

## **ACVREP NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 19, 2006**

ACVREP – Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

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### **Congratulations To Those Individuals Who Were Certified Or Recertified For The Quarter Ending September 30, 2006!**

There were **51** people seeking certification (4 in LVT, 33 in O&M, and 14 in VRT) and **96** people seeking recertification (8 in LVT, 69 in O&M, and 19 in VRT) during this

quarter. The following **147** individuals were recently approved by the ACVREP Board of Directors:

**New Certificants**

Low Vision Therapists

Diane McMillan  
Brandi McRedmond  
Melva Perez  
Snehal Vyas

Orientation & Mobility Specialists

Craig Allen  
Yana Balashova  
Joy Boyer  
Rachel Butalla  
Joanna Butler  
Susette Butler  
Kelly Chadwick  
Ekaterina Chupakhina  
Cheryl Dillon  
Joshua Dugan  
Tracey French  
Christine Houston  
Stephanie Isbell  
Elizabeth Jurco  
Rebecca Killebrew  
Jhan Kold  
Karen Markey  
Brandi McRedmond  
Robert Munoz  
Jessica Nelipovich  
William Noll  
Samantha Norris  
Kimberly Otto  
Jennifer Reboulet  
Linda Sholes  
Brooke Smith  
Winston Smith  
Joy Spite  
Rosemary Stawasz  
Kathleen Turner  
Marilyn Turner  
Sheila Walker

Cassandra Williamston

Vision Rehabilitation Therapists

Donna Blumel  
Ana Carruth  
Marsha Farrow  
Jane Fore-Mather  
Song-Jae Jo  
Jean May  
Mary McAndrews  
Natasha Mlotok  
Linh Pham  
Kristin Reinhart  
Alice Ritchhart  
Michael Triplett  
Laura Wright  
Mary Zelinsky

**Individuals who Recertified**

Low Vision Therapists

Nancy Barron  
Joseph Fontenot  
Sherry Holder  
Paul Koons  
Dale Latulippe  
Debra Sokol-Mckay  
William Wright  
Brandie Young

Orientation and Mobility Specialists

Sherie Aston  
Maylene Bird  
Katherine Brittian  
Kathleen Brown  
Julie Broyles  
Susan Butler  
Jocelyn Castillo  
Angela Childers  
Paul Clary  
Jennifer Coady  
Don Coltrane  
Dardis Croom

Trudy Diepholz  
Robert Disher  
Stephanie Doeren-Rasmussen  
Barbara Ennis  
Irma Estrella  
Diane Fazzi  
Angyln Franquemont  
Debra Fromm  
Charlene Goode  
Jennifer Graham  
Suzanne Haas  
Lori Hagle  
Karen Halsey  
Mitchel Hansen  
Timothy Hindman  
Lee Hise  
Sherry Holder  
Karen Hornberger  
Annis Householder  
April Keck  
Joyce Kemp  
Trisha Kress  
Vance Lankford  
Kristen Lavergne  
Tiehan Liu  
Marjorie Lloyd  
Kristin Lockley  
Mary Lorenz  
Bonnie Low  
Jody Mackay  
Karen Mascho  
Megan Meseck  
Renee Miller  
Maureen Morgan  
Eileen O'Donnell  
Don O'Hair  
Laura Ohm  
Mary O'Neill-Kob  
Annie Presley  
Kay Pruett  
Anne Riddering  
Jane Sadowski  
Sherry Sandt  
Jeffrey Schroeder  
Shawn Schultz  
Gary Shrieves

Jennifer Stephens  
Teresa Szymanowski  
LeeAnn Tapscott  
Michael Tevis  
Jennifer Tierney  
Glenn Toney  
Lois Umphrey  
Emma Wilson  
Gary Wright  
Brandie Young  
Kathy Zwald

#### Vision Rehabilitation Therapists

Susan Anima  
Constance Arends  
Bonnie Betz  
Glenda Farnum  
Isabell Florence  
Leanne Ford  
Carol Marriot  
Roberta McCall  
Anne McDevitt  
Stanley Mosser  
Nancy Northard  
Eileen O'Donnell  
Timothy Panula  
Nancy Paskin  
Anna Pekarski  
Annie Presley  
Sandra Rosen  
Marilyn Sanders  
Paula Southerland

#### **Electronic CE Application Now Available On ACVREP Website**

ACVREP's Continuing Education (CE) application is now available in an electronic format. In order to submit this application electronically, go to the "Download" page on the ACVREP website ([www.acvrep.org](http://www.acvrep.org)). Scroll down on the right side until you get to the Continuing Education application section. Click on the link after "Continuing Education Online Application for CE Providers" to download the electronic CE application. After you complete the application, click on "Email Form Now" at the end of the application, which will send the application directly to the ACVREP office. Regarding the supporting documentation that generally accompanies the CE application (e.g. promotional fliers, agendas, learning goals and objectives, Attestation Forms,

procedures to verify attendance, evaluation sheets), you can email that information to [smikrut@acvrep.org](mailto:smikrut@acvrep.org) or send it via regular mail to the ACVREP office.

