

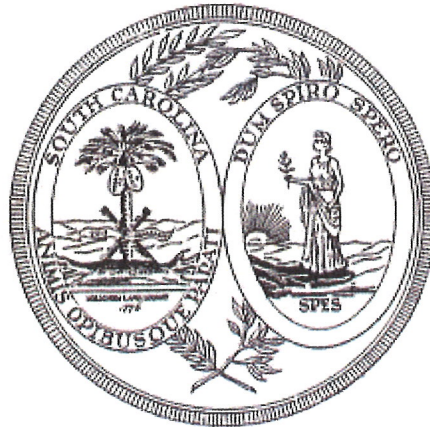
South Carolina Commission for the Blind

**House Ways and Means Committee
Health Care Subcommittee**

January 16, 2013



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND



CREATED BY STATE LAW ON MAY 6, 1966

Mission Statement:

The mission of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind is to provide quality, individualized vocational rehabilitation services, independent living services, and prevention of blindness services to blind and visually impaired consumers leading to competitive employment and social and economic independence.

Key Contact Personnel:

<u>James M. Kirby</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>803-898-8845</u>	<u>jkirby@sccb.sc.gov</u>
<u>Don Bradley</u>	<u>Dir. Consumer Ser.</u>	<u>803-898-8830</u>	<u>dbradley@sccb.sc.gov</u>
<u>Rhonda Thompson</u>	<u>Dir Older Blind/Child</u>	<u>864-2411111</u>	<u>rthompson@sccb.sc.gov</u>
<u>Juan Sims</u>	<u>Comptroller</u>	<u>803-898-7701</u>	<u>jsmis@sccb.sc.gov</u>
<u>Dawn Anderson</u>	<u>Assistant Comp.</u>	<u>803-898-8835</u>	<u>danderspm@sccb.sc.gov</u>
<u>Linda Johnston</u>	<u>Executive Assistant</u>	<u>803-898-8822</u>	<u>ljohnston@sccb.sc.gov</u>



Commissioner
James M. Kirby

South Carolina Commission for the Blind

1430 CONFEDERATE AVENUE • P.O. BOX 2467 COLUMBIA, SC 29202

PHONE: (803) 898-8822 • FAX: (803) 898-8845

January 16, 2013

The Honorable G. Murrell Smith, Jr., Chairman
The Honorable Tracy R. Edge
The Honorable William F. "Bill" Herbkersman
The Honorable Harry L. Ott, Jr.

Ways and Means Healthcare Subcommittee
South Carolina House of Representatives
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Representatives:

The following fiscal year 2013-2014 budget plan for the South Carolina Commission for the Blind is submitted for your consideration.

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind is requesting state funds in the amount of \$250,000 for our Vocational Rehabilitation Program. This will allow the Blind Commission to access an additional \$923,709.00 federal grant dollars that are available for draw down from the Federal Department of Education-RSA. We are requesting recurring funds of \$400,000 to restart our Prevention of Blindness Program. This program was phased out due to severe budget cuts in past years. We are also requesting recurring state funds of \$46,200.00 to fund an FTE position to be shared between IT and Quality Assurance.

As members of the House of Representatives during tough economic times, I understand how difficult your decisions must be. I commend you for your commitment and efforts to implement sound fiscal policy.

If you should have any questions, or if I may be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James M. Kirby", is written over the printed name and title.

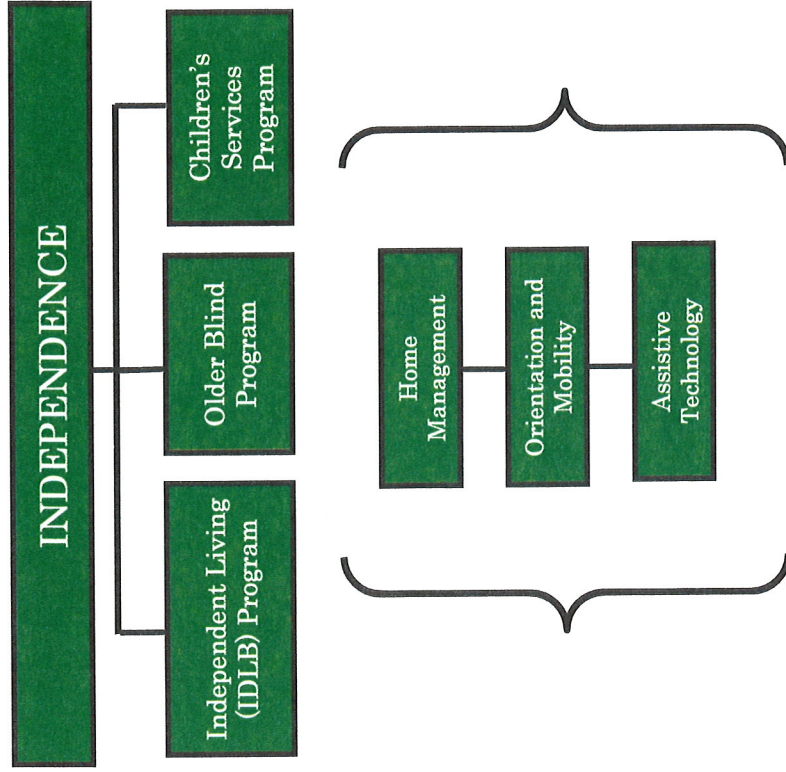
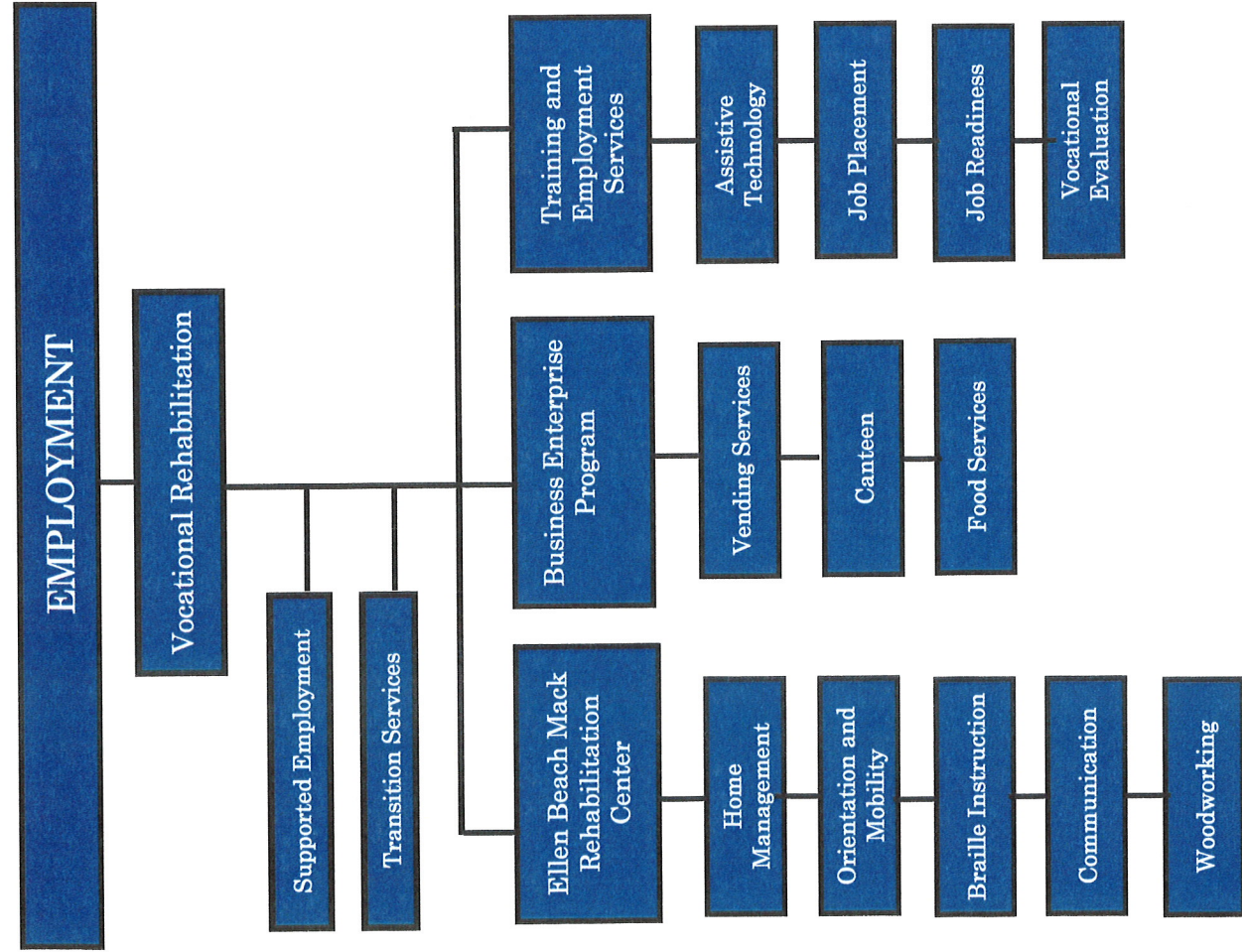
James M. Kirby
Commissioner

