This will allow DSB to bring \$2,217,000 in federal grant funds to the State of Washington and to avoid a 2017-19 biennium federal penalty of \$600,000. Based on our fixed costs, the reductions would have to be covered with layoffs and reduced client services expenditures.

The Department of Services for the Blind is not only successful in our job placements, we have quality placements. For fiscal year 2013, the average wage of our clients securing employment was \$18.20 per hour compared with the state average of \$25.02. This was the third highest average wage of all 80 rehabilitation programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration. In addition, over 87% of our client employment outcomes received employer paid benefits.

Restoration of the budget reduction will allow DSB to avoid being placed into an "Order of Selection" designation. Being placed in Order of Selection means that federal procedures must be adopted to designate which clients receive services before other clients. This is an increased administrative burden and results in deferring clients that could benefit from early services. One of the more impacted groups would be the job retention clients. These are individuals who are already employed and need services to retain their employment. Deferring services to these potential clients will most likely result in their unemployment.

On September 24, 2013, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs published a final rule in the Federal Register that makes changes to the regulations implementing Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act. The new rule strengthens the affirmative action provisions of the regulations to aid contractors in their efforts to recruit, hire and improve job opportunities for individuals with disabilities. DSB attained a list of 387 federal contractor operating in the State of Washington and has developed an outreach strategy to assist them in attaining their section 503 goals. Implementation has begun with Starbucks, Ecova and NW Hospitals [Northwest Hospital & Medical Center?]. Restoration of the budget reduction will allow DSB to continue this initiative.

Narrative Justification and Impact Statement

What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?

The 15% reduction proposal would result in a 20% reduction in staff and other discretionary expenditures due to fixed costs. This reduction is estimated to reduce caseload capacity and employment performance by 25% due to implementation of federal Order of Selection rules. Restoration of the budget cut will allow DSB to avoid the 25% reduction in caseload capacity and employment performance as desired under the Governor's Results Washington agenda.

Performance Measure Detail

Activity:	A007Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services for the Blind	Incremental Changes	
		<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>
	Outcome Measures		
000091	Number of Department of Services for the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation clients obtaining employment.	37.50	37.50
000097	Average hourly wage of successful Department of Services for the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation participant employment outcomes.	\$4.33	\$4.33
	Output Measures		

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind
Decision Package Code/Title: N0 Buyback - Vocational Rehabilitation

000092	Number of Department of Services for the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation clients served.	337.50	337.50
--------	--	--------	--------

Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?

Strategies identified by DSB include outreach for client, business and provider awareness. Reduced staff due to the budget cut would preclude these activities and require the agency to only focus on base services to a reduced client caseload.

Does this DP provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities?

Restoration of the budget cut will bring in federal funds at a rate of \$4.70 federal to \$1.00 state funds. This will prevent DSB layoffs and maintain client placement performance. These results are in direct support of the Governor's Results Washington priority to develop a prosperous economy.

DSB not only works to develop jobs for visually disabled residents of the state, we also develop quality positions that on average exceed the Governor's goal of \$16.76 per hour rate (Results Washington 2.2.b) and that over 87% of our placements include employer paid benefits.

What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

Current vocational rehabilitation services provided by DSB are not subject to waiting lists. Restoration of the mandatory reductions will continue this status and retain our level of quality employment outcomes which contribute to that tax base for the State of Washington.

What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?

The alternative to restoring state budget cuts is to develop private sources. The incentive for the programs at DSB are focused on a broader benefit to the State of Washington. Procuring private funds would place the Vocational Rehabilitation program at a high risk level and redirect initiatives to the private benefactor.

What are the consequences of adopting or not adopting this package?

If this proposal is not funded, DSB will lay off staff and reduce services to Vocational Rehabilitation clients which will result in the projected 25% reduction in performance measures.

What is the relationship, if any, to the state's capital budget?

None.

What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?

None.