If you have any questions regarding the new electronic CE application or applying for ACVREP approval for a specific CE event, please contact Sharon L. Mikrut at 520-887-6816 or [smikrut@acvrep.org](mailto:smikrut@acvrep.org).

### **Social Security Advisory Board Issues: A Disability System For The 21st Century**

In its October 2003 report, The Social Security Definition of Disability, the Social Security Advisory Board observed that, "The original Social Security disability programs were designed to serve those who had no realistic expectation of a return to the workforce because of a combination of severity of disability and attainment of near-retirement age." That report raised the question of whether or not the Social Security definition of disability facilitates an appropriate approach to supporting and enabling persons with disabilities. After 3 years of intensive study of this question, the Board has issued a follow-up report outlining its vision of a disability system for the 21st century that is in alignment with the Americans With Disabilities Act, which proclaimed, "...the Nation's proper goals regarding individuals with disabilities are to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for such individuals..."

The Board's report is available now in a preliminary electronic version. Printed copies will be available at a later date.

This and other Board reports can be requested or downloaded from the Board's website [www.ssab.gov](http://www.ssab.gov).

Other recent reports issued by the Board include:

Disability Decision Making: Data and Materials (March 2006)  
<http://www.ssab.gov/DisabilityChartbookSummar.htm>

Social Security: Why Action Should Be Taken Soon (September 2005)  
[http://www.ssab.gov/Why\\_action\\_is\\_needed\\_soon.htm](http://www.ssab.gov/Why_action_is_needed_soon.htm)

Retirement Security: The Unfolding of a Predictable Surprise (March 2005)  
<http://www.ssab.gov/RetirementSecuritySummary.htm>

The Social Security Definition of Disability (October 2003)  
<http://www.ssab.gov/Definition-of-disability-summary.htm>

### **Announcing 2007 AFB Policy And Research Internship Program**

#### **Invitation**

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) Public Policy Center is inviting applications for the 2007 AFB Policy and Research Internship program. Located in our nation's capital, the AFB Public Policy Center strives to expand possibilities for people with vision loss by advocating the formulation and implementation of federal legislative, regulatory, legal, research, and funding priorities honoring the capabilities and unique needs of children, working-age adults, and seniors who are blind or visually impaired. The purpose of these internships is to provide highly motivated individuals with professional-level exposure to, and practice with, the public policy and policy research process and an opportunity to apply specialized knowledge and skills in a dynamic environment.

### **Qualified Applicants**

Candidates for these exciting learning experiences will possess a bachelor's degree (or will attain the degree within the year) and be pursuing a graduate or professional course of study relating to special education, rehabilitation, law, public health, or related human services discipline. All successful candidates will also possess a demonstrable commitment to people with vision loss or other disabilities.

### **Structure**

The AFB Policy and Research Internships are designed to provide maximum flexibility while affording participants with a serious opportunity to learn and work with clear goals and expectations. Each internship will run at least six weeks. Internships will be scheduled throughout the year. Although specific projects will vary depending on the interests and emerging expertise of each successful candidate, activities common to all internships are likely to include

- meeting with key congressional and federal agency staff;
- scheduling Hill and other appointments;
- preparing correspondence and briefing materials;
- drafting short newsletter articles and fact sheets for distribution via AFB's website;
- participating in coalition meetings within and outside the field of vision loss; and
- using tools and methods for conducting policy research.

Interns will be supervised by AFB's Director of Public Policy. Extensive mentoring by AFB Public Policy, Policy Research, and other professional staff will offer participants both support and guidance. It will be our pleasure to work with candidates to structure their individual internships to accommodate specific objectives, such as the attainment of academic credit for participation.

### **Preferred Internship Start Dates**

Spring Term: February 5, 2007; March 5, 2007; April 2, 2007; April 30, 2007

Summer Term: May 29, 2007; June 25, 2007

Fall Term: September 4, 2007; October 1, 2007; October 29, 2007

## **Internship Awards**

All internship participants will be offered housing through one of the local universities or other resources convenient to public transportation to and from the AFB Public Policy Center. Housing costs will be covered for each full week of participation. Participants will need to make their own travel arrangements and carry all other incidental costs which they may otherwise voluntarily incur. Subject to available funds or other contingencies, participants may be sponsored to attend conferences which may be held during the internship period, either in whole or in part, as mutually agreed upon.