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SCCB Programs and Core Services



Services provided for all independent living programs

The mission of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind is to provide quality, individualized vocational rehabilitation services, independent living services, and prevention of blindness services to blind and visually impaired consumers leading to competitive employment and social and economic independence.

Vocational Rehabilitation: Provides services which lead to competitive employment and independence

Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center: Provides unique adjustment to blindness training skills which are designed to promote independence and job readiness skills

Business Enterprise Program (BEP): Provides job training, stand development, consulting services, job placement and stand maintenance to carry out the mandates of the Randolph-Sheppard Act

Training and Employment Services: Provides training to consumers on assistive technology, job readiness skills and customer service skills that are needed to become competitively employed

Independent Living Program: Provides independent living skills training for individuals between the ages of 22 and 54

Older Blind: Provides services to increase independence and quality of life in the home and community for individuals age 55 and older

Children Services: Coordinates the provision of services within the school system for blind and visually impaired children between the ages of 3 and 13 and their families

The mission of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind is to provide quality, individualized vocational rehabilitation services, independent living services, and prevention of blindness services to blind and visually impaired consumers leading to competitive employment and social and economic independence.

SCCB PROGRAMS AND CORE SERVICES

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

1. Vocational Rehabilitation Program (79/21)
 - a. Business Enterprise Program
 - b. Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center
 1. Adjustment to Blindness Training
 - a. Home Management
 - b. Orientation and Mobility
 - c. Braille Instruction
 - d. Communications
 - e. Woodworking
 - c. Training and Employment Services
 1. Assistive Technology Training
 2. Employment Consultants
 3. Vocational Evaluation
 4. Job Readiness Training

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

1. Independent Living for the Blind Program (90/10)
2. Older Blind Program (90/10)
 - a. Home Management
 - b. Orientation and Mobility
 - c. Assistive Technology Training

CHILDREN'S SERVICES (100% state)

1. Low Vision Clinic Services
2. Orientation and Mobility
3. Assistive Technology Training

SC COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

**BOARD MEMBER
3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
MARY SONKSEN**

**BOARD CHAIR
1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
PETER SMITH**

**7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
VACANT**

**BOARD MEMBER
5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
VACANT**

**BOARD MEMBER
2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
JULIANNE KLECKLEY**

**BOARD MEMBER
4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
ROSEMARY ROBERTSON**

**BOARD MEMBER
6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
DR. JULIA BARNES**

**COMMISSIONER
JAMES M. KIRBY**

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

**DIRECTOR OF CONSUMER
SERVICES
DON BRADLEY**

**DIRECTOR OF
ACCOUNTING & FACILITIES SVCS.
JUAN SIMS**

**DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES
WANDA MILLER**

**DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
JAMES SWINDLER**

**DIRECTOR OF
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM
OTIS STEVENSON**

**DIRECTOR OF
QUALITY ASSURANCE
SHANA ROBINSON**

**DIRECTOR OF OLDER BLIND,
CHILDREN SVCS. & LOW VISION
CLINIC-RHONDA THOMPSON**

**DIRECTOR OF TRAINING &
EMPLOYMENT
EDWARD BIBLE**

WHERE IS THE BLIND COMMISSION NOW

- The SC Commission for the Blind currently has the following programs:
 - I. Administration
 - II. Rehabilitation Services
 - A. Sixteen of seventeen counselor positions filled
 - B. More federal funds available if match is provided
 - C. Four regional facilities in the state providing technology services
 - D. On track to exceed previous year's successfully rehabilitated cases
 - E. Columbia Rehabilitation Center expanded to include three advanced independent living apartments
 - F. Aid to college students increased
 - G. Summer Teen Program will expand this year to include work experience venues for all participants
 - H. In the nation, SC is one of the few states to have a support service provider program for Deaf/Blind consumers
 - III. Older Blind – see attachment A
 - IV. Children's Services – see attachment B
 - V. Employee Benefits

- 2013-2014 funding for the SC Commission for the Blind is as follows:
 - I. General Funds \$2,468,925
 - II. Estimated Federal Funds \$7,982,652
 - III. Estimated Earmarked Funds \$293,000

- Uses of funds:
 - I. General Funds are used for Matching federal funds, Indirect Costs and for State funded programs such as Children's Services
 - II. Federal Funds are drawn down from the federal government and used in Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Supported Employment, Independent Living - Older Blind, Independent Living – Part B, and Training
 - III. Once earned, Earmarked Funds are used to supplement programs in which they qualify. For example, a donation received for the Older Blind program is used for Older Blind expenditures. More detail on Earmarked Funds is included in the Summary of Other Funds, attached.

- The Breakdown by Program/Fund:

- I. Administration - \$1,070,477, General Funds; \$9,851, Federal Funds
- II. Rehabilitation Services - \$824,266, General Funds; \$6,680,888, Federal Funds; \$234,680, Earmarked Funds
- III. Older Blind - \$419,746, Federal Funds; \$50,000, Earmarked Funds
- IV. Children's Services - \$141,177, General Funds
- V. Employee Benefits - \$433,005, General Funds; \$788,603, Federal Funds; \$8,320, Earmarked Funds



Budget Request Summary for FY 2013-2014:

- I. **Vocational Rehabilitation:** requesting recurring state funds of **\$ 250,000.00**.
This will allow the Blind Commission to access an additional \$923,709.00 federal grant dollars that's available for the agency to draw down from the Department of Education-RSA.
- II. **Prevention of Blindness:** requesting recurring state funds of **\$ 400,000.00** to restart the Prevention of Blindness Program. SCCB had to phase out this program during the severe budgets cuts in past years. The goal of this program is to assist with preventing the loss of sight by providing vision related medical services.
- III. **Administration:** requesting recurring state funds of **\$ 46,200.00** (includes salary and fringes) to fund a shared FTE between IT and Quality Assurance.

Summary of Federal Funds:

- I. Rehabilitation Services – Basic Support
Current Award = \$7,417,812 Required match at 21.3% = \$2,007,616
- II. Independent Living Older Blind Individuals
Current Award = \$502,722 Required match at 10% = \$55,858
- III. Supported Employment
Current Award = \$21,482 No match requirement
- IV. Independent Living Part B
Current Award = \$40,635 Required match at 10% = \$4,515
- V. Vocational Rehabilitation In-Service Training
Current Award = \$21,483 Required match at 10% = \$2,387

Total matching funds required to draw federal awards = \$2,070,376

- As seen here, General Funds of \$2,468,925 do not allow enough to fully match the federal awards and fund the state programs and indirect costs as required by the federal government.