Expenditure and revenue calculations and assumptions

The calculations and assumptions are to restore the Vocational Rehabilitation staff and service reductions included in the mandatory reduction proposal. Excluding fixed costs, the 15% reduction results in a 20% cut to discretionary spending on staff, operations and client services.

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind
Decision Package Code/Title: N0 Buyback - Vocational Rehabilitation

Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?

All costs and functions are ongoing.

<u>Object Detail</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
A Salaries And Wages	440,000	440,000	880,000
B Employee Benefits	156,000	156,000	312,000
E Goods\Other Services	72,000	72,000	144,000
G Travel	28,000	28,000	56,000
J Capital Outlays	12,000	12,000	24,000
N Grants, Benefits & Client Services	615,000	614,000	1,229,000
Total Objects	1,323,000	1,322,000	2,645,000

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind**Decision Package Code/Title: P0 Buyback - Older Blind****Budget Period: 2015-17****Budget Level: PL - Performance Level****Recommendation Summary Text:**

The Department of Services for the Blind provides comprehensive skills training and counseling to individuals and their families who are blind or losing their vision. This proposal will restore the 15% state funding reduction for the Older Individuals who are Blind program allowing DSB to continue to provide limited training and assistive technology to the increasing older blind population so that those individuals can stay independent in their homes in spite of the effects of vision loss and aging.

Fiscal Detail

Operating Expenditures	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
001-1 General Fund - Basic Account-State	10,000	10,000	20,000
001-2 General Fund - Basic Account-Federal	90,000	90,000	180,000
Total Cost	100,000	100,000	200,000

Revenue

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
001 General Fund	0384 Dept of Education	90,000	90,000	180,000
Total Revenue		90,000	90,000	180,000

Package Description:

Our mission at the Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) is inclusion, independence, and economic vitality for people with visual disabilities. Within this mission, we provide services to older residents of the State of Washington through the Independent Living Older Blind Program (ILOB), also referred to as Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB). The mission of this program is to provide services designed to help seniors age 55 and older maintain or increase their lifestyle options and remain independent in the community despite significant vision loss.

Prior to the 15% state budget reduction requirement, this program was in financial hardship facing the need to curtail services to high-cost areas such as the rural community. While the funding reduction only amounts to \$20,000 for the biennium, it reduces our match for federal grant funds. The loss of federal funds is \$180,000 for the biennium. With the loss of these resources, DSB will only be able to provide limited services to the higher population centers in the state. This budget proposal is a request to restore the budget reduction and maximize available federal funds in order to continue a modicum of state-wide services.

Program Data:

* ILOB served 1,300 Washingtonians statewide in FY12 and increased to 1,400 in FY13 with an 80% satisfaction rate for service delivery.

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind**Decision Package Code/Title: P0 Buyback - Older Blind**

- * Average age of clients served is 86.
- * 76% of our clients make \$30,000 or less a year and nearly half of these clients make \$15,000 or less a year.
- * Census data indicates that 20% of individuals over age 55 have a significant enough vision loss to benefit from ILOB services, yet the program has resources to serve less than 3% of the eligible population.
- * Average cost of service (including administration) is less than \$700 per case.

Program Characteristics:

- * ILOB provides training to help clients adapt to significant vision loss including:
 - * getting around safely at home and in the community,
 - * meal preparation,
 - * medication identification and management,
 - * fall prevention,
 - * home maintenance,
 - * crafts and recreation,
 - * reading and writing, etc.
- * We provide counseling to help clients develop confidence after vision loss
- * For customers with very low income, we provide adaptive devices such as white canes, medical devices, kitchen devices, and magnification for reading and writing.
- * We do not maintain waiting lists because of the age of our customers and the nature of their needs.
- * We offer very limited service to each person and generally cannot provide recurring services even though an individual's rehabilitation needs will likely change throughout the aging process.
- * Despite these service limitations, about 90% of clients are able to live alone or with a spouse in the community rather than in a care facility after receiving services.

