

\*\*\*URGENT\*\*\*

June 18, 2025

**California Deafblind Services (CDBS)** CDBS is a discretionary grant that is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), which is under Part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). CDBS is in Year 2 of the current 5-year funded grant cycle (10/01/2023 – 09/30/28). CDBS is located at San Francisco State University, is fiscally managed by SFSU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP). CDBS has received OSEP funding as a state deafblind project since 1987, and the project initiatives have extensive reach across the state impacting thousands of educators, related service providers, early interventionists and families.

**IDEA Part D:** Part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) focuses on national activities to improve the education of children with disabilities. It includes provisions for competitive federal grants to support various initiatives aimed at enhancing the education of children with disabilities on a broader scale, beyond individual schools or states. Part D grants support activities related to:

- personnel development
- technical assistance and dissemination
- educational materials and technology
- parent-training and information centers

CDBS is a technical assistance and dissemination project designed to provide information on effective practices related to deafblind education to educators, policymakers, service providers, and families.

**2026 Skinny Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2026** The White House submitted a [budget to Congress](#) on 05/02/25 and the Department of Education released a [FY 2026 Proposed Budget Summary](#) on 05/30/25 that proposes complete defunding of all OSEP-funded Part D activities, including Technical Assistance & Dissemination (TA & D) programs, which includes the CDBS grant. This budget proposes instead to offer special education block grants to states to cover the needs of students receiving special education services under the IDEA. Each state would determine how to use these funds with **no requirement** to provide deafblind technical assistance. **If the proposed budget passes, it would allow the rescinding of funds mid-grant cycle, as of 10/1/25 or earlier, and services from CDBS would abruptly cease leaving a major gap in supporting students, their families and professionals.**

**Students Served** In our 2024 census 1,077 children were identified as DeafBlind in California. This number represents 10% of all DeafBlind children and youth included in the National Deafblind Census. In addition to combined hearing and vision loss, most of these children and youth identified have multiple disabilities. The unique educational needs of DeafBlind learners require the support of highly qualified personnel to ensure that they receive effective early intervention and specialized academic instruction and have meaningful access to the general education curriculum and successful transition to post-secondary education or employment.

**Scope of Work** The State DeafBlind Projects' (SDBPs) scope of work includes the provision of technical assistance (TA) on a multi-tiered delivery system; General, Targeted and Intensive. This is provided through remote and in-person professional development, content-specific webinars, training for young adults and families, and resources tailored for the unique needs of learners who are deafblind, including those with additional disabilities. Each year CDBS trains hundreds of professionals, related service providers, and families, at no cost to the participants. These services include a family training webinar series, quarterly trainings for the CDBS Family Support Provider Network, and training for local education agencies and school districts. CDBS staff also provide deafblind specific content for courses in teacher certification programs in Extensive Support Needs, Early Childhood Special Education, Visual Impairments, Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Certified Orientation and Mobility by serving as guest lecturers at San Francisco State

University and other higher education institutions and teacher preparation programs across California and the U.S. In addition, CDBS has established a university-based online training program at San Francisco State University to prepare paraeducators to serve as interveners for students with deafblindness across the state. **This specialized content and level of training is not provided anywhere else in California.**

**Program Efficacy & Stakeholders Satisfaction**, CDBS maintains an Expert Advisory Council that is surveyed on an annual basis to assess the efficacy of the program. Surveys of recipients of technical assistance and training are also conducted throughout the year. CDBS averages ratings between 99%-100% on usefulness, relevance, and quality from stakeholder and TA and training recipient satisfaction. Recent testimonials support the impact of our project on families and professionals across the state:

*“This service and support was invaluable. We had no support elsewhere.”*

*“Thank you so much for all the assistance and resources. It made me feel better that we gave our student and his family all the important information they needed to know to move forward.”*

*“The CDBS staff member was very thoughtful, patient, and probing in a productive manner that allowed the school staff members to find a focus for this student's needs at this time. Additionally, applicable resources were shared, and this support helped build team confidence.”*

*“Clearly presented information and examples of how to implement strategies with children, families, and education teams, as well as opportunities for discussion and sharing.”*

**Further Information** On June 26, 2025, at 4:00pm PST, the National Family Association for DeafBlind will be hosting a national town hall meeting to address these issues and respond to stakeholder questions and concerns. [Click here](#) for additional details. Please consider joining this timely session. Also visit: <https://cadeafblind.org> to see a list of all of the services that our project provides.

We remain available to answer any questions you may have regarding learners with deafblindness in California.

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