Summary of Other Funds:

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind projects revenue in Other Funds as follows:

- I. Donations - \$5,000. Most donations specify the use by the donor. If there is no specification, they are used as match.
- II. Concessions Operator Benefit Account - \$150,000. These funds are received and used by the Business Enterprise Program under the Randolph Shepherd Act.
- III. Misc Revenue - \$25,000. These funds are projected as overflow to the next two types of Program Income which are used under the Code of Federal Regulations Part 34, Section 361.63
- IV. Sale of Service-PWI - \$13,000. These funds are received from out of state consumers or state agencies that send consumers to our facility for training. We have recently learned that these funds should be recorded as Program Income and used as such under the Code of Federal Regulations Part 34, Section 361.63.
- V. Program Income - \$100,000. These funds are received from the Social Security Administration for assisting Social Security beneficiaries and recipients and used under the Code of Federal Regulations Part 34, Section 361.63.

2. Expenditures/Appropriations Chart

Accountability Report Appropriations/Expenditures Chart

Base Budget Expenditures and Appropriations

Major Budget Categories	FY 10-11 Actual Expenditures		FY 11-12 Actual Expenditures		FY 12-13 Appropriations Act	
	Total Funds	General Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Total Funds	General Funds
Personal Service	\$4,171,822	\$1,180,699	\$3,878,644	\$1,357,202	\$3,774,430	\$1,281,419
Other Operating	\$1,562,215	\$303,531	\$1,552,861	\$276,275	\$2,266,839	\$452,299
Special Items						
Permanent Improvements						
Case Services	\$2,558,864	\$224,854	\$2,802,250	\$190,709	\$3,389,816	\$302,202
Distributions to Subdivisions						
Fringe Benefits	\$1,334,177	\$424,827	\$1,318,963	\$401,138	\$1,229,928	\$433,005
Non-recurring						
Total	\$9,627,078	\$2,133,911	\$9,552,718	\$2,225,324	\$10,661,013	\$2,468,925

Other Expenditures

Sources of Funds	FY 10-11 Actual Expenditures	FY 11-12 Actual Expenditures
Supplemental Bills	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Reserve Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bonds	\$0.00	\$0.00

3. Major Program Areas

Major Program Areas									
		FY 10-11			FY 11-12			Key Cross	
Program	Major Program Area	Budget Expenditures			Budget Expenditures			References for	
Number	Purpose							Financial Results*	
and Title	(Brief)								
II. Rehabilitation Services	Provide training leading to competitive employment and social and economic independence	State:		\$488,196.00			\$1,103,699.00		
		Federal:		\$5,891,919.00			\$5,622,568.00		
		Other:		\$162,000.00			\$58,131.00		
		Total:		\$6,542,115.00			\$6,784,398.00		
		% of Total Budget:	61%		% of Total Budget:		67%		
III. Prevention	Prevent, stabilize or restore loss of vision through medical services and Prevention Awareness Programs	State:		\$155,500.00			\$64,895.00		
		Federal:		\$671,172.00			\$685,667.00		
		Other:							
		Total:		\$826,672.00			\$750,562.00		
		% of Total Budget:	8%		% of Total Budget:		8%		
V. Employee Benefits		State:		\$566,402.00			\$597,982.00		
		Federal:		\$1,182,276.00			\$777,949.00		
		Other:		\$6,000.00			\$11,677.00		
		Total:		\$1,754,678.00			\$1,387,608.00		
		% of Total Budget:	16%		% of Total Budget:		14%		
Below: List any programs not included above and show the remainder of expenditures by source of funds.									
	Remainder of Expenditures:			\$985,877.00		State:	\$1,028,745.00		
				\$545,958.00		Federal:	\$19,009.00		
				\$31,000.00		Other:	\$24,194.00		
				\$1,562,835.00		Total:	\$1,071,948.00		
				% of Total Budget:	15%	% of Total Budget:		11%	

7.1 Key Measures of Mission Accomplishment and Service Performance

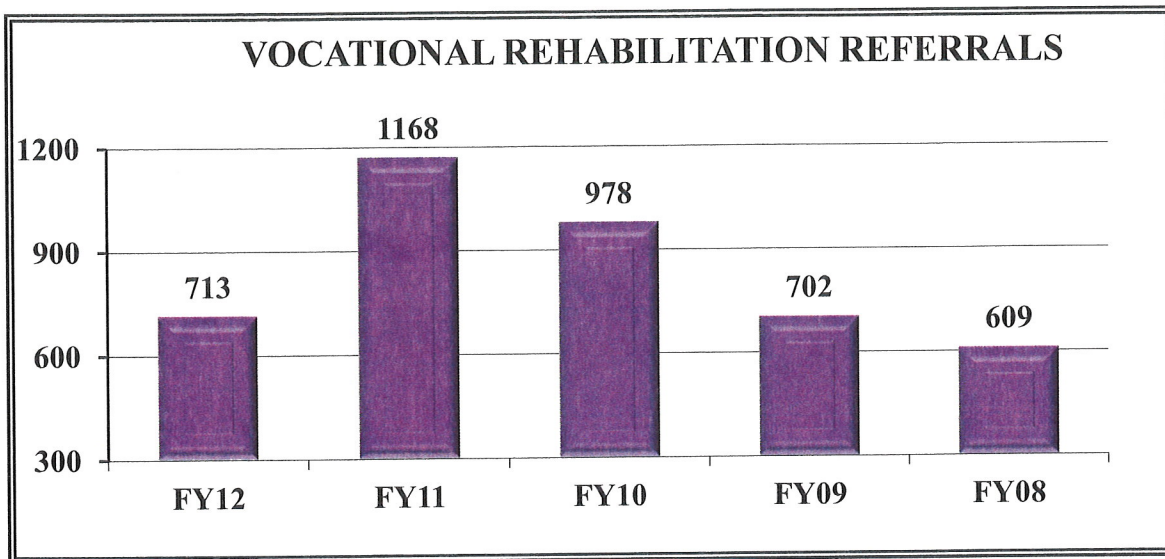


Figure 7.1-1

In FY 2012, there was a 39% decrease in referrals to the Vocational Rehabilitation Program compared to FY 2011. The decrease was due to the addition of new and inexperienced counselors on staff as well as the implementation of a new case management system.

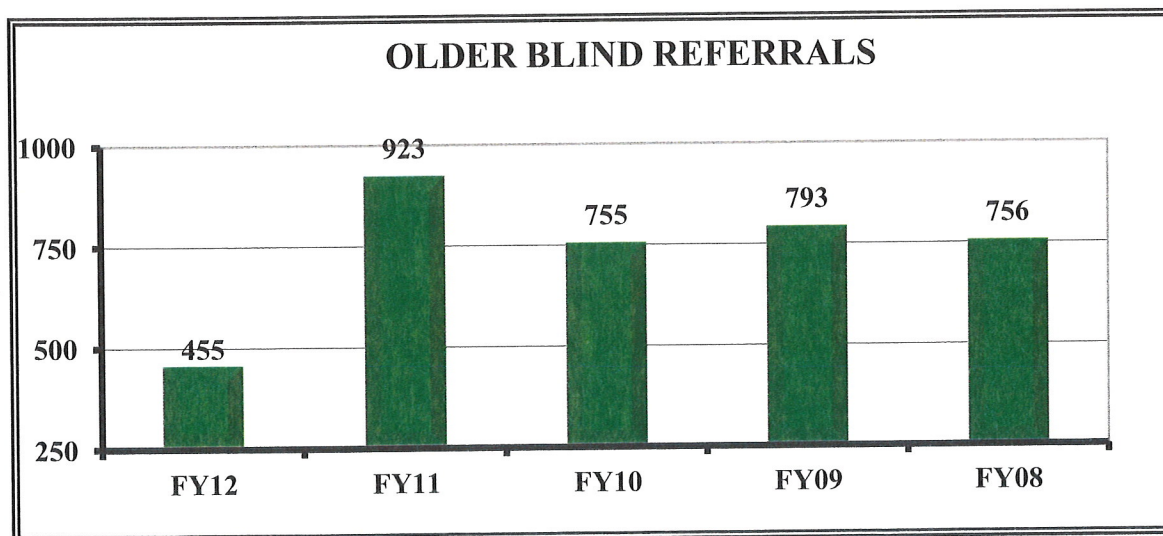


Figure 7.1-2

Due to federal budget requirements, SCCB restructured the Older Blind Program in FY 2012. This resulted in a reduction in workforce capacity. Subsequently, there was a 50% decrease in the number of referrals to the Older Blind Program compared to FY 2011.