Program Providers

- * The ILOB program is delivered through community-based contractors who meet rigorous qualification and performance standards based on high risk factors related to client safety and serving a vulnerable population.
- * Contractor employees earn 33% to 50% less than their counterparts employed in state government.
- * We are unsuccessful in competing for new service providers as our contractors retire or get better jobs.
- * Contractors have traditionally offset about 50% of program costs through community resources, grants, and donations.
- * These resources have dwindled since 2008 and some contractors now have only ILOB funding.
- * Two contracts have terminated this biennium due to lack of funding.
- * Most contractors are now offsetting their financial shortfall by not filling employee vacancies which results in even further service reductions when combined with the increased caseload.

Funding Resources:

- * ILOB is 90% federally funded through a formula grant with a required 10% state match.
- * There has been no funding increase in more than 7 years.
- * ILOB Services are not considered "medically necessary", and therefore are not covered by insurance, Medicare, Medicaid etc. even when they are associated with other major medical conditions such as stroke or diabetes.
- * No federal or state funded programs, including Aging and Adult Services Administration, are mandated to collaborate with ILOB for service delivery.

Narrative Justification and Impact Statement***What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?***

Restoration of the budget cut will allow DSB to avoid the estimated 15% reduction in caseload capacity and performance.

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind

Decision Package Code/Title: P0 Buyback - Older Blind

Performance Measure Detail

Activity: A008Community Independent Living and Child and Family Programs

		Incremental Changes	
		<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>
Output Measures			
001642	Number of Department of Services for the Blind Independent Living - Older Blind clients served.	210.00	210.00

Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?

Funding of this proposal would allow DSB to continue to partner with the service provider community which is a significant strategic component of our plan.

Does this DP provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities?

Restoration of the budget cut will bring in federal funds at a rate of \$9.00 federal to \$1.00 state funds. This will prevent further service reductions and maintain client satisfaction. These results are in direct support of the Governor's Results Washington priorities.

The OIB services provided by DSB are performed by a network of small businesses located across the state. This proposal supports the Prosperous Economy goal through the Leading Indicator 1.2.d. - Increase GBI for small businesses by 4.7% from 2012 to 2015.

Satisfaction surveys have provided evidence that clients feel safer staying in their homes after receiving services through DSB. If these clients were also recipients of long-term care, this is supportive of the Healthy and Safe Communities goal through the Leading Indicator 3.2.a - Increase percentage of long-term service and support clients served in home and community-based settings from 82.9% to 83.7% by 06/30/2015.

What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

This program is performed in coordination with other state agencies to address unmet needs without duplicating efforts.

What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?

To qualify as match expenditures, funds invested in the program have restrictions on sources and uses. Donated funds would qualify as match to secure the federal grant resources and there are charitable foundations able to provide donations. However, this approach was not selected since the service provider community we contract with already use those same resources. This would put us in a position of being a competitor with our provider community instead of a business partner.

What are the consequences of adopting or not adopting this package?

The OIB program would be relegated to providing limited services only to the more populous regions of the state.

What is the relationship, if any, to the state's capital budget?

None.

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind

Decision Package Code/Title: P0 Buyback - Older Blind

What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?

None.

Expenditure and revenue calculations and assumptions

The calculations and assumptions are to restore the Older Individuals who are Blind service reductions included in the mandatory reduction proposal.

Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?

All costs are ongoing.

<u>Object Detail</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
N Grants, Benefits & Client Services	100,000	100,000	200,000

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind

Decision Package Code/Title: Q0 Buyback - Independent Living

Budget Period: 2015-17

Budget Level: PL - Performance Level

Recommendation Summary Text:

The Department of Services for the Blind provides comprehensive skills training and counseling to individuals and their families who are blind or losing their vision. This proposal will restore the 15% state funding reduction for the Independent Living program allowing DSB to continue to provide limited services to individuals under age 55 who are not currently bound for the workplace.

