
FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

September 23, 2025



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Gifts, Bequests, and Program Income Fund

Purpose and History

The Iowa Department for the Blind's Gifts, Bequests, and Program Income Fund was created in [Senate File 2303](#) (Reorganization Coordinating Amendments Act) during the 1986 Legislative Session and codified in Iowa Code section [216B.3\(8\)](#).

The Iowa Commission for the Blind has authorized the Iowa Department for the Blind (IDB) to use moneys from the Fund for the following purposes:

- Providing grants and loans to blind Iowans needing goods or services.
- Purchasing of equipment for independent living (IL) clients to subsidize the costs of the IL program.
- Supporting volunteers who are supporting IDB programming.
- Providing equipment, stipends, or other necessary costs related to the training of educators, families, and partners supporting opportunities for blind Iowans to be employed and live independently.
- Funding IDB programs and services in times of needed budget support.

Funding

The Fund receives gifts, bequests, refunds, and reimbursements and earns interest. It has been past practice for the Fund to spend no more than the interest earned on the Fund. Recipients of grants and loans must meet eligibility and application requirements. Some examples of uses of funds include the following:

- Purchasing equipment and support services for active IL clients.
- Purchasing adaptive equipment that is not available through existing programs.
- Purchasing tools and supplies for the training of teachers, paraeducators, and other professionals serving blind youth.
- Remodeling property or purchasing equipment to aid independent living with a disability where costs cannot be covered by the applicant or any other community program.
- Purchasing technology or equipment that allows blind individuals to access the Internet including computers, tablets, smartphones, Braille displays or other Braille devices, and screen reading software or applications.
- Providing funding to improve or expand a Business Enterprise Program business.

More Information

Iowa Department for the Blind Gifts & Bequest Fund Guidelines:

www.blind.iowa.gov/get-involved/gifts-bequest-fund-guidelines

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Figure 1 summarizes total revenue and expenditures in FY 2023 through estimated FY 2025.

Figure 1 — Gifts, Bequests, and Program Income Fund Revenue and Expenditures

	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024	Estimated FY 2025
Resources			
Beginning Balance	\$ 3,923,966	\$ 3,989,828	\$ 4,123,989
Revenue			
Interest	\$ 101,778	\$ 184,346	\$ 185,346
Refunds & Reimbursements	6,021	6,199	7,597
Unearned Receipts (Gifts & Bequests)	10,167	28,569	93,678
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 117,966</u>	<u>\$ 219,114</u>	<u>\$ 286,621</u>
Total Resources	<u>\$ 4,041,932</u>	<u>\$ 4,208,942</u>	<u>\$ 4,410,610</u>
Expenses			
In State Travel	\$ 130	\$ 270	\$ 0
Office Supplies	1,388	1,228	552
Other Supplies	3,304	6,805	4,476
Food	0	520	2,161
Rentals	1,100	1,645	1,320
Professional & Scientific Services	10	0	0
Advertising & Publicity	1,666	0	24,591
Office Equipment	820	0	0
Equipment - Non Inventory	0	6,198	9,730
IT Equipment & Software	833	15,162	168
Aid to Individuals	42,853	53,125	53,009
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 52,104</u>	<u>\$ 84,953</u>	<u>\$ 96,007</u>
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 3,989,828</u>	<u>\$ 4,123,989</u>	<u>\$ 4,314,603</u>

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [216B.3\(8\)](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [111](#)

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