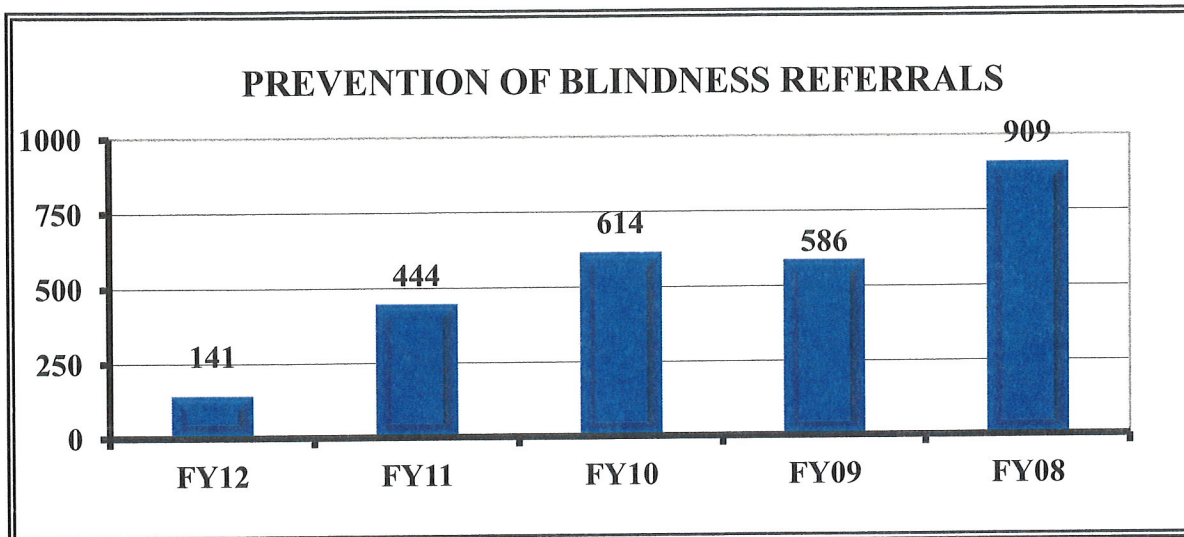


Figure 7.1-3

Since FY 2008, service delivery in the Prevention of Blindness Program has been severely reduced due to budgetary constraints. Eye care professionals were appropriately notified of the limited funding for the Prevention of Blindness Program and consequently have made fewer referrals. Regrettably, as a result of a total loss of funding, the Prevention of Blindness Program was eliminated in FY 2012.

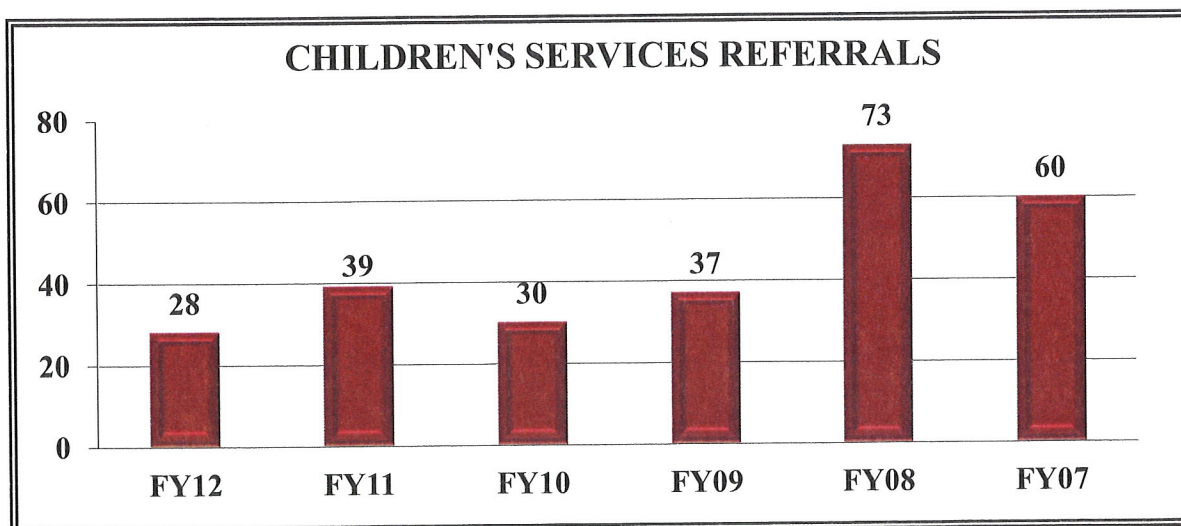


Figure 7.1-4

In FY 2012, referrals to the Children's Services Program decreased by 28% compared to FY 2011. The decrease in referrals was attributed to continual limitations in workforce capacity as well as budgetary constraints.

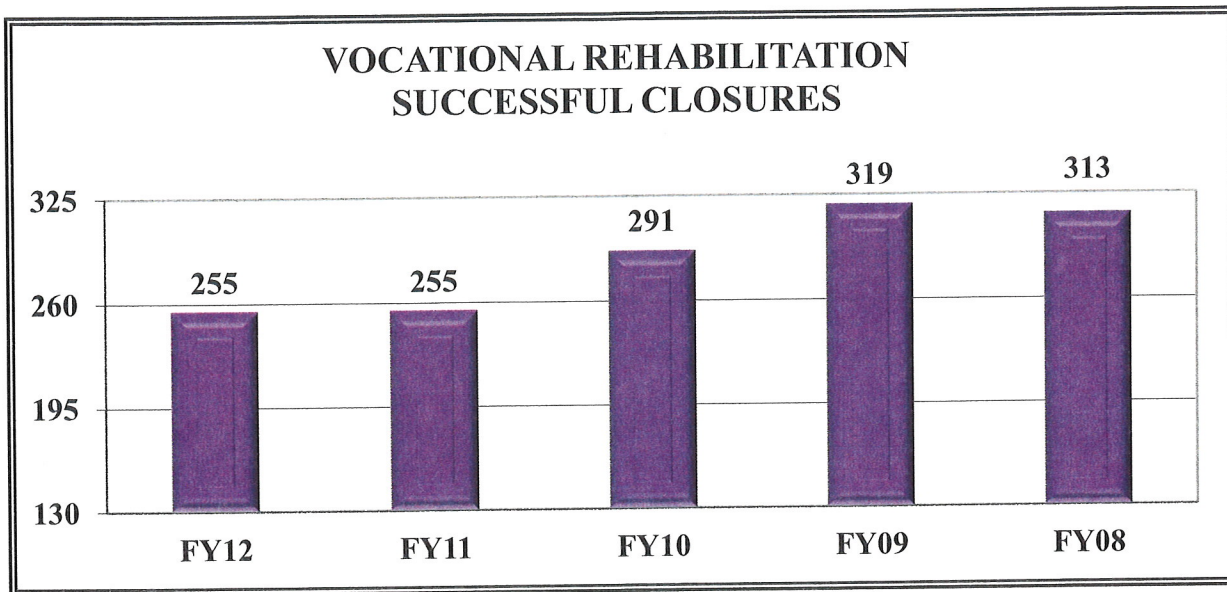


Figure 7.1-5

In FY 2012, SCCB maintained the total number of successful closures in the Vocational Rehabilitation Program compared to FY 2011. The inability to increase successful closures was due to new and inexperienced VR Counselors as well as South Carolina's unemployment rate.