Blind and low vision individuals who have early exposure to adaptive skills training, vocational exploration and active socialization have a head start to becoming functional, employed and fully integrated adults. The Department of Services for the Blind knows not all learning can be accomplished in the classroom, and our Birth through 13 family and youth services program fills a complimentary niche to the state's early intervention centers and public school systems in providing family-centered and in-home services that promote the blind child's normal learning, development and independence.

A recent federal legislative revision to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 has implications related to this restoration. Section 504 has been revised to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities, public or private, that receive federal financial assistance, including special education in the State's school systems. With restored funding, DSB is in a unique position to assist implementation of this new provision.

Fiscal Detail

Operating Expenditures	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
001-1 General Fund - Basic Account-State	19,000	19,000	38,000
Total Cost	19,000	19,000	38,000
Staffing	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Annual Average</u>
FTEs	.4	.4	.4

Package Description:

General Fund - State resources provided to the Department of Services for the Blind are made available as match funds to federal grants for the independent living program. State funds for the grant-required match have tightened since 2008, and DSB no longer has been able to make use of state dollars to address the advocacy, referral and in-home training needs for families with children who have visual impairment. At age 14, the agency is able to serve blind youth through the vocational rehabilitation program and grant funds.

With this package request, the agency is looking to restore core Independent Living services for Washington visually impaired individuals and their families.

Our mission at the Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) is inclusion, independence, and economic vitality for people with visual disabilities.

* DSB provides blind and visually impaired residents of Washington with ever improving assistive technologies, enabling them to thrive in our local communities.

* DSB assists families with a blind child to set high expectations for that child, to access resources and training that will assure that child a future of success in school and eventually in a career.

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind
Decision Package Code/Title: Q0 Buyback - Independent Living

Narrative Justification and Impact Statement

What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?

Restoration of the budget cut will allow DSB to avoid the estimated 15% reduction in caseload capacity and performance.

Performance Measure Detail

Activity:	A008Community Independent Living and Child and Family Programs	Incremental Changes	
		<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>
	Output Measures		
001641	Number of Department of Services for the Blind Independent Living - Part B clients served.	40.00	40.00

Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?

By providing early support to the children and their families, the family develops belief in their child's future, a critical first step for encouraging the child's normal development. The parent learns alternative means of play, interaction and ways to invite exploration of the infant's environment, bringing the child into development more typical of their sighted peers. Through interaction with DSB staff, the family learns of the services available to their child, and how to effectively advocate to meet their child's need. As the child ages, DSB staff can provide in-home adaptive skill instruction for parent and child, which allows for the natural supports the child needs as he or she learns independent self-care and is incorporated into the family labor. Without these supports and resources, the development cycles of children who are blind or low vision can be delayed and develop dependencies, placing future burdens on the family, local school districts, and the state. A child with the right supports for independence will grow to more easily transition into being an independent adult, with the skills to be successful in higher education and in the workforce.

Through the 2012 American Community Survey, a component of the US Census, there are an estimated 5,400 to 11,200 youth aged birth - 15 who have a visual difficulty in Washington State. Through data from the Washington State School for the Blind, there are approximately 4,000 blind and low vision youth ages birth through 14 known to the state's school systems. Washington DSB served 120 children and their families in 2013, a minute fraction of the families and children in the state who require and would benefit from services.

Does this DP provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities?

The request for funding to allow an increase in Age 3 through 13 Services is in direct support of the Results Washington Goal 1.1 to improve the early learning achievements for children in Washington State. It is also supportive of the Results Washington Goal 1.2 to improve student achievement in elementary, middle and high schools. They form a critical foundational basis for meeting the Results Washington Goal 2 - Prosperous Economy targets by providing the early developmental skills that allow for an independent,

contributing adult.

What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind

Decision Package Code/Title: Q0 Buyback - Independent Living

Because state funding to the agency was cut after 2008, the capability of DSB to invest discretionary funding into this valuable program has been limited. Additional reductions in this budget cycle will severely limit our outreach to clients in need of services. Restoration of the current reductions to this program will ensure its benefits to other programs.

