**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT**

Helen Keller Services enables individuals who are blind, visually impaired, Deaf-Blind or have combined hearing and vision loss to live, work and thrive in the communities of their choice. Since 1893, Helen Keller Services (HKS) has been committed to improving the lives of individuals who are blind, visually impaired or have combined hearing and vision loss.

HKS is comprised of [Helen Keller Services for the Blind](https://www.helenkeller.org/node/2) (HKSB), a regional division serving the New York City/Long Island area, and the [Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults](https://www.helenkeller.org/node/3) (HKNC), a national division headquartered in Sands Point, New York, with a network of regional offices that extends HKS’ reach across the United States. Our instructors provide personalized training and guidance to each of our consumers.

We currently have an exciting career opportunity to join our team as a Deaf-Blind Specialist located in the **state of IOWA**.

The primary focus of the Deaf-Blind Specialist will be to provide one on one services to consumers to assist with achievement of employment outcomes, with a commitment to a fully inclusive community based environment. The Deaf-Blind Specialist will also offer training and technical assistance to their families and service providers. This position carries out identified and specific targeted activities, as outlined in the Long Range Service Plan (LRSP) to assist the HKNC regional representative with building capacity within the state. Specific responsibilities include:

* Assist with providing one on one direct services in the areas of vocational rehabilitation, with an emphasis on employment outcomes including job development, job placement and coaching. Work collaboratively with local service providers to develop a team to execute Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). Community Partners may include Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) , community rehabilitation programs (CRPs), schools for the deaf and schools for the blind, CILs, and others;
* Collaborate with consumers, and community partners to identify deaf-blind youth and adults for inclusion in the HKNC National Registry;
* Provide additional direct services as needed which may include instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) assistance and other casework as determined on a case by case basis;
* Assist with being a one on one liaison and professional trainer to work with the Helen Keller National Center and Vocational Rehabilitation, and home team members to support a consumer transitioning back to home community after completion of training

(includes residential and employment domains). In addition to, but not be limited to,

supported employment, customized integrated employment and other areas requested by training goals for successful outcomes;

* Assist with providing training and mentoring to the community and state employment specialists to expand awareness, knowledge and advocacy efforts about work-site related accommodations; work with VR and businesses to create work experience opportunities, leading to employment.
* Work jointly with the Deaf-Blind Immersion Experience (DBIE) coordinator for implementation of follow up recommendations and continued training for home team providers.

Individual must be a self-starter, have the ability to work independently while being a strong team player. Strong written and communication skills required. This position requires significant travel throughout the state, and possibly nearby states, and to the Sands Point, NY, HKNC headquarters as necessary.

**Requirements:**

Bachelor’s degree required; Master’s degree preferred in vocational rehabilitation, Deaf Education, Special Education, multiple disabilities or related degree.  Three to five years experience working with individuals who are deaf-blind.

The Deaf-Blind specialist will possess the following knowledge/skills/abilities, or be able and willing to attain them within a reasonable amount of time, determined by HKNC, after being hired including fluency in a wide-variety of communication methods and adaptations used by youth and adults, who are deaf-blind, (including, but not limited to): American Sign Language, and sign language, in English word order; Braille; Alternative communication methods (picture books, communication boards, speech output methods). Familiarity with an array of devices and technology used by deaf-blind people (including, but not limited to):  Videophone, Video Relay Service low vision aids, braille devices, hearing aids, magnification devices and independent living aids.

To apply, please include your resume and cover letter to:

E-mail: [hkncrecruitment@hknc.org](mailto:hkncrecruitment@hknc.org)

FAX: (516) 767-2302

Mail to: Helen Keller National Center

141 Middle Neck Road

Sands Point, New York 11050

Attn: Human Resources Department

Job Code – DB Specialist – Iowa