

February 26, 2009

Wayne Hammon, Administrator
Division of Financial Management
700 W State Street, 1st Floor
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0032

Subject: Stimulus Request for the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI)

Dear Wayne:

As per requested in Executive Order Number 2009-06, I am requesting the following attached items for ICBVI and the blind and visually impaired in Idaho. The entire request falls under Category 1 in the Executive Order.

- (a) ICBVI anticipates receiving \$109,311 under the Title VII, Part B Independent Living Grant and \$89,539 for Services for Older Individuals who are blind.
- (b) ICBVI expects to receive funds in approximately 90 days but further directives will be forthcoming by the U.S. Department of Education.
- (c) Federal funding will be allocated through existing federal programs.
- (d) ICBVI is not required to provide match for the federal stimulus funding therefore there is no impact, currently or in the future, on the General Fund.
- (e) Yes, ICBVI will need additional spending authority in the Federal Fund.
- (f) No additional state employees will be needed to oversee or administer the federal funds.
- (g) ICBVI is not required to meet match and has three (3) years to spend the funds.
- (h) Federal funding will end in federal fiscal year 2011.
- (i) See attachment.

Sincerely,

Angela Jones
Administrator

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700 W State Street, 1st Floor
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0032

Subject: Stimulus Request for the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI)

Dear Wayne:

As per requested in Executive Order Number 2009-06, I am requesting the following attached items for ICBVI and the blind and visually impaired in Idaho. The entire request falls under Category 1 of the Executive Order.

- (a) The state of Idaho anticipates receiving \$3,299,632 under the Vocational Rehabilitation Basic Support Federal Grant. Currently ICBVI has a cooperative agreement with the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) for a split of 88% for IDVR and 12% for ICBVI. ICBVI currently receives the lowest split in the nation for a blind agency; the current national average being 17%. IDVR has a carryover of \$2.9 million in Basic Support funds from 2008 which must be obligated or spent on or before September 30, 2009. Based on this significant carryover IDVR has at its disposal, ICBVI is requesting to increase the stimulus split from 12% to 22.3%, or \$735,000, to create jobs for the blind and visually impaired in Idaho.
- (b) ICBVI expects to receive funds in approximately 90 days but further directives will be forthcoming by the U.S. Department of Education.
- (c) Federal funding will be allocated through existing federal programs.
- (d) ICBVI is not required to provide match or Maintenance of Effort (MOE) on the federal stimulus funding, therefore allowing ICBVI to expand its efforts in job development, assistive technology equipment and training for ICBVI staff, potential and current employers and clients, and in the maintenance of employment without impact, currently or in the future, on the General Fund.
- (e) Yes, ICBVI will need additional spending authority in the Federal Fund.
- (f) No additional state employees will be needed to oversee or administer the federal funds.
- (g) ICBVI is not required to meet match or MOE and has three (3) years to spend the funds. The federal requirement associated with spending these funds is to focus on clients obtaining employment.
- (h) Federal funding will end in federal fiscal year 2011.
- (i) See attachment.

Sincerely,

Angela Jones,
Administrator

**Idaho Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Agency Plan for Stimulus Funds
through the Independent Living Federal Grant**

Independent Living Program	Purchase Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTV's) for use as loaners for Rehabilitation Teachers to work with clients and also to conduct training and travel around the state to teach our blind and visually impaired clients independent living skills.	\$50,000
Independent Living Program	A traveling low vision clinic will be utilized over a 3 year period to reach clients in regional and rural areas of the state who do not have the money or access to low vision eye care and low vision training and techniques to help them live independently in the community and in their homes.	\$59,000
Justification	When clients are given the opportunity to increase their confidence and independence in a setting, they are more likely to engage in more community activities and become active consumers again, therefore stimulating the economy. Clients tend to discontinue shopping and eating at restaurants due to difficulty with reading labels, identifying money, and problems with eating techniques. However, when clients have received training in these areas, and they are supported in their endeavors by their peers they are more likely to resume these activities.	

Independent Living Older Blind Program	A traveling low vision clinic will be utilized over a 2 year period to assist older blind in rural areas of the state to access our low vision specialist to assist them in adapting and specialized training in blindness.	\$29,000
Justification	By providing this low vision training our older blind population will be able to live at home independently.	
Independent Living Older Blind Program	Funding for Newslines Program Access to information of all kinds, such as that contained on Internet Web sites and in the press is critical to the ability of those requiring reading alternatives to remain productive and active members of society. This includes the blind, visually impaired, and physically disabled. Newslines cannot be purchased by individuals, only at the state level.	\$30,000 x 2 years

Justification	Older Blind individuals often have limited access to activities outside the home. This program offers them an opportunity to access national and local news and helps them feel involved in the community. This takes the place of the discontinued ICBVI Radio Reading Program which was cut due to holdbacks.	
	TOTAL	\$ 189,000

**Idaho Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Agency Plan for Stimulus Funds
through the Vocational Rehabilitation Federal Grant**

