



MEASURE X FUNDING

Annual Report for 2019

Description of the Communities Served

The BVIC has been providing services since 1971 to a wide spectrum of clients on the Monterey Peninsula and in Salinas Valley. It offers a complete variety of services that help people adapt to the loss of sight. Collectively, our staff provides support to between 350 and 450 people each year.

The majority of our clients (over 85%) are seniors who often have other age-related health conditions. Our services are designed for the individual needs, abilities and goals of each person and are offered by our professional specialists in the comfort of the client's home, in the community such as at work or in school and/or at the BVIC.

In 2019, we served clients in Aromas, Carmel, Carmel Valley, Castroville, Del Rey Oaks, Gonzales, Greenfield, King City, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Prunedale, Royal Oaks, Salinas, Seaside and Soledad.

Total number of Seniors Served: 355

Total number of People with Disabilities Served: 423

Summary of Activities

We are grateful for the Measure X funding which has made a huge difference in the lives of our clients. As one client said, "You gave me my life back!" This funding helps to cover the cost of our Orientation and Mobility Specialist staff person. She has an extremely important role in our efforts to accomplish our mission:

To empower the blind and visually impaired toward independent living through education, support services and skills training.

An Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialist teaches the physical and communication skills required to travel independently, safely, smoothly and confidently throughout one's environments. Orientation is being aware of where you are and where you want to go. Mobility refers to being able to move safely and effectively.

Our O&M Specialist teaches clients to travel safely using indoor and outdoor protective techniques, long cane skills, a sighted person as a guide, orientation skills, street crossing skills, and how to access and safely utilize various transportation modes including public transportation and para-transit. Instruction is provided one-on-one at no charge to the client.

Work Completed

Our O&M Specialist was hired in October of 2018 and worked at the BVIC for the full year of 2019. When she first arrived in 2018, there was a waiting list of 43 requests for her

services. She spent the first few months calling each client, answering questions, setting up appointments for services and providing services to eliminate the waiting list. This carried over into 2019 along with new requests for services. Since she caught up, there has not been a waiting list the rest of the year.

In 2019, the O&M Specialist provided direct services to 105 senior clients. Her work included:

- ❖ Assessments with an interview about the client’s amount of mobility and amount of glare.
- ❖ Service plans to reach the goal of safely accessing and utilizing various modes of transportation
- ❖ Scheduling appointments to work on goals
- ❖ Collaboration with other instructors to ensure best possible service
- ❖ Documentation of the activities and skills training provided to the client
- ❖ Referrals to community services and additional resources
- ❖ Community outreach at various resource fairs and presentations to community groups about O&M and how to best interact with someone who is blind or visually impaired.

2019 Client Demographics—Senior Clients Served Directly by O&M Specialist

GENDER		RACE		SPANISH SPEAKING	CITIES SERVED	AGE		
Male	49	Caucasian	60	34	Peninsula	42	50-59	16
Female	73	Black	6		Salinas	59	60-69	27
		Hispanic	52		South Co.	13	70-79	24
		Asian	3		Other	8	80-89	23
		Other	1				90-99	10
							100+	1
							Unknown	4

Funds Expended

The total amount of funds expended in 2019 is \$100,674.40.

Work Remaining in the Next Year

The following is the work to be done in 2020:

- Continue serving clients through the high-quality direct services the O&M Specialist provided in 2019
- Increase the number of clients served in the Salinas area and South County by 20% to better meet the need
- Work with other service providers to ensure that every client has adequate transportation to and from the Blind and Visually Impaired Center.