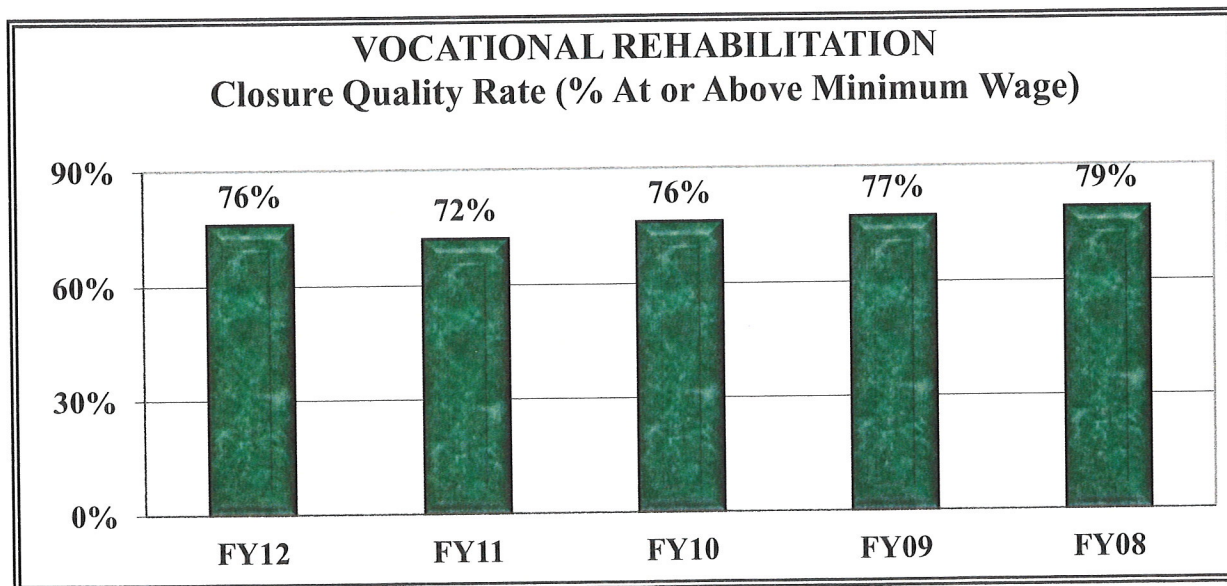


Figure 7.1-6

In FY 2012, the closure quality rate increased by 5% compared to FY 2011. The increase in closure quality was attributed to an increase in direct job placements in the professional occupation job category.

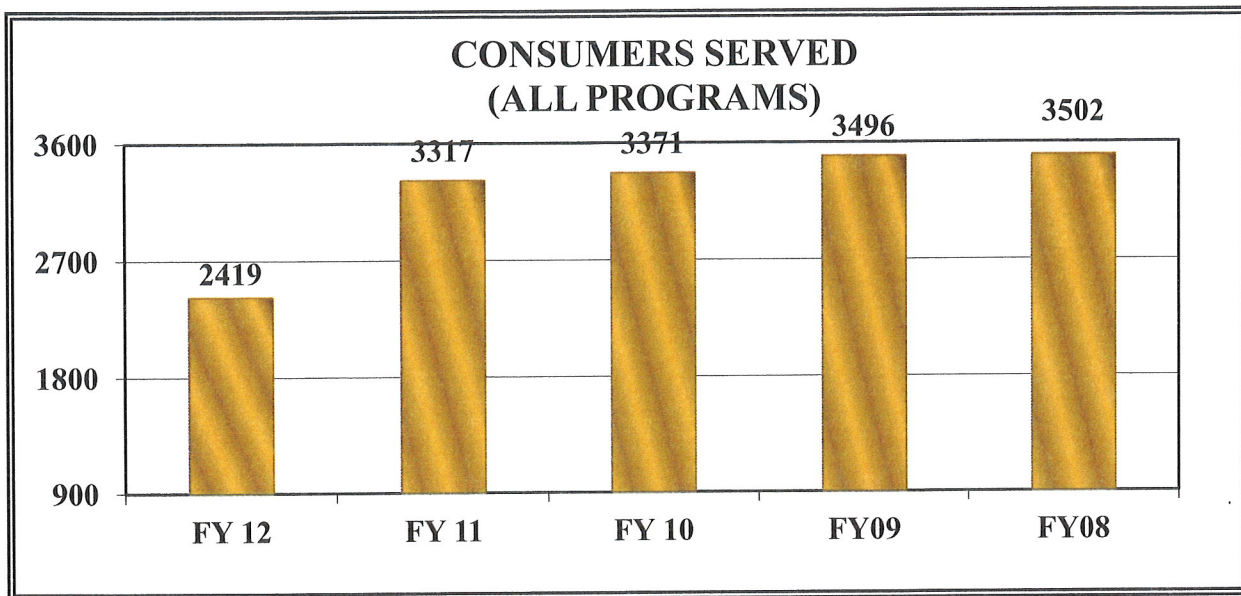


Figure 7.1-7

Consumers were served in the following programs: Vocational Rehabilitation, Older Blind, Prevention of Blindness, Independent Living and Children's Services. In FY 2012, there was a 27% decrease in the total number of consumers served compared to FY 2011. The decrease was attributed to the elimination of the state funded Prevention of Blindness Program.

