

EXECUTIVE ORDER

No. 86 - 15

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON BLINDNESS AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

WHEREAS, blind and visually impaired persons are an integral and growing part of our community; and

WHEREAS, there are many organizations in the public and private sectors which serve the special needs of these Arizonans; and

WHEREAS, various cooperative activities among these organizations have demonstrated a commitment to coordinate their efforts and to eliminate duplication and gaps; and

WHEREAS, establishment of a Governor's Advisory Council has been identified as the most effective approach to accomplishing these goals;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bruce Babbitt, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby create the GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON BLINDNESS AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENT and delineate herein its purpose, structure, and function.

- I. **PURPOSE.** The Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment is established to provide a mechanism to ensure that the specialized needs of blind and visually impaired Arizonans are addressed effectively.
- II. **STRUCTURE.** The Council shall consist of fifteen members appointed by the Governor and shall meet at least once each calendar quarter; the term of office of the members shall be three years.
 - A. Nine of the members shall be consumers (i.e. blind or visually impaired individuals or parents/guardians thereof). Three of the members shall be appointed from the Arizona Council For The Blind and three of the members shall be appointed from the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona.
 - B. Six of the members shall be representatives of the general community including business, government, employers, and advocates.
 - C. There shall be four non-voting members who shall serve as ex-officio members. The members shall be:
 1. The manager of the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired in the Department of Economic Security
 2. The Superintendent of the Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind
 3. The Chief Librarian for the Arizona Department of Library and Archives Arizona State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
 4. A representative of a private non-profit agency that provides services for the blind and visually impaired.
 - D. The Council shall encourage broad participation by other organizations and individuals interested in blind and visually impaired Arizonans to develop and periodically review/recommend goals and objectives to meet the needs of this specialized population. These goals and objectives shall be based on identified needs and shall be designed to cover gaps in existing services.
- III. **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.** The Council shall:
 - A. Advise and assist the Governor, the Legislature, and all State agencies providing services to blind individuals, in matters concerning blindness and visual impairment.
 - B. Submit to the Governor and the Legislature by July 1 of each year, a comprehensive annual report on the Council's activities, accomplishments, and recommendations; submit other reports as deemed advisable; conduct an annual statewide conference to address issues and exchange information.
 - C. Review and make recommendations when necessary on plans and strategies for meeting the needs of blind and visually impaired Arizonans statewide.

- D. *In cooperation with all related organizations, conduct a comprehensive program of professional and public education to heighten awareness of the capabilities, potentials, and needs of blind and visually impaired persons.*
- E. *Serve as a repository for information on blindness, visual impairment, sight conservation, services, referral procedures, and demographics of blind and visually impaired persons.*
- F. *Monitor programs and services for blind individuals to encourage efficient and coordinated use of resources in the provision of services.*

IV. ADMINISTRATION

The Council shall be located within the Office of the Governor. Staff and administrative support shall be provided by the Department of Economic Security.

- V. COMPENSATION. *Council members shall receive no compensation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement of travel and per diem expense according to State policy.*

- VI. EFFECTIVE DATE. *This order shall become effective immediately.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona



GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this eighth day of December in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-six and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Tenth.

ATTEST:



Secretary of State

