



OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA

State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0006

Telephone (515) 281-5834
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Rob Sand
Auditor of State

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: September 22, 2026

Contact: Brian Brustkern – (515) 281-5834

Auditor of State Rob Sand today released a report on the Iowa Department for the Blind for the year ended June 30, 2025.

The Iowa Department for the Blind is a statewide organization offering specialized, integrated services which blind and severely visually impaired Iowans need to live independently and work competitively.

AUDIT FINDINGS:

Sand reported one finding pertaining to the Department. The finding can be found on page 3 of this report. Sand recommended the Department establish policies and procedures which address possible taxable benefits associated with lodging provided to the director and employees.

Management of the Iowa Department for the Blind has a fiduciary responsibility to provide oversight of the Department's operations and financial transactions. Oversight is typically defined as the "watchful and responsible care" a governing body exercises in its fiduciary capacity.

A copy of the report is available for review on the Auditor of State's website at [Audit Reports – Auditor of State](#).

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**REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
IOWA DEPARTMENT FOR THE BLIND**

JUNE 30, 2025

Iowa Department for the Blind



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Rob Sand
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September 16, 2026

Iowa Department for the Blind
Des Moines, Iowa

To: Stacy Cervenka, Director of Iowa Department for the Blind:

I am pleased to submit to you this Report of Recommendations for the Iowa Department for the Blind for the year ended June 30, 2025. The report includes a finding pertaining to the Department's compliance with statutory requirements and other matters which resulted from the fiscal year 2025 audit.

I appreciate the cooperation and courtesy extended by the officials and employees of the Iowa Department for the Blind throughout the audit. If I or this office can be of any further assistance, please contact me or my staff at 515-281-5834.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Sand", written in a cursive style.

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

Iowa Department for the Blind



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Rob Sand
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September 16, 2026

Iowa Department for the Blind
Des Moines, Iowa

To: Stacy Cervenka, Director of Iowa Department for the Blind:

The Iowa Department for the Blind is a part of the State of Iowa and, as such, has been included in our audits of the State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and the State's Single Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2025.

In conducting our audits, we became aware of an aspect concerning the Department's operations for which we believe corrective action is necessary. As a result, we have developed a recommendation which is reported on the following page. We believe you should be aware of this recommendation, which pertains to the Department's compliance with statutory requirements and other matters. The recommendation has been discussed with Department personnel and their response to the recommendation is included in this report. While we have expressed our conclusion on the Department's response, we did not audit the Department's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report, a public record by law, is intended solely for the information and use of the officials and employees of the Iowa Department for the Blind, citizens of the State of Iowa and other parties to whom the Iowa Department for the Blind may report. This report is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We would like to acknowledge the many courtesies and assistance extended to us by personnel of the Department during the course of our audits. Should you have any questions concerning any of the above matters, we shall be pleased to discuss them with you at your convenience. Individuals who participated in our audits of the Iowa Department for the Blind are listed on page 4 and they are available to discuss these matters with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian R. Brustkern".

Brian R. Brustkern, CPA
Deputy Auditor of State

cc: Honorable Kim Reynolds, Governor
Kraig Paulsen, Director, Department of Management
Timothy McDermott, Director, Legislative Services Agency

Report of Recommendations to the Iowa Department for the Blind

June 30, 2025

Findings Reported in the State's Report on Internal Control:

No matters were noted.

Findings Reported in the State's Single Audit Report:

No matters were noted.

Other Findings Related to Internal Control:

No matters were noted.

Finding Related to Statutory Requirements and Other Matters:

Director/Employee Housing Concern – The Department for the Blind (IDB) is located at 524 4th Street, Des Moines, Iowa. This building serves as the main operations for the Department and has residential apartments and dorms available for use. A concerned citizen contacted the Auditor of State to inquire if housing provided to IDB director/employees was included as a taxable benefit to the employees.

The Department's website states the primary function of the apartments and dorms of the IDB is to provide housing to students of the Blindness Empowerment and Independence Center and/or the Young Adult Transition Program Students. Other clients receiving training, meeting with case managers, attending IDB programs and looking for employment may be provided short-term lodging in the building. The website also notes department staff relocating from another state or city, attending meetings or trainings or otherwise performing work duties are given third priority for making reservations to use the apartments/dorms. Any staff person staying in the building for more than 8 weeks must participate in apartment duty rotation.

The Department's practice has been to allow directors and employees the ability to stay overnight in the apartment at no cost. Upon inquiry, the Department does not have a policy or procedure which addresses overnight stays in the apartment and any possible taxable benefits associated with this use.

Recommendation – The Department should establish policies and procedures which address possible taxable benefits associated with the lodging provided to the director and employees.

Response – The Department for the Blind is reviewing policies and procedures and will implement any necessary changes.

Conclusion – Response accepted.

Report of Recommendations to the Iowa Department for the Blind

June 30, 2025

Staff:

Questions or requests for further assistance should be directed to:

Brian R. Brustkern, CPA, Deputy
Selina V. Johnson, CPA, Manager

Other individuals who participated in the audits include:

Chris L. Poague, Staff Auditor