## **Applications**

To apply, send a resume or CV along with a letter of interest via e-mail to [mrichert@afb.net](mailto:mrichert@afb.net). Your materials must include

1. The academic program in which you are currently enrolled and/or which will commence within the year;
2. Any specific issues of particular interest to you which you would like to pursue during your internship;
3. Your preferred start date;
4. At least one academic or professional reference; and
5. An expression of your personal sense of how participation in the internship fits within your overall career objectives.

The deadline for applications for internships during the 2007 spring term (February 5, 2007; March 5, 2007; April 2, 2007; April 30, 2007) is November 30, 2006. However, applications for internships in the summer and fall terms are also welcome now.

Successful applicants will be notified within one month of receipt of a complete application.

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<http://www.afb.org>

Expanding possibilities for people with vision loss (TM)

**EEOC Launches Website Section On “LEAD” Initiative - Boosts Effort To Increase Number Of Federal Employees With Targeted Disabilities**

WASHINGTON – Giving greater presence to a pressing – and largely unknown – problem, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) today launched a website section on its LEAD Initiative, designed to address the declining number of employees with severe disabilities in the Federal workforce. The section, on EEOC’s website at [www.eeoc.gov/initiatives/lead/index.html](http://www.eeoc.gov/initiatives/lead/index.html), offers basic information on the initiative and on the declining number of disabled federal employees. As the effort progresses, announcements and updates will appear regularly.

The Commission launched the LEAD (Leadership for the Employment of Americans with Disabilities) Initiative in June under the leadership of Commissioner Christine Griffin, a legal expert and long-time advocate for disability issues.

“I commend Commissioner Griffin for her efforts to ensure that individuals with disabilities are fully included in the federal workforce,” said EEOC Chair Naomi C. Earp. “EEOC’s LEAD Initiative will complement the Commission’s outreach and enforcement efforts on behalf of individuals with disabilities.” Commissioner Griffin noted, “In order to improve the overall employment rate for people with targeted disabilities, we have to begin with the federal government. Congress directed the federal government to set the example for all other employers. Our example needs improvement. I fully expect the LEAD initiative to significantly contribute to this improvement. The LEAD website section will allow us to provide important and useful information to a broad audience, so I look forward to it having a positive impact.”

LEAD aims, ultimately, to significantly increase the population of individuals with disabilities employed by the federal government. This national outreach and education campaign is designed to:

1. Increase the awareness of hiring officials about the declining numbers of people with disabilities in federal employment
2. Reverse the trend of decreasing participation in federal employment
3. Educate federal hiring officials about how to use special hiring authorities to bring people with disabilities on board, particularly those with severe disabilities
4. Educate applicants with severe disabilities about how to apply using the special hiring authorities available
5. Provide information and resources on reasonable accommodation.

The LEAD Initiative draws on educational events and seminars and focus group sessions with federal managers, hiring officials and other interested parties to explore the issue of declining employment for individuals with severe disabilities, and to come up with concrete solutions to address the problem.

People with targeted disabilities have dropped to less than one percent of the permanent federal workforce, continuing a long-term decline, according to data released in June by the EEOC. Targeted disabilities include blindness, deafness, partial paralysis, complete paralysis, mental illness, mental retardation, convulsive disorders, and distortion of limbs or spine.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires that federal agencies take proactive steps to provide equal employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Moreover, under Executive Order 13164, agencies are required to establish effective written procedures for processing reasonable accommodation requests, which are submitted to the EEOC for review.

Additionally, under the EEOC's Management Directive 715, agencies annually report their efforts to implement a Model EEO Program; to identify and eliminate barriers to equal opportunity in the workplace; and to implement special program plans for the recruitment, hiring and advancement of individuals with targeted disabilities. The EEOC is also striving to advance employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities through the President's New Freedom Initiative and the agency's Freedom to Compete Initiative -- a national outreach, education and coalition-building campaign launched in 2002 to provide unfettered access to employment opportunities for all individuals. The agency just launched the application process for its third annual [Freedom to Compete Awards](#), with nominations due Dec. 13 for awards to be presented in June 2007. The EEOC is responsible for enforcing the federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. Additional information about the agency is available on its web site at [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov).

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Expanding possibilities for people with vision loss™

### **National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)**

NIDRR is the largest single federal program supporting disability and rehabilitation research. (Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, Enabling America, 1997).

Established by Congress in 1978, NIDRR is a national leader in sponsoring disability and rehabilitation research. It is one of three components-the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)-of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) at the U.S. Department of Education. NIDRR's mission "is to generate new knowledge and promote its effective use to improve the abilities of people with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community, and also to expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodations for its citizens with disabilities."

