

ACVREP NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 12, 2006

ACVREP – Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

Table of Contents:

1. **HumanWare – New “Friends Of ACVREP” Member.**
2. **ACVREP Website Advertisement Opportunities*.**
3. **Access To Physical Medicine And Rehabilitation Services Improvement Act Of 2006 – PLEASE READ!**
4. **New Eligibility Criteria For Low Vision Therapy Certification.**
5. **AER Supports Financial Incentives For Vision Professionals Who Are Certified.**
6. **AWARE Is Pleased To Announce The Launching Of www.visionaware.org.**
7. **Individuals With Disabilities Can Now Make More Without Losing Benefits.**
8. **Applicants Sought For Graduate Certificate Program In Vision.**
9. **Supervisor/Instructor Blind Rehabilitation (Living Skills) Job Opening – Palo Alto, California.**
10. **Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist Job Opening – San Diego, California.**
11. **Vision Rehabilitation Therapist Job Opening – Pensacola, Florida.**
12. **Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Wichita, Kansas.**
13. **Vision Rehabilitation Therapist Job Opening – Portland, Maine.**
14. **Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Brookline, Massachusetts.**
15. **Outreach Director Job Opening – St. Louis, Missouri.**
16. **Vision Supervisor Job Opening – St. Louis, Missouri.**
17. **Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Openings – New Jersey.**
18. **Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist/Certified Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Opening – New York, New York.**
19. **Teacher Of The Visually Impaired Job Opening - Chapel Hill, North Carolina.**
20. **Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Opening – Erie, Pennsylvania.**
21. **Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Memphis, Tennessee.**
22. **Quote Of The Day!**

HumanWare – New “Friends Of ACVREP” Member

ACVREP is pleased to announce that HumanWare is now a “Friends of ACVREP” member. The article that follows this ad will explain the various levels of advertisement opportunities available through ACVREP.

The View That’s Right for You

The NEW SmartView Xtend video magnifier from HumanWare has been carefully designed to offer people with macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, or other eye conditions, increased flexibility and additional functionality.

By magnifying and enlarging text, objects, and actions, the SmartView Xtend makes everyday activities like viewing photos, reading labels, browsing through a magazine, writing checks, and doing a crossword, easy once again.

Getting started is easy with the SmartView Xtend. It includes all the basic features you'd expect, plus a few more that our customers asked for. If you decide you want to upgrade your SmartView to include more features, you can, easily and affordably, by choosing any of the SmartView Xtend modules.

Call HumanWare today at 1-888-204-3356 for more information about the SmartView Xtend and our other low vision solutions. Or, see us on the web at www.humanware.com.

ACVREP Website Advertisement Opportunities*

ACVREP offers website advertisement opportunities to organizations/companies that provide services to, or products for, persons who are blind or visually impaired. If your organization is looking for ways to promote its programs, services, devices or technologies; increase visibility; and/or profit from a tremendous marketing value, consider becoming an official ACVREP website advertiser.

Through its website (www.acvrep.org), ACVREP supports and promotes high-quality vision rehabilitation and education programs, services, and products to persons who are blind or visually impaired through the certification of professionals who work with these individuals, specifically Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists, Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapists, and Certified Low Vision Therapists. We encourage you to share our vision and, in the process, market your organization through our website advertisement program. Because of our commitment to actively promote our website, advertisers will gain an advantage in being an ACVREP website advertiser.

A variety of ACVREP website advertisement opportunities exist and are as follows:

Platinum Level Advertiser - \$12,000/year

This level offers the greatest exposure and demonstration of your organization's commitment to the provision of high-quality services to and/or products for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Home page bottom banner (234 x 60 pixels) including the organization's logo and mission.

Your organization's logo and identity on all pieces of direct marketing and advertising used to drive traffic into the ACVREP website.

Your organization's own page on the ACVREP website (not to exceed one page).
Three links that go directly to:
Your organization's website
Your organization's e-mail address
Advertisement space in every ACVREP email newsletter.

Gold Level Advertiser - \$8,000/year

First-level page bottom banner (234 x 60 pixels) including your organization's logo and mission.