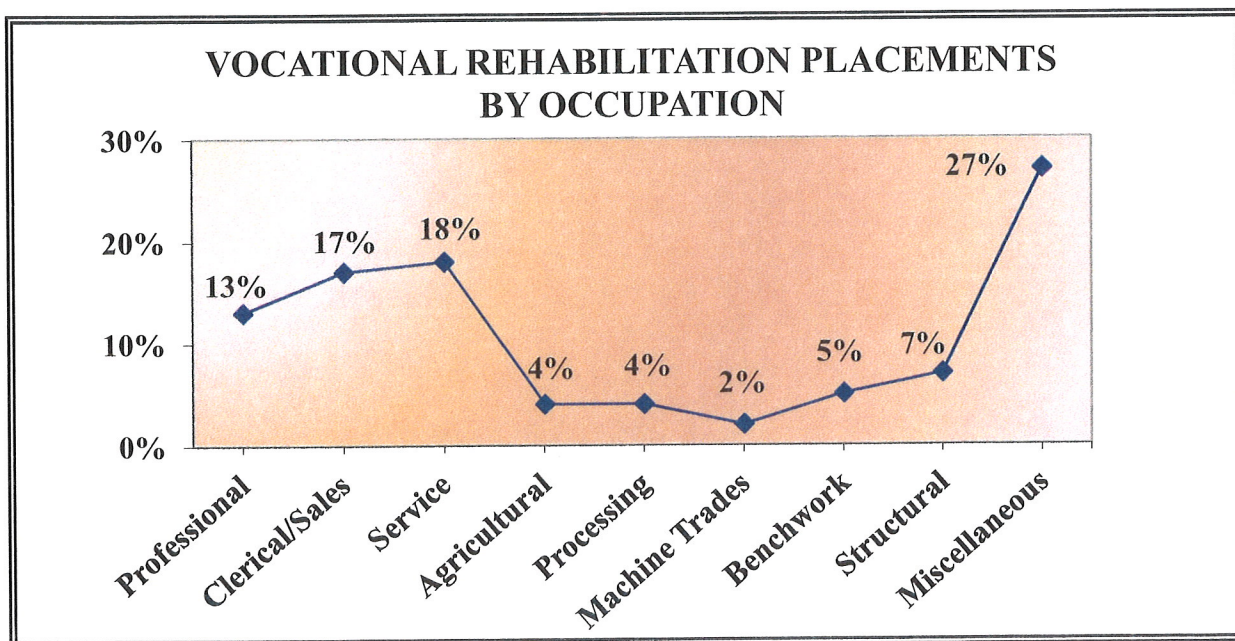


Figure 7.1-8

In FY 2012, the majority of the competitive employment placements were in the Professional, Clerical/Sales and Services occupations. The employment trends in the Vocational Rehabilitation Program for each of the above mentioned occupations have been consistent since FY 2004.

7.2 Customer Satisfaction

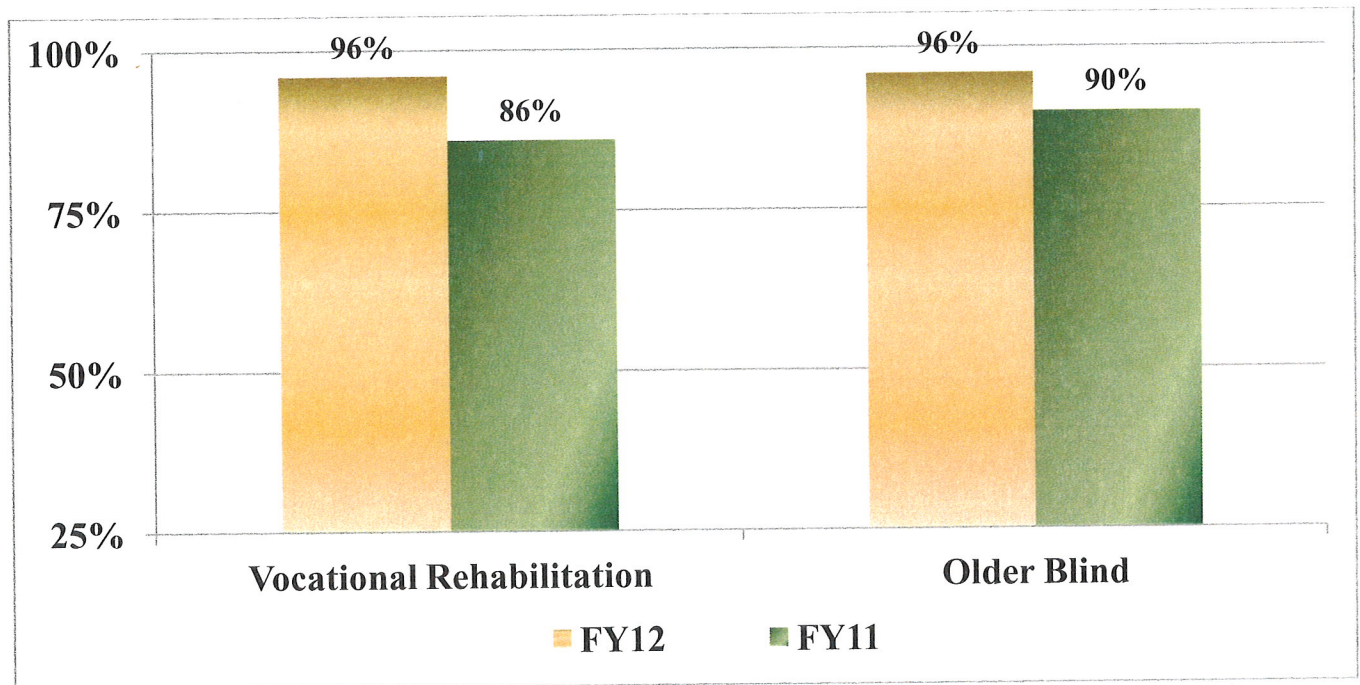


Figure 7.2-1

In FY 2012, consumer satisfaction with program goals, timeliness of service delivery and assistance received with obtaining or maintaining employment or independent living increased by 11% in the Vocational Rehabilitation Program and by 7% in the Older Blind Program respectively. The increase in consumer satisfaction was attributed to continual efforts to strengthen communication between service delivery staff and consumers as well as implementation of consumer recommendations for improvement.

South Carolina Commission for the Blind

Duplicate Activities with Other State Agencies

There are no other state agencies that provide the type of employment and independent living training services for our consumers. Since 1966, the South Carolina Commission for the Blind has proudly served a distinct group of individuals with service needs requiring expertise in training blind consumers to become productive, independent, and gainfully employed citizens of the state. While SCCB does focus on training and assisting with achieving employment goals, we also specialize in rehabilitation services for children, and seniors. SCCB currently coordinates resources with other human service agencies, as well as a variety of organizations when necessary for meeting consumers' needs. Unlike any other state agency, our primary focus is adjustment to blindness. Moreover, those who administer rehabilitation and other services for the blind have the knowledge and skills to achieve the best results. We understand and are trained to address the characteristics and distinct needs of the blind.

Because of the unique service delivery requirements of persons with blindness and severe visual impairment, individual services should begin at the earliest age possible, in order to ensure a consistent, positive progression of adjustment throughout a consumer's lifetime. Individualized, comprehensive rehabilitation services, and essential changes in social attitudes regarding blindness are extremely compromised when rehabilitation services and independent living services are provided through a single program which serves both blind and other disabled persons.

Independent living and vocational rehabilitation goals of the blind can be reached in an efficient, responsive manner when blind consumers, of all ages, have access to an agency dedicated to providing services designed exclusively for their challenges. Additionally, blind consumers often require complex independent living and vocational rehabilitation services in areas such as orientation and mobility training, daily independent living skills, Braille, and use of assistive technology necessary to meet their individual needs and aspirations. Most importantly, they develop confidence, which is a prerequisite to accomplishing independence and employment.

The SCCB indeed exists so that the blind and visually impaired would be provided with quality services and the opportunity to become vital contributors to the state's economy. Ultimately, our agency offers blind citizens of South Carolina the most appropriate option to participate in programs that directly impact and improve their lives.

Cost Savings Initiatives

- Cancelled all contract labor for Blind Licensed Vendors in the BEP Program
- Hiring Freeze on state funded positions
- Agency travel restrictions imposed
- Limited procurement on assistive technology devices and supplies
- Measures taken to save energy resulting in decreased energy bills
- Removed programs

Summary of Counter Measures – Fraud and Abuse

The SC State Auditor's Office or a CPA firm retained by them performs an annual audit to test agency internal controls and to check for compliance with state laws and regulations. Also, as part of the statewide single audit conducted each year, the Auditor's Office tests the accuracy of agency financial data used in the preparation of financial statements for the State.

The State Procurement audit staff audit agency purchasing processes and controls every three years.

Federal funds received from the US Department of Education are subject to on-site monitoring by staff of the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the DOE's Inspector General.

Corrective action plans are developed for findings from audits and are followed up on by agency staff.

The agency has implemented a part – time internal audit function to proactively review agency internal controls to deter fraud, follow –up on external audit findings, and provide technical assistance and educational materials on fraud prevention techniques. As part of this function, findings that occur at other state agencies are reviewed and provided to agency managers for awareness that similar problems could exist.