NIDRR's research is conducted through a network of individual research projects and research centers nationwide. Disabilities rank among the nation's public health concerns, affecting an estimated 54 million 1 Americans in various ways. NIDRR's research and development activities cover almost every aspect of disability: employment; participation and community living; health and function; and technology for access and function. Within these areas, NIDRR research addresses all types of disabilities, including physical, sensory, cognitive and emotional. In keeping with its mission, NIDRR strives to focus on the interaction of individuals and society.

NIDRR's knowledge translation (KT) program activities involve the collection, evaluation, dissemination and utilization of information based on scientifically rigorous research and development. KT also includes transfer of products and devices from the research and development setting to the commercial marketplace. NIDRR's capacity-building efforts include the advanced training of scientists in research methodologies and the training of people with disabilities to use research findings. NIDRR also builds the research capacity of institutions and organizations-especially those that address the disability needs of ethnic minorities and other underserved populations.

Over the years, research supported by NIDRR has had a tremendous impact on the lives of persons with disabilities and, at the same time, has made an essential contribution to the level of scientific knowledge in the United States and around the world. In addition to being responsive to the changing needs of disabled individuals, NIDRR and its research centers have kept pace with medical advancements, new technologies, community support initiatives and new civil rights provisions in legislation. NIDRR's work helps to integrate the results of disability research into the nation's policies regarding science, technology, health care and economics.

NIDRR is encouraging new grant applicants in an effort to further expand research capacity in this field. If you would like to learn more about NIDRR programs and funding mechanisms, visit NIDRR's home <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/index.html> page.

### **Consultant In Low Vision Rehabilitation And Training Job Opening**

Second Sight Medical Products is searching for a low vision consultant to work as part of a collaborative team developing an implantable retinal prosthesis to provide sight to subjects blinded from outer retinal degenerations, such retinitis pigmentosa or macular degeneration. These prostheses consist of stimulating electrodes placed on the retina of subjects with severely degenerated photoreceptors. Ongoing trials with simple arrays have produced basic form vision in subjects totally blinded from advanced retinitis pigmentosa. Over the next year, subjects will be implanted with advanced array designs with higher spatial resolution.

The consultant will work together with Second Sight's research team to develop rehabilitation and training strategies for subjects with these new implants, with a

concentration on activities of daily living and orientation and mobility. The consultant will also assist in the selection and implementation of high quality assessments utilizing established instruments. This is a unique opportunity to work with emerging sight-restoring technologies, and we are looking for exceptional candidates.

The ideal candidate will have a combination of the following qualifications: Occupational Therapist, Certified Low Vision Therapist, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist, and will have extensive experience working with persons who are severely visually impaired.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to Gia Pinto, [gpinto@2-sight.com](mailto:gpinto@2-sight.com) and Matt McMahon, [mm@2-sight.com](mailto:mm@2-sight.com).

### **Rehabilitation Teaching Job Opening – Little Rock, Arkansas**

Agency: Lions World Services for the Blind

Qualifications: A Bachelor's degree in rehabilitation teaching, home economics or related area is required. A Master's degree in rehabilitation teaching and/or certification as a Rehabilitation Teacher is preferred. Experience in teaching the visually handicapped in a rehabilitation setting is preferred.

Duties: Instruction of skills for communications and independent living.

Salary: Competitive; excellent health and retirement benefits.

Contact: Send resumes or apply in person: Lions World Services for the Blind, Attention: Human Resources, 2811 Fair Park Blvd., Little Rock, Arkansas 72204 or email resumes to [tjohnston@lwsb.org](mailto:tjohnston@lwsb.org).

### **Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Little Rock, Arkansas**

Agency: Lions World Services for the Blind

Qualifications: A Master's or Bachelor's degree in Orientation and Mobility from an accredited college or university, or appropriate ACVREP certification with three years' experience as an instructor of Orientation and Mobility.

Duties: Organizes, develops and executes Orientation and Mobility services for blind and visually impaired adults at a residential rehabilitation facility. Provides instruction in the skills necessary for safe and independent travel in a community. Use of agency vehicles.

Salary: Competitive; excellent health and retirement benefits.

Contact: Send resumes or apply in person: Lions World Services for the Blind, Attention: Human Resources, 2811 Fair Park Blvd., Little Rock, Arkansas 72204 or email resumes to [tjohnston@lwsb.org](mailto:tjohnston@lwsb.org).

### **Transition Specialist Job Opening – Tallahassee, Florida**

Transition Specialist needed to provide instruction to high school and college students who are blind and visually impaired. Requires a BA or MA in Visual Disabilities and ACVREP certification in Orientation & Mobility (or eligible for certification). Prefer additional VRT or TVI certification or eligibility. Provide instruction throughout 11 county area in O&M, adaptive travel skills, personal/home management, communications, social services, recreation and leisure, and vocational skills. Salary - \$30-35K, based on experience, and benefits. Send cover letter describing qualifications and resume to FIRE, 1286 Cedar Center Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32301. See job description at [www.firesight.org](http://www.firesight.org).

