

Individuals who are blind include those with a vision loss that does not constitute legal blindness but is sufficient to prevent use of standard print with ease. Physically handicapped or reading-disabled persons qualify for library service. The library also distributes machines on which records and tapes may be played.

The Business Enterprises Program enables blind Iowans to operate food service facilities on federal, state, municipal, and private property. The provision of initial and ongoing food service and management training, as well as beginning inventory and purchase of equipment, means that blind persons in the program can become self-sufficient, taxpaying citizens.

The department makes available a variety of specialized aids, appliances, and recreational items that can be purchased by blind Iowans at cost or furnished as part of some individual rehabilitation plans. White canes for independent travel, braille and electronic watches and clocks, specially marked games, braille and print-writing devices, various types of measuring equipment, and miscellaneous aids are among the items available.

A number of blind children are enrolled in regular public schools throughout the state. Upon request, the department works with the Bureau of Special Education of the Department of Education to procure books and specialized material for those children and to provide counseling and guidance.

A registry of the blind in Iowa showing cause of blindness, age, and other statistical information valuable in program evaluation and planning is maintained by the department. It is estimated that there are more than 57,000 blind Iowans and that 25 Iowans become blind each week.

COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

§216B.2

*Department for the Blind, 524 Fourth Street, Des Moines 50309-2364;
(515)281-1333 or (800)362-2587; TTY (515)281-1355*

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Term Ending Date</i>
Julia A. Scurr, Chair.....	Coralville.....	April 30, 2008
Douglas D. Elliott.....	Grinnell.....	April 30, 2007
Robert J. Martin.....	Davenport.....	April 30, 2006

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

§259.1; §705 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended

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<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Term Ending Date</i>
Chris O'Hanlon, Chair.....	Washington.....	June 30, 2006
Carolynn Adams.....	Council Bluffs.....	June 30, 2008
Albert Bibbins.....	Des Moines.....	June 30, 2007
Paula Cox.....	North Liberty.....	June 30, 2006
Angela Creech.....	Iowa City.....	June 30, 2008
Donna Crum.....	Griswold.....	June 30, 2008
Randell Davis.....	Oskaloosa.....	June 30, 2008
Robert Jeppesen.....	Des Moines.....	June 30, 2007
Elizabeth O'Hara.....	Palo.....	June 30, 2007
Dedie Thompson.....	Terril.....	June 30, 2006

Ex officio, nonvoting members:

Rebecca Criswell, designee of the Department for the Blind.....	Statutory
Tim Gracey, designee of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Department of Education.....	Statutory