

PROJECT BRIEF



Project Name: Envision Blind and Visually Impaired Training

Grant Program: DRAW

Project Date: Jun 20, 2023 - Aug 31, 2025

Project Summary

Envision launched an initiative to train professionals who serve people who are blind or low vision and expanded programs that support skill-building and meaningful employment for person who are blind or visually impaired.

Goals and Objectives

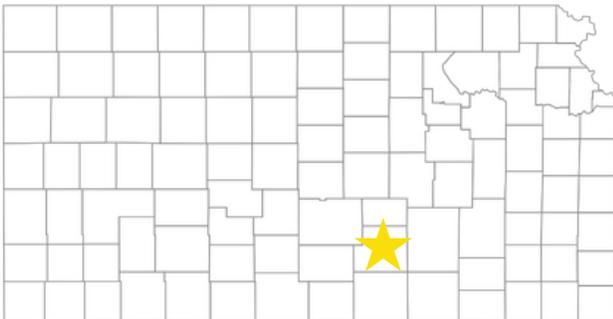
Goal: Expand workforce development opportunities for individuals who are blind, visually impaired, or have other disabilities.

Objective 1: Invest in training and equipment for roles serving BVI individuals.

Objective 2: Expand career development programs to improve participant preparedness for employment.

Location

Wichita, Kansas



Budget Overview

- **Grant:** \$740,000.00
- **Match:** \$246,667.00
- **Total Budget:** \$986,667.00

Expense Categories:

- **Programming:** \$158,130.50
- **Relocation Expenses:** \$109,922.55
- **Training Salaries:** \$42,982.35
- **Supplies:** \$417,894.81
- **Marketing:** \$171,418.02
- **Third Party Training:** \$14,444.00
- **Software:** \$71,874.77

Grantee Information

Envision is a Wichita-based national nonprofit dedicated to empowering people who are blind or have low vision. For over 90 years, they've provided services that build skills, promote independence, and open pathways to meaningful employment across Kansas. Their strong local presence and partnerships help create real opportunities for growth and success in the communities they call home.

Target Population

The target population included Kansas residents who are blind or visually impaired, many with co-occurring disabilities, particularly those seeking employment or career advancement in critical-need sectors within Kansas.

Sustainability

- Purchased equipment, upgraded facilities, and established training protocols will remain in place after the grant period, embedding new capabilities into Envision's operating model.
- By expanding training offerings and recruitment efforts, Envision establishes a robust pipeline of skilled staff and trainees that will support sustained employment outcomes well beyond the grant
- Future funding opportunities may include grants for workforce and infrastructure-relevant initiatives like training facilities, public amenities, and economic growth as well as opportunities under WIOA, ETA grants supporting employment services and training.

Outcomes

Envision expanded 3 programs supporting independence and work readiness for individuals who are blind or low vision.

- **Level Up:** Served 11 Kansas-based students and 7 Kansas-based career service interns. Supported the education pipeline by serving as a WSU CAS practicum site for 25 students.
- **TIP:** Served 9 participants through independence-focused training.
- **Workforce Readiness Bootcamp:** Served 9 participants. 2 secured employment, 4 continued into education/training, and 3 gained experience through volunteer or community involvement.

Activities and Timeline

Q4 2023 - Created training programs for the Occupational Therapy/COTA, Orientation & Mobility Specialist, and Low Vision MD or Optometrist.

Q4 2024 - Purchase of technology equipment and software necessary for new training programs

Q2 2025 - Launched two new programs, Workforce Readiness Bootcamp (ages 18-55) and the Training Independence Program (ages 55 and older).

Contact Information

For any queries or additional information, please contact

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