### **Blind Rehabilitation Specialist (Orientation & Mobility Specialist) Job Opening – West Palm Beach, Florida**

Position Title: Blind Rehabilitation Specialist (Orientation/Mobility Instructor)  
Grade: GS-601-9 target 11 or GS-11  
Announcement Number: ES 06-146  
Opening Date: 09/14/06  
Closing Date: 09/27/06  
Organization: Blind Rehabilitation Service  
Work Schedule: Full-time (40 hours per week)  
Number of Positions: One (1)  
Promotion potential: GS-11  
Salary: GS-9 - \$44,985 – \$58,486 per annum, GS-11- \$54,429 - \$70,762 per annum  
HRMS Contact: Felix Gonzalez, Human Resources Management Specialist at (561) 422-8297  
Submit Application to: VA Medical Center, Human Resources Management Service (05), 7305 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33410-6400

NOTE: If filled at the GS-9 level, incumbent may be non-competitively promoted to the target grade (GS-11) when all regulatory promotion requirements are met. This includes time-in-grade, specialized experience, availability of higher graded duties and supervisory recommendations.

**Description of Duties:** The incumbent is responsible for orientation and mobility cases assigned. The incumbent must have a professional knowledge of the following theories, principles, and practices of orientation and mobility (O&M) with the totally blind; use and application of the long cane, multiple orientation systems including egocentric and exocentric referenced systems, basic protective techniques, sighted guide, the general application and use of dog guides and referral procedures for dog guides, the general application and current, commercially available Electronic Travel Aids (ETA's), ability

to counsel veterans regarding their need and use for an ETA and referral procedures for veterans applying for ETAs; the procedures for prescribing cane lengths and the advantages and disadvantages of the various types of canes available to the blind; the application and use of nonvisual training aids such as tactile maps; the application and use of sensory training exercises for remediation in selected problem situations. Must have a professional knowledge of principles and practices of O&M with the partially sighted, but legally blind. Must have knowledge of the physiology and function of the eye and the common pathologies resulting in blindness. Knowledge of counseling techniques; sociological and psychological implications of blindness and identifying and referring these elements appropriately; knowledge of gerontology and kinesiology; knowledge of a holistic rehabilitation program and how to interact within a multidisciplinary framework; knowledge of professional O&M blindness manuals, reference books, and journals; knowledge of theories and practices of both general education and special education. The incumbent thoroughly reviews the medical chart prior to admission, and upon admission the incumbent evaluates the current O&M status of the veteran, plans and individualized O&M program to meet the veteran's need and abilities and carries out the program.

**Basic Requirements:** Degree: Master's Degree in Orientation and Mobility

For GS-9:

Education: 2 years of progressively high level graduate education leading to a master's degree or master's or equivalent graduate degree, OR

Specialized experience: One (1) year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-7 grade level. Specialized experience is experience that equipped the applicant with particular knowledge, skill, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. To be creditable, specialized experience must have been equivalent to at least the next lower grade level in the normal line of progression for the occupation in the organization.

For GS-11:

Education: Three (3) years of progressive higher level graduate education leading to a Ph. D. or equivalent doctoral degree, OR

Specialized experience: One (1) year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-9 grade level. Specialized experience is experience that equipped the applicant with particular knowledge, skill, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. To be creditable, specialized experience must have been equivalent to at least the next lower grade level in the normal line of progression for the occupation in the organization.

Further information concerning qualifications may be obtained from the Human Resources Management Office.

**Competencies:** The following competencies will be used in the evaluation process for this position. Failure to respond to these competencies will result in not being given full consideration for this position.

1. Ability to devise an effective orientation and mobility training program for blind and visually impaired individuals.
2. Ability to evaluate patient's needs, interests and skill level in the orientation and mobility area.
3. Knowledge of the blind rehabilitation process and ability to apply this knowledge in a multi-disciplinary setting.
4. Knowledge of standard blind rehabilitation techniques and practice.
5. Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

**How to Apply:**

VA Employees West Palm Beach:

Employees may apply by submitting VA Form 5-4078, Application for Promotion or Reassignment, to Human Resources Management Service (HRMS); forwarding a message on Microsoft Outlook or, VISTA to the HRMS point of contact with the following information:

- a. Name;
- b. Title, series and grade of position;
- c. Location of vacancy (service and unit);
- d. Vacancy announcement number; and
- e. Grade levels for which consideration is requested (if announced at multiple grade levels).

Responses to KSA's/Competencies (rating factors) may be addressed on an 8 X 11 sheet of bond paper.