Audit Information

- There have been no recent Legislative Audit Council reports focused on the Blind Commission.
- Recent state financial audits have been acceptable. There are no pending issues.
- There are no On-going Audits
- ACA – none
- No Bills in the House/Senate for SCCB

OSB Budget Planning Documents, Section V. PROVISOS

In this year's budget proposal, proviso recommendations will be split into three categories: provisos under each agency's section of the budget, those in general provisions and statewide revenue, and those not in general provisions and statewide revenue outside of the agency's section. The agency should complete a Proviso Recommendation Sheet for ALL provisos affecting the agency.

Proviso recommendations should be presented in the following order:

- **Agency Section-Specific Provisos**
- **General provisions and statewide revenue**
- **Provisos not covered by the first two categories**

For this section, a detailed justification of the agency's interest in each proviso must be provided.

Each year, the provisos contained in the current year's Appropriation Act are renumbered for the next fiscal year in order to eliminate any provisos which were deleted or vetoed. **When submitting your proviso requests for FY 2012-13, the renumbered base should be used.** This renumbered base is accessible from the State Budget Division's home page (<http://www.budget.sc.gov>) or by contacting your State Budget Analyst.

- A. Proviso Number:** 27.1
- B. Appropriation:** II. Rehabilitation Services,
- C. Agency Interest:** This proviso is agency-specific and allows the SC Commission for the Blind to receive matching funds from the general fund for the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Program which also corresponds to the agency's request so that it may draw the maximum allowed.
- D. Action:** Keep.
- E. Descriptive Proviso Title:** (BLIND: Matching Federal Funds)
- F. Summary of Existing or New Proviso:** The state will provide matching funds (21.3%) for the federal grant (78.7%) that is basic support for the Vocational Rehabilitation Program/Rehabilitation Services. Funds used to put blind and visually impaired consumers to work.
- G. Explanation of Amendment to/or Deletion of Existing Proviso:** N/A
- H. Explain how this proviso directs the expenditure or appropriation of funds and why this direction is necessary.** The proviso makes sure that there are matching funds available so that the VR program can be run.
- I. Justification:**
Based on the action requested on line D, answer the appropriate question, as detailed below:

Amended by W&M Healthcare Budget Subcommittee 1/30/12

Delete	Why is this proviso no longer necessary?
Amend	(1) Why is this proviso recurring, and not codified? (2) What are the effects of the changes, as well as the deficiency if the existing proviso if no change was made?
Keep	<p>Current Question on form (1) Why is this proviso recurring, and not codified? Although the SC Commission for the Blind expects that the federal government will continue the REHABILITATION SERVICES – VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION GRANTS TO STATES, it is not guaranteed. Therefore, codification is not recommended.</p> <p><i>NEW REQUIREMENT FOR PROVISOS IN <u>YOUR SECTION</u> OF THE BUDGET</i></p> <p><i>If the agency recommends to keep the proviso, the agency must insert all of the following statements <u>on the proviso form</u> and answer either “Yes” or “No” after each statement:</i></p> <p>“The agency recommends the current proviso be retained because:</p> <p>a) The agency cannot implement this directive without the proviso: Yes. The agency must have the matching funds in order to draw the federal dollars and use all funds appropriated to run the VR Program</p> <p>b) The proviso is consistent with the agency’s current practice: Yes. Under federal law, we currently draw federal monies once matched by state funds.</p> <p>c) It over-rides the agency’s preferred practice: No.</p> <p>d) It over-rides current law and the agency supports this over-ride: No.</p> <p>e) It is consistent with the agency’s statutory mission: Yes. SC Commission for the Blind’s mission is “to provide quality, individualized vocational rehabilitation services, independent living services and prevention of blindness services to Blind and visually impaired consumers leading to competitive employment and social and economic independence. This proviso allows the general fund monies to match the federal dollars to carry out this mission.</p> <p>f) It is consistent with current State Law: Yes.</p> <p>g) It is inconsistent with current State Law: No.</p> <p>h) It is a budgetary best practice for the agency: Yes. Without state matching funds, the commission cannot access the federal funds.</p>

Amended by W&M Healthcare Budget Subcommittee 1/30/12

	<p>i) It requires the agency to fund the <u>agency</u> (Part I. A.) programs identified, and without the proviso, the agency would choose not fund it: The agency could not fund the program without the matching dollars.</p> <p>j) It requires the agency to fund the <u>non-agency</u> programs identified, and without the proviso, the agency would choose not to fund it: No.</p> <p>k) It requires the agency to fund a <u>non-agency</u> program and the agency recommends the item be placed on an appropriation line: No.</p> <p>l) It generates revenue for the agency: N/A</p> <p>m) It requires the agency to transfer funds to another entity: No.</p> <p>n) The amount of State Funds controlled by this proviso during the current fiscal year is: Approximately \$1,505,369</p> <p>o) The amount of Federal Funds controlled by this proviso during the current fiscal year is: \$5,562,091</p> <p>p) The amount of Other Funds controlled by this proviso during the current fiscal year is: N/A</p>
New	<p>(1) Does this proviso create a new program? (2) Explain why this proviso is needed this year, and detail whether or not this proviso will be needed in future years.</p>

J. Fiscal Impact: Indicate the estimated dollar impact on the General Fund and on agency Other Funds and/or Federal Funds. These estimates must be discussed with the State Budget Division and/or Board of Economic Advisors prior to submission of the proviso change. N/A

K. Text of New Proviso with Underline or Entire Existing Proviso Text with Strikeover and Underline: If the priority is for a new proviso, show the proposed language with the entire text underlined. If the priority is to delete the proviso, show the text with strikeover. If the priority is to change an existing proviso, show the actual language from the FY 2012-13 Renumbered Base and use strikeover to show words or phrases to be deleted and underline to show new text. N/A

OSB Budget Planning Documents, Section V. PROVISOS

In this year's budget proposal, proviso recommendations will be split into three categories: provisos under each agency's section of the budget, those in general provisions and statewide revenue, and those not in general provisions and statewide revenue outside of the agency's section. The agency should complete a Proviso Recommendation Sheet for ALL provisos affecting the agency.

Proviso recommendations should be presented in the following order:

- **Agency Section-Specific Provisos**
- **General provisions and statewide revenue**
- **Provisos not covered by the first two categories**

For this section, a detailed justification of the agency's interest in each proviso must be provided.

Each year, the provisos contained in the current year's Appropriation Act are renumbered for the next fiscal year in order to eliminate any provisos which were deleted or vetoed. **When submitting your proviso requests for FY 2012-13, the renumbered base should be used.** This renumbered base is accessible from the State Budget Division's home page (<http://www.budget.sc.gov>) or by contacting your State Budget Analyst.

A. Proviso Number: 27.2

B. Appropriation: II. Rehabilitation Services,

C. Agency Interest: This proviso is agency-specific and allows the SC Commission for the Blind to use revenue received from Braille Production and Telecommunications for facility and production costs.

D. Action: Delete.

E. Descriptive Proviso Title: (BLIND: Braille Production and Telecommunications Revenue)

F. Summary of Existing or New Proviso: Any revenue received from Braille Production or Telecommunications (call center) will be kept with the agency and used in the program for facility and production costs.

G. Explanation of Amendment to/or Deletion of Existing Proviso: This proviso is no longer needed as the Code of Federal Regulations Title, 34, Part 361.63 defines this revenue as Program Income.