This program is performed in coordination with other state agencies to address unmet needs without duplicating efforts.

What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?

DSB conducted analyses on potential grant funding for this program. No funding agencies had available resources for this program.

What are the consequences of adopting or not adopting this package?

Without a sustainable state-funded base for this program, DSB will only have capacity to provide very restricted services to Independent Living clients. Development for children in this group will potentially be delayed, and the dependencies created in the early developmental years as a result, and the state will be required to provide more intensive and costly supports as the children age into adulthood. Adults in this program will become increasingly reliant on services from other agencies.

What is the relationship, if any, to the state's capital budget?

None.

What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?

There are currently no mandates in RCW or WAC for DSB to provide this service.

Expenditure and revenue calculations and assumptions

The calculations and assumptions are to restore the Independent Living staff and service reductions included in the mandatory reduction proposal. Excluding fixed costs, the 15% reduction resulted in a 20% cut to discretionary spending on staff, operations and client services.

Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?

All costs are ongoing.

<u>Object Detail</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
A Salaries And Wages	10,000	10,000	20,000
B Employee Benefits	3,000	3,000	6,000
E Goods\Other Services	2,000	2,000	4,000
G Travel	1,000	1,000	2,000
N Grants, Benefits & Client Services	3,000	3,000	6,000
Total Objects	19,000	19,000	38,000

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind

Decision Package Code/Title: R0 Age 3 - 13 Services

Budget Period: 2015-17

Budget Level: PL - Performance Level

Recommendation Summary Text:

Blind and low vision individuals who have early exposure to adaptive skills training, vocational exploration and active socialization have a head start to becoming functional, employed and fully integrated adults. The Department of Services for the Blind knows not all learning can be accomplished in the classroom, and our Birth through 13 family and youth services program fills a complimentary niche to the state's early intervention centers and public school systems in providing family-centered and in-home services that promote the blind child's normal learning, development and independence.

The Department of Services for the Blind's Birth through Age 13 program was established through the use of Washington State General funds, but has been funded solely through federal and non-state discretionary funds since 2008. In 2007, staffing for the program was at 3.5 FTE, but after state budget cuts in 2008 staffing was reduced to 1.23 FTE. This request package is designed to restore the service capacity that was cut specifically for age 3 - 13 children and their families.

A recent federal legislative revision to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 has implications related to this restoration. Section 504 has been revised to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities, public or private, that receive federal financial assistance, including special education in the State's school systems. Funding this package would place DSB in a unique position to assist implementation of this new provision.

Fiscal Detail

Operating Expenditures	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
001-1 General Fund - Basic Account-State	175,000	175,000	350,000
Total Cost	175,000	175,000	350,000
Staffing	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Annual Average</u>
FTEs	2.0	2.0	2.0

Package Description:

General Fund - State resources provided to the Department of Services for the Blind are made available as match funds to federal grants for the vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs. State funds for the grant-required match have tightened since 2008, and DSB no longer has been able to make use of state dollars to address the advocacy, referral and in-home training needs for families with children who have visual impairment. At age 14, the agency is able to serve blind youth through the vocational rehabilitation program and grant funds.

With this package request, the agency is looking to restore critical core services for Washington families and children ages 3 through 13 with visual impairment.

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind**Decision Package Code/Title: R0 Age 3 - 13 Services**

Age 3 through 13 services include:

- * Information and referral to the appropriate community resources.
- * Training in the specialized developmental needs and parenting techniques for a child who is blind or has low vision.
- * Guidance in exploring and understanding the nature and potential impacts of the child's visual disability.
- * Counseling towards building the foundation of a productive, independent and successful childhood, youth, and adulthood.
- * Assistance in advocating for access needs through the K-through-12 school system.
- * Training for adaptive daily living skills for both the child and family to help the child become more independent at home and participate in household chores, and to help the family more naturally encourage and foster independence and community integration for the child.
- * Workshops to provide independent living skills and opportunities to interact with peer blind and low vision youth and their families.
- * Introduction for parents to the scope and sequence of services that are available to blind children and youth, including DSB Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Department's Age 3 through 13 Program is the only blind youth program in Washington State that provides family education and in-home training as core elements of its services.