Applicants who fail to submit all required forms might not receive full credit in the rating and ranking process. Applications telefaxed and/or mailed in a Postage-Paid Government envelopes will not be accepted.

VA Employees Nationwide:

A signed VA Form 10-2850c, Application for Associated Health Occupations, available at [www.vacareers.com](http://www.vacareers.com).

A current resume describing your experience in detail. Please include starting and ending dates (mm/yy) and number of hours per week for each position.

1. OF-306, Declaration for Federal Employment, available at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov).
2. A copy of your last SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action.
3. A copy of your latest performance appraisal.
4. College transcripts, vocational training certificates, or licensures, if any.

Responses to KSA's/Competencies (rating factors) may be addressed on an 8 X 11 sheet of bond paper.

Applicants who fail to submit all required forms might not receive full credit in the rating and ranking process. Applications telefaxed and/or mailed in a Postage-Paid Government envelopes will not be accepted.

NOTE: TIME IN GRADE: Candidates for advancement to positions at GS-6, -7, etc., which is in a line of work properly classified at 1-grade intervals must have completed at least one year of service in positions no more than one grade lower than the position to be filled. Candidates for advancement to positions at GS-7, -9, -11, which is in a line of work properly classified at 2-grade intervals must have completed at least one year of service in positions no more than two grades lower than the positions to be filled.

Applicant's materials should be mailed to:

VA MEDICAL CENTER  
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SERVICE (05)  
7305 NORTH MILITARY TRAIL  
Attn: Felix Gonzalez  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33410-6400

### **Vision Rehabilitation Professionals Job Openings – Columbus, Georgia**

Come join our Georgia Department of Labor Vocational Rehabilitation Program team in Columbus, Georgia, as a provider of Orientation and Mobility (for individuals with visual disabilities), Home Oriented Work Skills Training, and Job Coaching. O&M providers must be O&M certified or eligible for O&M certification through ACVREP. Documentation must be a copy of the certification or a transcript documenting the individual has completed all O&M core curricula at the same ACVREP approved O&M university preparation program. Home Oriented Work Skills Training providers must meet the following qualifications: a) certification by ACVREP as a Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (formerly known as a Rehabilitation Teacher) or b) certification as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired, with documentation of additional academic coursework or work history demonstrating the ability to teach homemaking skills. Individuals who meet any of the qualifications above qualify for the Job Coaching service.

Duties: O&M providers – To teach clients with visual disabilities to safely and effectively relate themselves to their environment. Training includes both classroom and practical experience.

A Home Oriented Work Skills provider's goal is to provide home oriented work skills training services and instruction to individuals with a disability which would support employment through assessment and evaluation of client's needs in home, community, educational and vocational environments.

A Job Coach provides job training in integrated work settings for persons with the most severe disabilities.

In order to develop a Service Agreement between the Georgia Department of Labor Vocational Rehabilitation Program and an individual to provide these services to VR clients the following requirements must be satisfied:

The provider must show proof of Comprehensive Liability Insurance, including personal injury and personal liability coverage, in amounts of \$2,000,000.00 per occurrence and \$1,000,000.00 per person. The provider must submit to a criminal record history investigation at their cost. The current cost for this check is \$24.00.

If you are interested in supporting us in our mission to assist those with disabilities to work, please contact Juanita Searles at (706) 649-1570 or [juanita.searles@dol.state.ga.us](mailto:juanita.searles@dol.state.ga.us).

**Supervisory Blind Rehabilitation Specialist (Living Skills) Job Opening – Hines, Illinois**

Title, Series, Grade: Supervisory Blind Rehabilitation Specialist (Living Skills), GS-601-12

Location: Blind Rehab Center, Rehabilitation Service Line, Edward Hines, Jr., VA Hospital, Hines, IL

Notice Number: 06- 288H

Salary Range: GS-12: \$67,069 - \$87,186 PA

This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

Permanent change of station expenses and/or relocation allowance may be authorized

**Duties:** The incumbent will serve as the supervisor over the Living Skills Section of the Blind Rehabilitation Service. Supervisory responsibilities include, but are not limited to, planning work to be accomplished by subordinates; evaluating their work; resolving complaints, grievances, and disciplinary problems; coordinating and approving leave of staff members; identifying developmental and training needs of staff; determining caseload levels and departmental schedules; establishing departmental priorities; coordinating prosthetic issuance and ordering for the area; and interviewing candidates and recommending selection for vacancies in the section. The incumbent is also

responsible for training and supervision of clinical trainees (1-3 per semester) from affiliated university rehabilitation teaching programs. The incumbent will ensure that assigned staff and clinical trainees maintain consistency in the curriculum, teaching methodology, and quality of instructions, while granting them the freedom to exercise professional judgment. The incumbent exercises technical and administrative authority over the Living Skills program and is considered the Subject Matter Expert for the section. As such, the incumbent also provides direct instruction to veterans in the area.

