



Your Potential. Our Support. **JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Mobility Specialist for the Blind, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind
Springfield (Greene County)
October 16, 2014**

Rehabilitation Services for the Blind is seeking applications for a Mobility Specialist for the Blind. This position is based in the Springfield Office located at 149 Park Central Sq., Room 640, Springfield, MO.

This is specialized and skilled work in providing adjustment services, orientation to surroundings and travel training to blind and visually impaired persons who receive services from the Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, Division of Family Services. An employee in this class has responsibility for training blind and visually impaired persons so they will achieve the confidence and skills necessary to travel independently from one location to another in a safe, efficient and socially acceptable manner. Supervision is received from a District Supervisor, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind or other designated administrative superior.

JOB DUTIES: Assesses blind and visually impaired persons, including those with multiple disabilities, to determine their understanding of spatial and directional concepts and their physical and emotional capability to participate in a planned sequential course of training in orientation and mobility. Provides orientation of blind and visually impaired persons to the surroundings in which they live and/or work. Communicates to clients and other significant persons information regarding the physical, psychological, social, educational, economic and employment implications of blindness. Teaches blind and visually impaired persons the correct techniques for accessing various modes of public transportation (taxis, busses, trains, airplanes, etc.). Prepares and teaches the use of tactile, Braille and auditory maps. Teaches blind and visually impaired persons the effects of various weather conditions on the environment and how to travel in those conditions (i.e., the effect of wind, rain, or snow on traffic sounds; ice or silt on sidewalks). Assists clients in obtaining alternatives to cane travel (i.e., guide dogs, electronic aids and optical aids). Trains the client in the use of remaining vision, whenever applicable. Teaches cane techniques such as arc, rhythm step, shorelining, touch and slide, diagonal, methods of locating stationary landmarks or other points of reference; how to judge traffic and intersection patterns in both residential and business areas and how to negotiate curbs and uneven terrains.

Observes the posture, gait, body movements and other gross motor techniques of blind and visually impaired persons, assesses the specific implications for travel and teaches correct posture, gait, body movements and other gross motor techniques necessary for learning and using travel skills. Determines the appropriate type and length of cane for each client (when necessary cuts cane to desired length) and teaches client to determine when cane tips need to be changed and how to change them. Interprets state statutes related to services and legal rights of blind and visually impaired persons to clients, other consumers and the general public.

Qualifications: (When applicable, equivalent substitution will be allowed for deficiencies in experience or education.) Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with specialization in orientation and mobility, teaching the blind and visually impaired, rehabilitation

teaching, special education, occupational therapy, physical therapy or closely related areas. (Specialization in other fields of study must be accompanied by a minimum of two years supervised experience in teaching blind and/or visually impaired persons).

SALARY RANGE: Annual \$35,844.00 – \$50,592.00

HOW TO APPLY: Individuals who are interested in this position should complete and fax a Paper Application for Merit System Employment <http://oa.mo.gov/pers/howtoapply.htm> along with any applicable official transcript(s) to Annette Summers, Personnel Analyst at 314 – 877-2761 or to Annette.Summers@dss.mo.gov. Upon accessing the web site, select “**Paper Application for Merit System Employment**”. Even if you are already on the register, a printed copy of your paper application and any applicable official transcript(s) must be sent to Annette Summers. If you are currently a Mobility Specialist for the Blind in good standing (i.e., not on a corrective action plan or attendance plan), not on probation and seeking a transfer, fax a completed transfer/reemployment application <http://oa.mo.gov/personnel/job-applicants/transfer-and-reemployment-process> to Ms. Summers at the fax number referenced above **and** to the Office of Administration at 573 – 526-5382.

If you have questions regarding this position contact **Mr. Randy Custer** 417- 895-6391.

RECRUITMENT AREA: Accepting application from all qualified applicants

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, **November 7, 2014** by 5:00 p.m.

Applications will be subject to review prior to scheduling interviews.

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