For birth through six years of age, our staff provide support, advice and training to parents throughout this developmental period. Family training includes infant stimulation, developmental training, orientation to blindness, independence skills, and other developmental techniques that help in the overall adjustment to the visual impairment.

For ages seven through thirteen, DSB is a vital resource for information and techniques that maximize the effectiveness of educational institutions and self-advocacy. DSB provides independent living skills workshops and in-home training for blind and visually impaired youth, and prepares youth and their family for the future move to adult vocational rehabilitation services.

The Summer Camp for Independent Living Skills (SCILS) workshops are held for blind youth ages 9 - 13. In a day-camp format, training and activities are offered for age-appropriate skills development. While learning to do household chores, making food, preparing shopping lists and going shopping, the participants learn that they are capable of taking part in family responsibilities like their sighted peers and siblings. As one participant described the experience: "I realized I wasn't alone, I am like everybody else...I can have fun like my sister does".

Narrative Justification and Impact Statement

What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?

Funding of this proposal will enable DSB to restore services to meet the needs of a growing number of blind and visually impaired children and their families, and better prepare our state's blind children for their best future as independent, capable, fully-functional employed, tax paying, and actively participating adult citizens of Washington State.

DSB anticipates that the funding this proposal would result in an increase of 300 clients in FY16 and an additional 100 in FY17

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind

Decision Package Code/Title: R0 Age 3 - 13 Services

Performance Measure Detail

Activity: A008Community Independent Living and Child and Family Programs

Incremental Changes
FY 2016 FY 2017

Output Measures

001641	Number of Department of Services for the Blind Independent Living - Part B clients served.	300.00	400.00
--------	--	--------	--------

Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?

By providing early support to the children and their families, the family develops belief in their child's future, a critical first step for encouraging the child's normal development. The parent learns alternative means of play, interaction and ways to invite exploration of the infant's environment, bringing the child into development more typical of their sighted peers. Through interaction with DSB staff, the family learns of the services available to their child, and how to effectively advocate to meet their child's need. As the child ages, DSB staff can provide in-home adaptive skill instruction for parent and child, which allows for the natural supports the child needs as he or she learns independent self-care and is incorporated into the family labor. Without these supports and resources, the development cycles of children who are blind or low vision can be delayed and develop dependencies, placing future burdens on the family, local school districts, and the state. A child with the right supports for independence will grow to more easily transition into being an independent adult, with the skills to be successful in higher education and in the workforce.

Through the 2012 American Community Survey, a component of the US Census, there are an estimated 5,400 to 11,200 youth aged birth - 15 who have a visual difficulty in Washington State. Through data from the Washington State School for the Blind, there are approximately 4,000 blind and low vision youth ages birth through 14 known to the state's school systems. Washington DSB served 120 children and their families in 2013, a minute fraction of the families and children in the state who require and would benefit from services.

Does this DP provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities?

The request for funding to allow an increase in Age 3 through 13 Services is in direct support of the Results Washington Goal 1.1 to improve the early learning achievements for children in Washington State. It is also supportive of the Results Washington Goal 1.2 to improve student achievement in elementary, middle and high schools. They form a critical foundational basis for meeting the Results Washington Goal 2 - Prosperous Economy targets by providing the early developmental skills that allow for an independent, contributing adult.

What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

Because state funding to the agency was cut after 2008, the capability of DSB to invest discretionary funding into this valuable program has been limited. Dedicating resources to this program will ensure its benefits to other programs.

This program is performed in coordination with other state agencies to address unmet needs without duplicating efforts.

What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?

DSB conducted analyses on potential grant funding for this program. No funding agencies had available resources for this program.

