

ICBVI

SIGHT RESTORATION PROGRAM

MANUAL

Our mission is to empower persons who are in danger of legal blindness, blind or visually impaired by providing sight restoration services related to procedures which preserve, stabilize and improve vision; encouraging persons in their efforts to become socially and economically independent; and serve as a resource to families and employers by expanding public awareness regarding the potential of all persons who are blind or visually impaired.

The Goal of ICBVI's Sight Restoration
is Prevention of Blindness

The purpose of the ICBVI's Sight Restoration program is to assist clients with blindness or visual impairment to prevent the onset of legal blindness or make an improvement in their visual impairment, to allow individuals to maintain or seek employment and remain independent in their jobs, home and community.

APPLICATION

Any individual who is legally or functionally blind or who is in danger of legal blindness within two years may apply for the Sight Restoration Program services at ICBVI. The purpose of the SR program is to assist clients to maintain employment and independence in the community. All Sight Restoration services will be provided by the ICBVI Vocational Rehabilitation Assistants (VRAs).

Citizenship is not a requirement for ICBVI Sight Restoration assistance. However, the individual must be present in the state, have resided in Idaho for at least 6 months and is not just visiting the state, to receive SR services. The individual must also be in the country legally and have a green card (registered alien), work permit or other documentation.

There is no age limit for Sight Restoration services.

The prevention of blindness and sight restoration means treatment or operations to prevent blindness or restore vision to clients of services for the blind who are without the financial resources to procure such services for themselves. This includes all necessary expenses incurred in connection with the diagnosis, treatment or surgery to prevent blindness and improve vision.

Necessary expenses can include the cost of getting service, the cost of services, medical and physician fees, hospital services, nursing services, maintenance while the client is away from the home, transportation to the physician or hospital and return to his home, and the cost of nursing home care when such care is necessary.

ICBVI has a \$5000 lifetime limit per person on Sight Restoration services. Exceptions to the \$5000 lifetime limit may be granted in certain circumstances after a review by ICBVI Management.

To apply for SR services:

The client and VRA must meet, complete and sign the Application. The client can assist in providing medical or other information that substantiates that he/she is legally or functionally blind or is in danger of legal blindness within two years.

The medical information checklist sheet must be filled out by the client's doctor to verify the danger of imminent legal blindness and to determine the need for treatment. When sending the client in for eye exam, medical information checklist sheet should accompany the authorization.

Forms and reports should be placed in the case file and then referenced in the IRIS Case Documentation Page, which needs to be concise but effectively chronicle of the client's progress.

Client and VRA must explore any comparable benefits, and then the client must apply for and use any comparable benefits that are available.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for Sight Restoration services through ICBVI, a client must meet the following criteria:

1. Have legal or functional blindness, or
2. Be in immediate danger of legal blindness, immediate being defined as occurring within 24 months
3. Demonstrate financial need
4. Be a resident in Idaho for at least 6 months

VRA needs to send a certificate of eligibility to the client, which a copy in the file.

SR PLAN FOR SERVICES

The plan for SR services is developed between the client and VRA with input from the client's medical doctor which can be an ophthalmologist, optometrist or any medical doctor who can diagnose the impairment.

Services can include the cost of:

- medical and physician fees and medication, if needed
- hospital services
- nursing services
- maintenance while the client is away from the home
- transportation to the physician or hospital and return home
- nursing home care when such care is necessary
- aids and appliances (one time only)
- diabetes education
- eye glasses

Post-operative reports should be placed in the file and referenced in the IRIS Case Documentation page if they are received.

VRA must indicate on plan what dollar amounts for comparable benefits and vendor discounts they are receiving for this case.

Services in the Sight Restoration Program can only be provided if there are sufficient General Funds allocated by JFAC and the Legislature each state fiscal year.

When the funds are exhausted for the state fiscal year, then Referrals will be taken and put on a waiting list in IRIS under each VRA's caseload until the next year's funding is allocated on July 1st of each year.

The priority on the waiting list will be:

- assist client to maintain employment
- diagnosis affects both eyes
- when doctor indicates that vision loss is imminent
- all others

INELIGIBLE CLOSURE

Sight Restoration cases may be closed ineligible:

- The applicant does not have a severe visual impairment and is not in danger of becoming blind within two years
- Services would not improve or stabilize vision
- There are no further SR general funds available in the state fiscal year
- Client received services through comparable benefits

A certificate of ineligibility is not needed but a closure letter may be sent outlining the reason for ineligibility.

SUCCESSFUL CLOSURE

Sight Restoration cases are closed successfully when the client has been provided SR services, the surgery is successful and the services completed and/or the maximum expenditure limit has been reached. All bills must be paid or authorizations decreased out.

A successful closure letter should be sent, with copy in case file.

OTHER CLOSURES

Sight Restoration cases are closed unsuccessfully when planned services are not provided.

This may be caused by further loss of vision, illness, and lack of follow through or the inability to benefit from the provision of SR services.

Sight Restoration does not have post closure services.