**Qualifications Requirements:** As a basic requirement candidates must show successful completion of a full course of study in Blind rehabilitation at an accredited college or university leading to a Masters degree or higher. In addition to the basic requirement, candidates for this position must have one year of specialized experience, equivalent in complexity to the GS-11 level for qualifying GS-12 level candidates. The specialized experience is defined as experience in the Blind Rehabilitation Field which equips candidates with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position.

**Education Substitution:** None allowed at this level.

Qualified applicants may be further rated and/or ranked based on their possession of the following Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSA's). Responses to KSA's are due in Great Lakes Human Resources Management Service Office by the closing date of this announcement.

1. Knowledge and experience teaching Living Skills (ADL's, Braille, and Communications) to blind adults.
2. Ability to supervise, plan, organize, direct, control and review the work activities of a group of subordinates.
3. Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with individuals of varying backgrounds.
4. Knowledge of the blind rehabilitation field and standards of practice.
5. Ability to interact with and effectively motivate individuals and groups.

**How to Apply:** If you meet the requirements outlined above, you are encouraged to apply. Please submit a VA-2850C, "Application for Associated Health Occupations" Optional Form 612, "Optional Application for Federal Employment" (or resume) and Optional Form 306, "Declaration for Federal Employment." In addition, outside applicants currently employed by the federal government are asked to submit a copy of their latest SF-50B, "Notification of Personnel Action," as well as a copy of their most recent performance appraisal. Forms may be obtained by calling the Edward Hines Jr. VA Human Resources office at 708-202-2072, or by going to <http://www.vacareers.va.gov> or [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov). Veterans claiming preference must submit a copy of their DD-214. If you are claiming 10-point preference, also submit a SF-15 along with the required documents. Preference will not be granted without proper documentation. Because this job has a positive education requirement, you must submit copy of your college transcripts showing your level of education. Prior

to appointment, applicants must provide official transcripts. Applications will not be returned.

Application packages must be postmarked by the closing date of the announcement. Packages should be forwarded to Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, P.O. Box 5000, Hines, IL 60141, Attention: Josephine Nelson, (05S). Questions may be directed to Josephine Nelson, Human Resources Specialist, at 708-202-8387, extension 23415. Applicants for positions with direct patient-care must be proficient in spoken and written English as required by 38 U.S.C. 4105c. This position is subject to random drug testing.

U.S. Citizenship Is Required. Qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, religion, age, sex, handicap, national origin, or any other non-merit factor. The VA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Please indicate the announcement number on all application materials.

### **Itinerant Rehabilitation Teacher Job Opening – Indianapolis, Indiana**

Bosma Industries for the Blind, a company dedicated to creating opportunities and providing choices for people who are blind or visually impaired so each individual may achieve a greater potential in vocational, economic, social, and personal independence, is seeking qualified applicants for the following position:

Itinerant Rehabilitation Teacher – To provide vision rehabilitation teaching services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired in their homes. Instructors are now being sought to fill positions in Indianapolis, Indiana and surrounding counties.

Please fax resumes and cover letters to the Human Resources Department, Bosma Industries for the Blind at 317-704-8283 or call 317-704-8280. [www.bosma.org](http://www.bosma.org)

### **Occupational Therapist/Certified Low Vision Therapist Job Opening - Michigan**

Busy Michigan Low Vision Optometrist is seeking OT / CLVT. Unlimited growth. A large private optometry practice wishes to implement a low vision rehab. department to comply with Medicare guidelines. The desired candidate will serve dual roles as clinical low vision therapist and as low vision rehab. department manager. Marketing to promote OT referrals will be required, such as creating pamphlets and brochures, or giving lectures aimed at educating other professionals and the public about low vision rehab. It is felt that in time, training and supervising other OTs to provide rehab. services will become necessary.

Contact:  
Sheldon Smith, OD  
32415 Five Mile Rd  
Livonia, MI 48154  
734.525.8170

734.525.0726-fax  
ssmith@suburbaneyecare.com

**Teacher Of The Blind Job Openings – New York City, New York**

We have contractual employment for certified teachers of the blind in New York City (NYC) and on Long Island. NYC teachers are encouraged to apply. Waivers are available. Send cover letter and resume to:

Personnel  
Early Intervention LLC  
2938 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 200  
Levittown, NY 11756  
Fax: (516) 706-1962  
email: [personnel@earlyinterventionllc.com](mailto:personnel@earlyinterventionllc.com)

**Employment Specialist Job Opening – New York City (Manhattan), New York**

Lighthouse International is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping people with all ages overcome the challenges of vision loss.