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind

Decision Package Code/Title: R0 Age 3 - 13 Services

What are the consequences of adopting or not adopting this package?

Without a sustainable state-funded base for this program, DSB will only have capacity to provide very restricted services to blind children and their families. Development for this group of children will potentially be delayed, and the dependencies created in the early developmental years as a result, and the state will be required to provide more intensive and costly supports as the children age into adulthood.

What is the relationship, if any, to the state's capital budget?

None.

What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?

There are currently no mandates in RCW or WAC for DSB to provide this service.

Expenditure and revenue calculations and assumptions

The funding request is based on prior expenditures, existing unmet demand and anticipated growing needs.

An additional 2 FTE would be required to bridge the current gap in services for blind youth and their families. These positions would be classified at a Rehabilitation Teacher 3 level with salaries and benefits totaling \$153,000 per year. Annual supporting costs for these individuals would include \$2,000 in goods and services, \$10,000 in travel and \$10,000 in additional purchased client services.

Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?

These are all ongoing costs and do not create additional needs in future biennia.

<u>Object Detail</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
A Salaries And Wages	112,000	112,000	224,000
B Employee Benefits	41,000	41,000	82,000
E Goods\Other Services	2,000	2,000	4,000
G Travel	10,000	10,000	20,000
N Grants, Benefits & Client Services	10,000	10,000	20,000
Total Objects	175,000	175,000	350,000

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind

Decision Package Code/Title: S0 Older Blind Independent Living

Budget Period: 2015-17

Budget Level: PL - Performance Level

Recommendation Summary Text:

The Independent Living Older Blind Program (ILOB) provides services designed to help seniors age 55 and older maintain or increase their lifestyle options and remain independent in the community despite significant vision loss.

Due to rising costs and declining numbers of service providers, DSB is requesting additional General Fund State resources in order to maintain our current service level by increasing the payments to the network of contracted service providers.

Fiscal Detail

Operating Expenditures	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
001-1 General Fund - Basic Account-State	200,000	200,000	400,000
Total Cost	200,000	200,000	400,000

Package Description:

With a mission to provide services designed to help seniors age 55 and older maintain or increase their lifestyle options and remain independent in the community despite significant vision loss, the Department of services for the Blind's Independent Living Older Blind program served 1,300 Washingtonians statewide in FY12 and increased to 1,400 in FY13 with an 80% satisfaction rate for service delivery. The average age of these clients was 86. 76% of our clients make \$30,000 or less a year and nearly half of these clients make \$15,000 or less a year. Census data indicates that 20% of individuals over age 55 have a significant enough vision loss to benefit from ILOB services, yet the program has resources to serve less than 3% of the eligible population. The average cost of the service provided (including administration) is less than \$700 per case.

The ILOB services include:

- * ILOB provides training to help clients adapt to significant vision loss including:
- * getting around safely at home and in the community,
- * meal preparation,
- * medication identification and management,
- * fall prevention,
- * home maintenance,
- * crafts and recreation,
- * reading and writing, etc.
- * We provide counseling to help clients develop confidence after vision loss
- * For customers with very low income, we provide adaptive devices such as white canes, medical devices, kitchen devices, and magnification for reading and writing.
- * We do not maintain waiting lists because of the age of our customers and the nature of their needs.
- * We offer very limited service to each person and generally cannot provide recurring services even though an individual's

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind**Decision Package Code/Title:** S0 Older Blind Independent Living

rehabilitation needs will likely change throughout the aging process.

* Despite these service limitations, about 90% of clients are able to live alone or with a spouse in the community rather than in a care facility after receiving services.

The ILOB program is delivered through network of community-based contractors who meet rigorous qualification and performance standards based on high risk factors related to client safety and serving a vulnerable population. Contractor and their employees earn 33% to 50% less than their counterparts employed in state government which has left DSB unsuccessful in competing for new service providers as our contractors retire or get better jobs. Our contractors have traditionally offset about 50% of program costs through community resources, grants, and donations. These resources have dwindled since 2008 and some contractors now have only DSB/ILOB funding. This past biennium, we had two contractors terminate their service agreements due to lack of adequate funding for the services being provided. Most contractors are now offsetting their financial shortfall by not filling employee vacancies which results in even further service reductions when combined with the increased caseload.