H. Explain how this proviso directs the expenditure or appropriation of funds and why this direction is necessary.

I. Justification:

Based on the action requested on line D, answer the appropriate question, as detailed below:

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Delete	Why is this proviso no longer necessary? This is covered under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 34, Part 361.63 – Program Income
Amend	(1) Why is this proviso recurring, and not codified? (2) What are the effects of the changes, as well as the deficiency if the existing proviso if no change was made?
Keep	<p>Current Question on form (1) Why is this proviso recurring, and not codified?</p> <p><i>NEW REQUIREMENT FOR PROVISOS IN <u>YOUR SECTION</u> OF THE BUDGET</i></p> <p><i>If the agency recommends to keep the proviso, the agency must insert all of the following statements <u>on the proviso form</u> and answer either “Yes” or “No” after each statement:</i></p> <p>“The agency recommends the current proviso be retained because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The agency cannot implement this directive without the proviso: b) The proviso is consistent with the agency’s current practice: c) It over-rides the agency’s preferred practice: d) It over-rides current law and the agency supports this over-ride: e) It is consistent with the agency’s statutory mission: f) It is consistent with current State Law: g) It is inconsistent with current State Law: h) It is a budgetary best practice for the agency: i) It requires the agency to fund the <u>agency</u> (Part I. A.) programs identified, and without the proviso, the agency would choose not fund it: j) It requires the agency to fund the <u>non-agency</u> programs identified, and without the proviso, the agency would choose not to fund it: k) It requires the agency to fund a <u>non-agency</u> program and the agency recommends the item be placed on an appropriation line: l) It generates revenue for the agency:

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	<p>m) It requires the agency to transfer funds to another entity:</p> <p>n) The amount of State Funds controlled by this proviso during the current fiscal year is:</p> <p>o) The amount of Federal Funds controlled by this proviso during the current fiscal year is:</p> <p>p) The amount of Other Funds controlled by this proviso during the current fiscal year is:</p>
New	<p>(1) Does this proviso create a new program? (2) Explain why this proviso is needed this year, and detail whether or not this proviso will be needed in future years.</p>

- J. Fiscal Impact:** Indicate the estimated dollar impact on the General Fund and on agency Other Funds and/or Federal Funds. These estimates must be discussed with the State Budget Division and/or Board of Economic Advisors prior to submission of the proviso change.
- K. Text of New Proviso with Underline or Entire Existing Proviso Text with Strikeover and Underline:** If the priority is for a new proviso, show the proposed language with the entire text underlined. If the priority is to delete the proviso, show the text with strikeover. If the priority is to change an existing proviso, show the actual language from the FY 2012-13 Renumbered Base and use strikeover to show words or phrases to be deleted and underline to show new text.

Attachment A

Older Blind Program

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind's Older Blind Program works to restore and enhance the independence of older blind seniors in South Carolina. Our consumers routinely complete their Service Plans with an improved sense of self-esteem, confidence, and direction. Our Older Blind Program is often the dividing line for someone remaining in their own home, or moving where daily living assistance is provided.

- During Fiscal Year 2012, the Older Blind Program provided an array of services developed to assist consumers in achieving their ultimate goal of independence. The Program administered adjustment skills training, while collaborating with community organizations and other human service agencies.
- Program efforts were evident statewide as the counselors conducted assessments of older blind consumers within their home settings, and provided needed adjustment counseling, daily living skills training, and low vision services. The Low Vision Clinic evaluation continues to be the most frequently requested and needed service. There were nearly **five hundred low vision exams** completed during this grant year, which includes consumers from other departments. Daily living skills training was successfully provided to over **four hundred senior consumers**.
- These individual outcomes are extremely beneficial to the consumers, as well as significantly important to our state as a whole. The avoidance or delay of the need for institutional care in only a few cases is not only effective in the preservation of human resources, but is particularly cost-effective with regard to the expense of tax dollars.
- Consumer data is compiled and reviewed on a monthly, quarterly, and annual schedule. In addition to other necessary purposes, this information enables the Program Director to better determine the specific counties that are underserved or unserved. In doing so, those service areas in question could be quickly targeted. Subsequently, staff followed through by contacting nearby medical professionals, senior organizations, and participating in various expos and events. These many efforts permitted us to begin reaching individuals who were not previously aware of our services.

Our strategic plans for the Older Blind Program are as follows:

- *Maintain contact and interaction with appropriate referral sources such as eye specialists, other health professionals, aging entities, communities and families.
- *Conduct activities such as presentations and training sessions to increase public awareness of SCCB services for the Older Blind Program consumers.
- *Provide opportunities for collaborative activities such as Senior Camps with the National Federation of the Blind and blindness rehabilitation courses.

*Collaborate with nonprofit organizations and social and human services to address unique service needs unavailable thru the SCCB OB Program.

*Conduct home and community visits and meetings with consumers and appropriate community leaders.

*Coordinate individualized training thru SCCB training programs.

*Use program and state demographic data to establish program goals and identify unserved and underserved counties.

*Utilize consumer satisfaction survey data to evaluate the quality of service delivery.

*Coordinate training seminars to promote continuing education for OB Counselors.

Our Program staff routinely completed the following:

*Educated the public regarding individuals who are blind and visually impaired

*Increased awareness of the agency's services to potential consumers who are blind or visually impaired

*Strengthened the relationship between the medical community, and other referral sources, and the agency in order to increase their understanding about living a full life after a diagnosis of an eye disease

- The SCCB's Older Blind Program also collaborates with the National Federation of the Blind to provide two Senior Camps each fiscal year. This service provides at least fifty individuals, from various areas of the state, with the opportunity to participate in adjustment skills training with a group of their peers. The camp is held in the Upstate of South Carolina during the Spring and Fall seasons.

Attachment B

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Legally blind children, ages three through thirteen, may receive assistance through the South Carolina Commission for the Blind's Children's Services Program. Our Children's Services counselors provide direct assistance with adjustment to blindness/vision loss, and also coordinate a variety of other applicable resources.

Services for children who are blind or visually impaired may include:

- **Counseling and Guidance for Parents**
- **Workshops and Support Groups for Families**
- **Summer Camping and Independent Living Skills Training**
- **Consultation and Coordination with Community Resources**

- Community-based Early Intervention Programs assist families with obtaining appropriate services from professionals with specialized training in visual impairments and infant/toddler/child development.

- Children's Services counselors coordinate with several agencies and organizations to ensure all consumer issues are appropriately addressed. Some of those referral sources include, but are not limited to, the SC Department of Social Services, the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, The SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Easter Seals, and Pro Parents.

- The Children's Services Department is currently comprised of two counselors who work from the Columbia and Charleston Offices. Approximately 150 visually impaired/blind children are served through the South Carolina Commission for the Blind. We also assist with addressing the needs of legally blind children with multiple disabilities.

- Our counselors conduct thorough assessments to identify the specific needs of children and their families. Family input is an integral part of the process, which outlines goals and determines services to be provided. The assessments result in the development of Individualized Service Plans for the children. The Plans are amended, as needed, and updated annually.

- Children's Services counselors also assist with the transition to preschool programs at age three. While the children are in school, our counselors attend the annual Individualized

Education Plan (IEP) meeting and provide adaptive material and equipment needed for adjustment and to complete school assignments. The items children use will vary depending on the individual child's specific abilities and needs.

- If it is a viable option, the Children's Services counselors may refer children to our Low Vision Clinics for periodic low vision evaluations.
- Additionally, we provide families with applications for the various camps offered each summer. Camp sessions are important, as the children learn self-reliance and have an opportunity to gain independent living skills, while also socializing and enjoying positive, new experiences.
- At age fourteen the children are referred to the Commission's Transition Program under the agency's Vocational Rehabilitation Division. These students may also be eligible for the Summer Teen Program held at the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center in Columbia. We encourage the teens to attend this worthwhile Program, as it reinforces and emphasizes independent living skills, orientation and mobility, Braille skills, vocational interests and interviewing skills for employment. Ultimately, we serve as a guide in assisting the child in reaching his or her full potential.