Job Summary: The Employment Specialist (job posting P103) will provide supported employment services for small program serving approximately 14 adult blind and visually impaired clients throughout Westchester County. Responsibilities include intake and assessment, service coordination, pre-vocational counseling, job placement, job coaching and follow along services.

Requirements: Need caring, enthusiastic, sales-oriented candidate with a Bachelor's degree in related area; one year marketing experience, preferably for job seekers with disabilities; excellent writing and computer skills. Must be available to work a flexible schedule including evenings, nights, and weekends, if required. Must have a valid NYS driver's license.

Applicants must send resume with cover letter and salary requirements to Michael Young, HR Associate, Lighthouse International, 111 East 59th Street, NY, NY, 10022. [MYoung@lighthouse.org](mailto:MYoung@lighthouse.org). Fax (212) 821-9708.

**Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist/Certified Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Opening – New York City (Manhattan), New York**

Job Summary: The dual certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist/Orientation and Mobility Instructor (job posting P117) will provide high quality consumer assessments utilizing approved agency interviews and instruments and identify individualized instructional and training needs for persons who are visually impaired. Responsibilities also include developing an individualized plan while providing necessary instruction to meet the client's needs in the areas of rehabilitation teaching and orientation and

mobility. This will be done while working within other disciplines within program services and with the family, as required, in meeting the individual client's goals and objectives and in line with departmental and agency goals.

Requirements: The ideal candidate must have dual degrees (Bachelor's or Master's) in Rehabilitation Teaching and Orientation and Mobility from an accredited university. In addition, the candidate must hold both VRT and O&M Certification/License from ACVREP with a minimum of one year experience, preferably working with persons who are visually impaired and/or persons with multiple impairments. Must be available to work evenings and Saturdays, as assigned and have a driver's license and/or access to a car. Bilingual in Spanish and English preferred.

Applicants must send resume with cover letter with salary requirements to Mike Young, HR Associate, Lighthouse International, 111 East 59th Street, NY, NY, 10022. [MYoung@lighthouse.org](mailto:MYoung@lighthouse.org). Fax (212) 821-9708.

### **Occupational Therapist Job Opening – New York City (Manhattan), New York**

Job Summary: The ideal candidate (job posting P115) will be able to identify, evaluate and implement the individualized instructional and training needs for blind and partially sighted clients in the New York region. In addition, the Occupational Therapist will provide instruction to meet each client's goals and objectives. Will also act as a liaison and interact with community agencies as directed. This is a great opportunity to be part of a interdisciplinary vision rehabilitation team.

Requirements: Must be a certified Occupational Therapist. Two years of experience preferred. Able to work evenings and weekends, as assigned. Driver's license and access to a car required. Bi-lingual a plus.

Applicants must send resume with cover letter to Mike Young, HR Associate, Lighthouse International, 111 East 59th Street, NY, NY, 10022. [MYoung@lighthouse.org](mailto:MYoung@lighthouse.org). Fax (212) 821-9708.

### **Vision Rehabilitation Assistant Job Opening – New York City (Manhattan), New York**

Job Summary: The Vision Rehabilitation Assistant (job posting TC70) will assist the Occupational Therapist and Vision Rehabilitation Therapist and Orientation and Mobility Specialist in promoting recovery, health and wellness of Lighthouse clients. The goal is to improve clients' quality of life and ability to perform daily activities. Responsibilities also include helping clients with rehabilitation activities and exercises outlined in a treatment plan while recording the progress.

Requirements: Must have an Associates degree in Applied Science and be nationally certified.

Applicants must send resume with cover letter to Michael Young, HR Associate, Lighthouse International, 111 East 59th Street, NY, NY, 10022. [MYoung@lighthouse.org](mailto:MYoung@lighthouse.org). Fax (212) 821-9708.

### **Low Vision Clinic Coordinator Job Opening – Cincinnati, Ohio**

Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired was founded in 1903. Today, 103 years later, Clovernook provides comprehensive rehabilitation services, including training and support for independent living, orientation and mobility instruction, vocational training, job placement, counseling, recreation, and youth services in two locations—Cincinnati, Ohio and Memphis, Tennessee. We are dedicated to promoting independence and fostering the highest quality of life for people with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities.

Clovernook is currently looking for a Low Vision Clinic Coordinator at our Cincinnati, Ohio location. The ideal candidate will possess a valid certificate in Low Vision Therapy or is actively pursuing certification. A post-offer, pre-employment drug screening and background check is required along with a valid driver's license with no more than 5 points on driving record and insured, reliable car available for on the job use.

Interested candidates may submit a resume and cover letter to Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired, 7000 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45231, fax to 513-728-6229 or email to [kweaver@clovernook.org](mailto:kweaver@clovernook.org).

### **Quote Of The Day!**

*“Never give your power to another person.” – Oprah Winfrey*