

VR-SFP Chapter 10: Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind

August 1, 2019

10.1 Overview of Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind

Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind (ILS-OIB) focuses on adjustment to blindness and development of skills so that customers can live confidently and independently in their homes and communities. The program's goals are to empower individuals with disabilities; maximize their leadership potential, independence, and productivity; and ensure their integration and full inclusion in society.

The ILS-OIB program promotes independent living by encouraging self-control, self-help, and self-determination, and by promoting equal access and individual and systemic advocacy. The program assists customers address the impact of their loss of vision so that each customer can achieve their independent living goals.

The ILS-OIB program works through its partnerships with the Centers for Independent Living, the Texas State Independent Living Council, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, and ILS-OIB caseloads.

TWC staff who support ILS-OIB caseloads are referred to as "OIB workers."

ILS-OIB helps customers:

- who are age 55 and older;
- whose have significant visual impairment;
- whose ability to function independently in the home, family, or community is substantially limited due to visual impairment; and
- for whom the delivery of independent living (IL) services will substantially improve their ability to function, continue functioning, or move toward functioning independently in the home, family, or community.
- Providers of IL skills services are authorized by the OIB worker when the services are needed as needed by and appropriate to meet the customer's IL goal.
- A provider's services can include one or more of the following:
 - IL Skills Training
 - Orientation and Mobility (O&M) training

- Diabetes Management Training
- Braille Instruction
- Equipment
- Guide Services
- Reader services
- Transportation
- Information and Referral (I&R)
- Peer counseling
- Individual and family advocacy training
- Advocacy training for the family
- Transition services, for moving a customer from a nursing home or other institution to the customer's home or other residence in the community, along with the necessary individual support services

For information on O&M training and Diabetes Management Training, see [Chapter 5: Orientation and Mobility Services](#) and [Chapter 7: Diabetes Self-Management Education Services](#).

Other services include referral to and information to outreach services such as visual screening, surgery, or therapeutic treatment to prevent, correct, or modify disabling eye conditions, and hospitalization related to these services.

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10.6 IL Skills Training Fee Schedule

The fee for providing IL skills training—that is, training the customer directly or discussing the customer's training with the OIB worker—is ~~\$35~~75 per hour.

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