Program	Description	Approximate Amount
Assessment & Training Center	Sawstop Table Saw for Industrial Arts Training Job Readiness Class	\$3,600
Assessment & Training Center	2 Laser Printers (ATC & Library) KNFB Readers Apple Macintosh computer Lap top for HVAC system 12 - ESD Chair pads Braille Display 64 cell Brailant 2 - CCTV's (Merlin 19") (library/ATC) 4 - Computers for Library PacMate Omni BX 420 PacMate Omni QX 420	\$1,800 \$9,800 \$3,000 \$1,500 \$700 \$7,500 \$5,600 \$6,000 \$3,800 \$3,800
Assessment & Training Center	Kurzweil Scanning Software Open Book Scanning Software 2 - Guide Software 10 - Window Eyes Software	\$6,400 \$400 \$1,600 \$4,000
Assessment & Training Center	Produce Video for ATC to attract students from other states to bring in revenue to the agency of an average of \$18,000 per student per year.	\$10,000
Justification	This assistive technology will enable ICBVI to train clients in gaining employment or to assist them in maintaining their current employment. This will also attract clients from surrounding states without a training center which in turn will produce revenue.	
	SUB TOTAL	\$69,500
Business Enterprise Program	Remodel a BEP location in Boise Includes demolition of existing back line cabinets, repair of plumbing, flooring, electrical and new cabinets, new oven and stand, drying rack for dishwasher. Cabinet is warped due to weight of the oven. Leaks from plumbing have caused rotting cabinets, a ruined floor and an unsanitary and unsafe condition.	\$17,000

Business Enterprise Program	<p>Replacement of equipment at BEP location at the INL site.</p> <p>Current operating permit requires this service and ICBVI is required to replace and maintain equipment per the terms of the permit. Equipment is now beyond repair.</p>	\$6,000
Business Enterprise Program	<p>Replacement of counter top refrigerator units at BEP location at the INL site.</p> <p>Permit requires certain services and ICBVI is obligated to supply equipment, maintain and replace the equipment to meet the terms of the permit.</p>	\$3,000
Business Enterprise Program	BEP location in Boise, to repair grill or replace the unit which is currently a safety hazard and could cause a fire.	\$6,000
Business Enterprise Program	<p>BEP location at the INL site for a remodel snack bar to improve efficiency of service.</p> <p>New cabinets to replace old for safety issues. Add adequate electrical to oven and prep table.</p>	\$17,000
Justification	The updates will allow the BEP Vendor to increase their income, which in turn can create more employment opportunities in hiring new staff to help with the increased sales. This will also enable vendors to train other blind for employment opportunities and increase their sales and pay which increases revenues to ICBVI.	
	SUB TOTAL	\$49,000
Miscellaneous Agency Items	Five vehicles with current mileage over 100,000 not scheduled to be replaced in 2009 or 2010. Appx \$20,000 per vehicle.	\$100,000
Justification	Typically our clients don't drive, so we frequently meet clients in their homes, help provide transportation for them to attend VR appointments, training, job interviews, job development sessions and other tasks related to gaining employment.	
	TOTAL	\$100,000

Vocational Rehabilitation	<p>Hire an Assistive Technologist for 3 years which could reduce our ongoing case service costs. Train clients, Rehab Teachers and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors in the use of assistive technology so they can train clients in their regions which will help them obtain employment.</p> <p>Equipment needed for training in the regional offices and rural areas of the state.</p> <p>AT Trainer full time (2080 hours per year at \$25.00 an hour)</p>	<p>\$56,000</p> <p>\$156,000 For 3 years</p>
Justification	Beginning in 2012, after receiving concentrated training from an Assistive Technology Specialist our Rehabilitation Teachers will be able to assist and train clients in the use of assistive technology, in all regions of the state, which greatly improves the client's chances of becoming employed and/or maintaining employment	
Vocational Rehabilitation	Scanning software/hardware for documents into the case management system	\$5,000
Justification	Increased effectiveness of staff time which will allow more time for job development.	
Vocational Rehabilitation	Complete ICMS (Idaho Case Management System) upgrades. Once the case management system upgrades are complete, our IT staff will then be able to handle the routine maintenance.	\$150,000 for 3 years
Justification	Updating the case management system will enable the VR Counselors to cut down their office paperwork by 25-30% and will allow more time on job development in the local communities for our clients.	
Vocational Rehabilitation	Provide initial trainings to Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs) and other stakeholders to increase their working relationships with our clients. This was requested on our 3 year needs assessment.	\$31,000 For 3 years
Justification	We will pay for the initial trainings up to the 3 year mark. The CRPs and other stakeholders will be	

	able to see the added value and pick up the cost of the training after the 3 years. The long term impact will be increased employment outcomes for our clients because CRPs and other stakeholders will have a greater effectiveness in working with and placing our blind and visually impaired clients. Again ultimately long term impact could be lowered case service dollars overall per placement and increased employment outcomes.	
Vocational Rehabilitation	Hire a job developer to work with Vocational Rehabilitation staff to educate potential employers who have little knowledge of blindness. This job developer will also put together small seminars in communities around the state bringing to employers awareness regarding hiring a person who is blind and the tax saving incentives. This person will work in conjunction with the Assistive Technologist to secure job placement. Job Developer full time (2080 hours per year at \$20.00 an hour for 2 years) Educational awareness materials, travel costs, per diem and meeting rooms.	\$83,200 \$35,000
Justification	This task of job development will fall onto the VR Counselors after the 2 year training period is up and will help to create jobs.	
	SUB TOTAL	\$517,000
AGENCY TOTALS		\$735,000