Statewide Interagency Aging Services Coordinating Council

(SIASCC) 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

TWC Implementation Plan for Statewide Interagency Aging Services Coordinating Council 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

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Executive Summary

This Implementation Plan outlines how the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Older Individuals Who Are Blind (OIB) Program supports the Statewide Interagency Aging Services Coordinating Council's (SIASCC) 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Through the OIB Program, TWC addresses the needs of older Texans who are blind or visually impaired. This plan details the OIB Program's specific tactics, implementation steps, and required resources for achieving these objectives. This plan will be submitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Legislature by TWC's Governmental Relations Department (GR). In addition, TWC will continue to explore how the agency's existing resources and programs can be used to improve aging services in Texas.

Introduction

SIASCC was established to ensure a strategic, statewide approach to interagency aging services. Following its creation, SIASCC was tasked with developing a five-year strategic plan. Based on the strategies and tactics outlined in that plan, TWC developed this roadmap for aligning OIB Program activities with the overall vision and mission of SIASCC.

Agency and Program Overview

TWC is the state agency charged with overseeing and providing workforce development services to employers and job seekers in Texas. TWC's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Division oversees the OIB Program to provide specialized services to Texans aged 55 and older who are blind or have significant visual impairments. The OIB program aims to promote independence and self-sufficiency through information and referral, independent living skills training, and access to assistive technology and rehabilitative aids.

OIB Program's Commitment

The OIB Program is committed to supporting target populations through activities that directly align with the strategies and tactics identified in the SIASCC Strategic Plan. The OIB Program will focus on enhancing access to services for older Texans who are blind or visually impaired, promoting collaboration with other agencies and organizations, and raising awareness of available resources.

TWC Implementation of the 2025-30 SIASCC Strategic Plan Strategies

The following sections detail the OIB Program's Implementation Plan for each selected tactic:

1. **Tactic Number: (From the SIASCC Strategic Plan - Appendix B)**
2. **Tactic Description: (From the SIASCC Strategic Plan - Appendix B)**
3. **Lead Program Area within TWC: OIB Program**
4. **Steps for Implementation: (Specific actions OIB will take)**
5. **Resources/Needs for Implementing: (Staff, budget, technology, partnerships, etc.)**

SIASCC Goal 1 – Enhance Public Awareness of Aging Services and Programs in Texas.

TWC Tactics

Strategy 1.4: Increase awareness of services and supports for older Texans with disabilities (e.g., blindness and/or visual impairments) as well as geriatric health conditions (e.g., Alzheimer's Disease).

Table 1

Tactic Number	Tactic Description	Lead Program Area	Steps for Implementation	Resources/Implementation Needs	Timeframe
1.4.8	Conduct outreach focused on Texans aged 55 and older with low vision and blindness through TWC's OIB Program.	OIB Program	1. OIB Program specialists (20 statewide) will dedicate time to monthly outreach activities. 2. Outreach will include presentations/meetings with organizations (vision specialists, home health agencies, senior living facilities, social service agencies). 3. Participation in senior or health fairs across the state annually. 4. Distribute standardized materials (brochures, flyers, calendars, etc.) highlighting OIB Program services and resources for older adults with low vision/blindness. 5. Promote the OIB Program helpline as a resource during outreach activities.	• Existing OIB Program staff (20 specialists and program support staff). • Existing OIB Program budget for travel and materials. • Updated outreach materials (brochures, flyers). • Partnerships with community organizations (vision specialists, senior centers, social service agencies, etc.).	Annually

SIASCC Goal 2 - Strengthen coordination and collaboration among aging services providers.

TWC Tactics

Strategy 2.3: Integrate state agency cross-collaboration within agency plans and aging related projects.

Table 2

Tactic Number	Tactic Description	Lead Program Area	Steps for Implementation	Resources/Implementation Needs	Timeframe
2.3.7	Collaborate with Centers for Independent Living (CILs) through joint training, referral exchanges, and technical assistance calls.	OIB Program	1. OIB Program specialists (20 statewide) will dedicate time to monthly outreach activities. 2. Outreach will include presentations/meetings with organizations (vision specialists, home health agencies, senior living facilities, social service agencies). 3. Participation in senior or health fairs across the state annually. 4. Distribute standardized materials (brochures, flyers, calendars, etc.) highlighting OIB Program services and resources for older adults with low vision/blindness. 5. Promote the OIB Program helpline as a resource during outreach activities.	• Existing OIB Program staff (20 specialists and program support staff). • Existing OIB Program budget for travel and materials. • Updated outreach materials (brochures, flyers). • Partnerships with community organizations (vision specialists, senior centers, social service agencies, etc.).	Annually

Tactic Number	Tactic Description	Lead Program Area	Steps for Implementation	Resources/Implementation Needs	Timeframe
2.3.8	Participate in and attend various trainings in collaboration with community partners.	OIB Program	1. Identify training opportunities for cross population trainings. 2. Participate in various trainings provided by community partners. 3. Promote shared learning opportunities.	• OIB Program staff time for meetings and collaboration (existing resources) • Training materials for joint training sessions • Contact lists for partners	Annually
2.3.9	Participate in staff meetings or events held by local agencies to build stronger relationships.	OIB Program	1. Partner with community partners on meetings and events 2. Promote participation by all OIB Program staff 3. Attend events and meetings invited to 4. Disseminate information at staff meetings and events to increase the awareness	• OIB Program staff time for meetings and collaboration (existing resources) • Training materials for joint training sessions • Contact lists for partners	Annually

SIASCC Goal 3 – Simplify and streamline access to aging services and programs.