The program is 90% federally funded through a formula grant with a required 10% state match. On rare occasions, additional resources have been made available through agency redistribution of funds. There has been no funding increase in more than 7 years at either the federal or state level while the aging population has substantially increased. ILOB services are not considered "medically necessary", and therefore are not covered by insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, etc. even when they are associated with other major medical conditions such as stroke or diabetes. No federal or state funded programs, including Aging and Long-Term Support Administration, are mandated to collaborate with ILOB for service delivery.

This enhancement proposal has been submitted in an effort to maintain the statewide caseload at 1,400 and increase the continuity of services throughout the lifespan of clients to ensure that individuals have the option to not enter care facilities strictly based on their vision loss. This will be accomplished through increased service provider reimbursement at an additional 20% in order to slow program attrition and maintain capacity. Even with this increase, average lifetime case costs will be less than \$900.

Narrative Justification and Impact Statement

What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?

This enhancement proposal has been submitted in an effort to maintain the statewide caseload at 1,400 and increase the continuity of services throughout the lifespan of clients to ensure that individuals have the option to not enter care facilities strictly based on their vision loss.

Performance Measure Detail

Activity:

No measures submitted for package

Incremental Changes

Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?

Census data indicates that 20% of individuals over age 55 have significant enough vision loss to benefit from ILOB services, yet the program has resources to serve less than 3% of the eligible population. Services provided by ILOB are not considered medically necessary, and therefore are not covered by insurance, Medicare, Medicaid etc. even when they are associated with other major medical conditions such as stroke or diabetes.

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind
Decision Package Code/Title: S0 Older Blind Independent Living

We do not maintain waiting lists because of the age of our customers and the nature of their needs. We offer very limited service to each person and sometimes cannot provide recurring services even though an individual's rehabilitation needs are likely to change several times throughout the aging process. Independent contractors who provide ILOB services have traditionally used community resources to offset program shortfalls. These resources are dwindling and some providers now only have ILOB funding. This means that services are not equitable throughout the state with no services in several rural counties.

Does this DP provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities?

The OIB services provided by DSB are performed by a network of small businesses located across the state. This proposal supports the Prosperous Economy goal through the Leading Indicator 1.2.d. Increase GBI for small businesses by 4.7% from 2012 to 2015.

Satisfaction surveys have provided evidence that clients feel safer staying in their homes after receiving services through DSB. If these clients were also recipients of long term care, this is supportive of the Healthy and Safe Communities goal through the Leading Indicator 3.2.a Increase percentage of long term service and support clients served in home and community based settings from 82.9% to 83.7% by 06/30/2015.

What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

This program is performed in coordination with other state agencies to address unmet needs without duplicating efforts.

What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?

To qualify as match expenditures, funds invested in the program have restrictions on sources and uses. Donated funds would qualify as match to secure the federal grant resources and there are charitable foundations able to provide donations. However, this approach was not selected since the service provider community we contract with already use those same resources. This would put us in a position of being a competitor with our provider community instead of a business partner.

What are the consequences of adopting or not adopting this package?

DSB would no longer be able to sustain minimal service levels statewide. The program would be relegated to providing limited services only to the more populous regions of the state.

What is the relationship, if any, to the state's capital budget?

None.

What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?

None.

Expenditure and revenue calculations and assumptions

The basis of the increase is to provide an average 20% increase to the existing service provider rate schedule.

Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?

State of Washington
Decision Package

FINAL

Agency: 315 Dept of Services for the Blind

Decision Package Code/Title: S0 Older Blind Independent Living

All costs are ongoing.

<u>Object Detail</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
N Grants, Benefits & Client Services	200,000	200,000	400,000