

BLIND INDUSTRIES & SERVICES OF MARYLAND

CASE FOR SUPPORT

EMBRACE
EDUCATE
EMPOWER



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BLIND INDUSTRIES & SERVICES OF MARYLAND

PURPOSE

We positively change people's attitudes about blindness!

VISION

VISION – Our organization is an internationally recognized leader whose **employees/associates** provide evolving opportunities for blind people and others.

MISSION – To provide stable career opportunities, innovative rehabilitation programs, quality products and services and to develop resources for training and education.

MISSION

CORE VALUES

CORE VALUES – *We are committed to these:*

- **Belief in the Capabilities of Blind People**
- **Honesty**
- **Integrity**
- **Trust**
- **Teamwork**
- **Open Communication**



About BISM

Established in 1908 by the Maryland General Assembly, Blind Industries and Services of Maryland (BISM) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit company that provides evolving employment and training opportunities for blind and visually impaired people of all ages. BISM works tirelessly to change the staggering statistic that nearly 70% of the blind population is unemployed. BISM Associates manufacture quality products, provide excellent customer service, and offer life-changing programs and services.

Over 400 people (majority of whom are blind or low vision) are employed by BISM.

BISM's programs and services are free for blind and low vision Marylanders of all ages.

BISM offers real life skills to achieve self-sufficiency, personal growth and independence.

We have an uncompromising belief in the capability of every blind and low-vision person.

The Blind Community Faces Many Challenges

	Blind Community*	National Average*
Graduated high school	78.9%	87.5%
Earned a Bachelor Degree <small>Adults ages 25+</small>	16.2%	32.6%
Median Household Income	\$45,100	\$63,179
Living Below Poverty Line	27.2%	11.8%
Not Employed Full Time <small>Includes unemployed and underemployed</small>	69.1%	17.3%

According to the CDC, more than 1 million Americans aged 40 years and older are blind and this number is predicted to more than double by 2050.

**2018 Data (most recent available)*



BISM in Action

*Our training programs **Empower***

Training & Services

In 1986, BISM established the Rehabilitation Training Division. BISM maintains rehabilitation training facilities and staff capable of handling a wide range of programs and services for blind people of all ages. Our staff of qualified Rehabilitation professionals has grown from a small core of vocational rehabilitation teaching staff in the 1980's and early 1990's, to its present size of approximately 28 associates.


Steps To Independence

BISM's internationally recognized Rehabilitation programs for youth, adults, and seniors all feature non-visual classroom training in four crucial areas: Braille (Reading and Writing); Adaptive Technology (Computers); Independent Living (Home Management); and Cane Travel (Mobility).



Blindness Impacts Everyone

Programs for every age group



***Being able to
navigate the world
independently is an important skill
instructors instill in all of their students.***

Youth



In addition to the many skills blind and low vision youth learn, BISM has a number of programs that provide students with employment experience, confidence-building activities, improved social skills, and mentoring. Programs include:

GLIDE - Gaining Leadership, Independence, Direction and Experience

Independence 101 - Residential program for middle school students

Work To Independence - Residential program for high school students

All programs teach the Four crucial areas:

Adult



BISM'S Comprehensive Orientation, Rehabilitation and Empowerment (CORE) residential program teaches blind and low vision adults the skills of blindness so they can become employed, pursue postsecondary education, and regain control of their lives. CORE students also participate in:

Job Readiness

College Preperation

Woodshop

Fitness

Confidence-Building Activities

Senior



The Senior program curriculum includes similar classes to CORE, plus gardening and leisure activities, peer support, confidence-building outings and community integration. Students work toward their personal goals for independence with training tailored to each person's real-life situation. Some of the key Senior programs are:

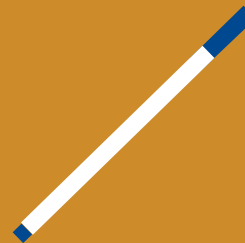
SILVER - Senior Independent Living, Vision, Education, & Rehabilitation

SAIL - Seniors Achieving Independent Living

Support Group - Activities & Resources



Braille



Cane Travel



Travel/Home Living



Technology

Dollars and Cents

Your generous support allows BISM's Independence Training and Rehabilitation Department to provide:

Cost Per CORE Student: **\$78,100/year**

Cost Per SAIL Student: **\$25,200/year**

Kitchen: **\$25,000/year**

Tech Lab: **\$12,500/year**

Rent Per CORE Student: **\$8,800/year**

Woodshop: **\$8,000/year**

Canes: **\$5,500/year**

Outings: **\$3,500/year**

Kids' Camp Per Camper: **\$1,100/week**



We Embrace, Educate and Empower Blind Marylanders

	YOUTH	ADULTS	SENIORS
In a Typical Year We Serve...	136	932	1,006

Despite the challenges of providing face-to-face training, we continue to offer vital services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



BISM EMPOWERS blind and low vision people of all ages through diverse career opportunities and innovative training programs.

Financials



Our Independence Training and Rehabilitation Program costs approximately **\$1.8 million** per year.

We receive an average of **\$900,000** per year in direct grants and funding from the government.

Earned income generated from our manufacturing and production division partially offsets the **\$900,000** gap, but we need more support.

It takes financial support to accomplish our mission.

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland (BISM) offers free life skills rehabilitation programs for blind and low vision people of all ages in Maryland. Our mission at BISM is to provide each student with the ability to achieve self-sufficiency, personal growth and independence.

Invest in BISM

Your support leads to independence.

*Help Blind and Low-Vision Marylanders
Thrive and Succeed.*



SCAN HERE

*Embrace your role by
making a donation.*



Positively Changing People's Attitudes About Blindness!

**Take a tour of our
facility today!**

**Blind Industries & Services of Maryland
3345 Washington Blvd • Baltimore, MD 21227
Toll Free: 1-888-322-4567 • www.bism.org**



Blind Industries and Services of Maryland (BISM) is a registered 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization that offers rehabilitation programs and employment opportunities for blind and low vision people. For more information about our many programs and services, please visit our website at www.bism.org or call (888)322-4567.