TWC Tactics

Strategy 3.2: Assess current aging resources and communications to identify needed changes to simplify and improve the quality of information.

Table 3

Tactic Number	Tactic Description	Lead Program Area	Steps for Implementation	Resources/Implementation Needs	Timeframe
3.2.13	Collaborate with the Texas State Library Talking Book Program to produce the "Guide to Independent Living for Older Individuals Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired" as an audio version in both English and Spanish.	OIB Program	1. Promote the availability of the audiobook. 2. Facilitate access to the Talking Book Program. 3. Segment the audio guide. 4. Provide segmented version.	▪ OIB Program staff time for coordination and promotion. ▪ Ongoing communication with the Texas State Library Talking Book Program.	FY2025
3.2.14	Review and update OIB program brochures and materials as needed to ensure they are clear, accurate, and available in accessible formats, including large print and braille.	OIB Program	1. Annually review OIB Program brochures and materials to determine if updates are needed. 2. Ensure materials are written in plain language and are easy to understand. 3. Make materials available in accessible formats: large print, braille, audio, and digital formats compatible with screen readers. 4. Disseminate updated materials through OIB outreach channels and online.	• OIB Program staff time for review and updates. • Accessibility expertise (internal). • Budget for printing and producing accessible materials.	FY2025

SIASCC Goal 5 - Reduce ageism through age-friendly public outreach, awareness, and education.

TWC Tactics

Strategy 5.2: Develop age-friendly resources, communications and programs that are in alignment with the national framework and principles.

Table 4

Tactic Number	Tactic Description	Lead Program Area	Steps for Implementation	Resources/Implementation Needs	Timeframe
5.2.15	Annually review OIB Program publications to ensure they reflect a positive and empowering approach to independence and aging, fostering an age-friendly perspective.	OIB Program	1. Establish a regular review cycle for all OIB Program publications to determine if any updates need to be made. 2. Utilize "age-friendly" language and imagery. 3. Promote independence and self-determination in all materials. 4. Avoid stereotypes or negative portrayals of aging.	▪ Staff time for review and revision. ▪ Training on age-friendly communications. ▪ Access to appropriate images and graphics.	Annually
5.2.16	Expand October's White Cane Day and other activities to incorporate ageism awareness to highlight the achievements of older adults who are blind or visually impaired, showcasing their independence and resilience while addressing societal misconceptions about aging.	OIB Program	1. Incorporate ageism awareness messaging into White Cane Day events and other events. 2. Showcase successful older adults with vision loss as speakers and participants. 3. Develop and distribute materials that challenge ageist stereotypes. 4. Continue to educate staff and others about ageism.	• OIB Program staff time for planning and implementation. • Event space and logistics. • Marketing and communication resources. • Partnerships with local organizations.	Annually

Justification for Not Implementing Specific Tactics

Goal 4 (Increase outreach and support of family caregivers of adults aged 60 and older):

- The OIB Program's primary mission is fostering independence for older individuals who are blind. Supporting family caregivers does not align directly with this focus, and current resources, funding, and staffing are insufficient to expand into this area. Referrals to other programs will be offered as needed.

Tactics in Goals 1, 2, 3, and 5 not specifically listed:

- TWC's OIB Program focused on the specific tactics that most directly align with its mission and resources for this initial strategic plan. Future research will be conducted to determine if additional contributions from other TWC programs can be made to improve aging services.

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
AAAs	Area Agencies on Aging
ADRCs	Aging and Disability Resource Centers
AMH	Adult Mental Health
ATW	Aging Texas Well
CCSE	Community Care Services Eligibility
CHCS	Center for Health Care Strategies
CILs	Centers for Independent Living
HB	House Bill
HCBS	Home and Community-Based Services
HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission
KYN	Know Your Neighbor
LTCR	Long-Term Care Regulatory
LTSS	Long-Term Services and Supports
MCOs	Managed Care Organizations
MCS	Medicaid and CHIP Services
MIPPA	Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act
NWD	No Wrong Door
OAA	Older Americans Act
OAAA	Office of Area Agencies on Aging
OADRC	Office of Aging and Disability Resource Centers
OAM	Older Americans Month
OASC	Office of Aging Services Coordination
OIB	Older Individuals who are Blind Program
ODSC	Office of Disability Services Coordination
PCP	Person-Centered Planning
SAT	State Alliance Team
SIASCC	Statewide Interagency Aging Services Coordinating Council
SLTCO	State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
SMEs	Subject Matter Experts
TGC	Texas Government Code
TIRN	Texas Information and Referral Network

Evaluation

The OIB Program will track the following metrics to evaluate the success of this implementation plan:

- Number of outreach events conducted focused on older adults.
- Number of older individuals reached through outreach activities.
- Number of new partnerships established to serve older adults.
- Feedback from stakeholders and customer satisfaction survey on the effectiveness of the OIB Program's efforts specifically related to serving the aging population.

Conclusion

This implementation plan demonstrates TWC’s commitment to supporting the SIASCC Strategic Plan and improving the lives of older Texans who are blind or visually impaired. By focusing on access to services, collaboration, and age-friendly messaging, the OIB Program will contribute to a more coordinated and effective aging-services system in Texas. TWC’sOIB Program will regularly review and update this plan to ensure it remains relevant and responsive to the changing needs of older Texans who are blind or visually impaired. Further research into additional contributions from other TWC programs to improve aging services will be explored in the future.

Submission and Reporting

This Implementation Plan will be submitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Legislature through the TWC's Governmental Relations (GR) process. The OIB Program will provide regular updates on the progress of this implementation plan to the SIASCC and other relevant stakeholders.

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