Blindness is not a barrier to employment.

Since 1938, NIB has focused on enhancing opportunities for economic and personal independence of people who are blind, primarily through creating, sustaining and improving employment.
Delivering Value Together, NIB and its associated agencies make a difference in the lives of people who are blind, while supporting customers and serving their communities in the following areas:

Employment of People Who Are Blind
Employing thousands of people who are blind, generating hundreds of new jobs each year, and paying more than $100 million in wages and benefits annually.

Product Manufacturing
Producing thousands of SKILCRAFT® products such as office supplies, cleaning supplies, hardware and paints, and a wide range of products to equip the U.S. military, including uniforms, bedding and protective equipment.

Service Delivery
Delivering a wide range of professional services, including contact center services, contract management support, supply chain management, administrative support and Section 508 assurance.

Base Supply Center Operations
Managing and operating AbilityOne Base Supply Center stores on military bases and in federal government installations nationwide.

Rehabilitative Services
Providing rehabilitative services to tens of thousands of people who are blind nationwide.

Small Business Partnerships
Partnering with small business—including diverse suppliers and service-disabled, veteran-owned businesses—as supply sources and distribution channels for our products and services.

Wounded Warrior Outreach
Offering training, job placement, career opportunities and guidance in the transition to civilian life for wounded veterans, including those who are blind.

Training and Professional Development
Providing training and on-the-job experience that advances professional development and prepares individuals who are blind for rewarding, successful careers. NIB’s Business Leaders Program provides professional training for hundreds of people who are blind each year.

Building Careers for People Who Are Blind
Despite continued gains in employment, people who are blind remain one of the nation’s greatest untapped labor resources. In fact, 70 percent of working-age Americans who are blind are not employed. This statistic fuels NIB’s mission to create, sustain and improve employment opportunities for people who are blind.

Today, NIB is focused not only on creating jobs, but on developing careers through challenging, knowledge-based positions in high-energy, quality work environments. NIB works with a nationwide network of associated nonprofit agencies to offer a wide range of career opportunities for people who are blind. NIB supports its associated agencies through contract administration, business development, marketing and promotion, and other services.

Opening Doors Since 1938
In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Wagner-O’Day Act creating employment opportunities for people who are blind through the manufacture of products for the federal government. That same year, NIB incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to promote the employment of people who are blind.

In 1971, the legislation was renamed the Javits-Wagner-O’Day (JWOD) Act and amended to include employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities and the provision of services to the federal government. Today, the program is known as the AbilityOne® Program and administered by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission® , an independent federal agency, with assistance from two central nonprofit agencies: NIB and SourceAmericaTM.

While committed to the AbilityOne Program and its federal customers, NIB has also strengthened and expanded relationships with commercial companies and state governments to increase employment opportunities for people who are blind.
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