Your organization's own page on the ACVREP website (not to exceed one page).
Three links that go directly to:
Your organization's website
Your organization's e-mail address
Advertisement space in every ACVREP email newsletter.

Silver Level Advertiser - \$5,000/year

Your organization's own page on the ACVREP website (not to exceed one page).
Three links that go directly to:
Your organization's website
Your organization's e-mail address
Advertisement space in every ACVREP email newsletter.

Bronze Level Advertiser - \$2,500/year

Three links that go directly to:
Your organization's website
Your organization's e-mail address
Advertisement space in every ACVREP email newsletter.

Friends of ACVREP - \$1,500/year

One link that goes directly to:
Your organization's website
Your organization's e-mail address
Advertisement space in every ACVREP email newsletter.

For more information regarding ACVREP website advertisement opportunities, please contact Sharon L. Mikrut, ACVREP President, at 520-887-6816 or smikrut@acvrep.org.

*PLEASE NOTE: ACVREP does not approve or disapprove of the products, services, policies, procedures, etc. of any advertiser. However, all advertisers are expected to conduct their business in a legal manner and in accordance with all municipal, county, state, and federal laws.

Access To Physical Medicine And Rehabilitation Services Improvement Act Of 2006
– PLEASE READ!

The Access to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services Improvement Act of 2006 (S. 3963) has been introduced by Sen. Craig Thomas (R-Wyo.) and Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa). The passage of the Act will ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have better access to quality health care provided by state licensed or certified health care professionals. **This would reverse the CMS “therapy incident-to” rule that was changed in July, 2005 and, presumably, make it possible for CLVTs to bill for vision rehabilitation services provided under the direct supervision of a physician.**

Please contact your own U.S. Senators and let them know that you support this bill because ACVREP certified professionals are qualified and equipped to provide low vision rehabilitation services to Medicare beneficiaries. Inclusion of ACVREP certified providers will increase the existing very small resource pool of highly trained specialists. ACVREP certified professionals will make needed vision rehabilitation services more available to older low visioned adults who currently struggle to find this essential professional help.

You can also contact Senators Thomas and Specter at:

<http://specter.senate.gov/>

<http://thomas.senate.gov/>

The text of the bill is presented below.

109th CONGRESS

2d Session

S. 3963

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for improved access to cost-effective, quality physical medicine and rehabilitation services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

September 28, 2006

Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. SPECTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for improved access to cost-effective, quality physical medicine and rehabilitation services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Access to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services Improvement Act of 2006”.

SEC. 2. ACCESS TO PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION SERVICES PROVIDED INCIDENT TO A PHYSICIAN.

Section 1862(a)(20) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(a)(20)) is amended by striking “(other than any licensing requirement specified by the Secretary)” and inserting “(other than any licensing, education, or credentialing requirements specified by the Secretary)”.

SEC. 3. COVERAGE OF CERTIFIED ATHLETIC TRAINER SERVICES AND CERTIFIED LYMPHEDEMA THERAPIST SERVICES UNDER PART B OF THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

(a) Coverage of Services- Section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended--

(1) in subsection (s)(2)--

(A) in subparagraph (Z), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (AA), by adding “and” at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(BB) certified athletic trainer services (as defined in subsection (ccc)(1)) and lymphedema therapist services (as defined in subsection (ccc)(3)).”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“Athletic Trainer Services and Lymphedema Therapist Services

“(ccc)(1) The term “athletic trainer services” means services performed by a certified athletic trainer (as defined in paragraph (2)) under the supervision of a physician (as defined in section 1861(r)), which the athletic trainer is legally authorized to perform under State law (or the State regulatory mechanism provided by State law) of the State in which such services are performed, as would otherwise be covered if furnished by a physician (as so defined) or as an incident to a physician's professional service, to an individual--

“(A) who is under the care of a physician (as so defined); and

“(B) with respect to whom a plan prescribing the type, amount, and duration of services that are to be furnished to such individual has been established by a physician (as so defined).

Such term does not include any services for which a facility or other provider charges or is paid any amounts with respect to the furnishing of such services.

“(2) The term “certified athletic trainer” means an individual who--

“(A) possesses a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree which qualifies for licensure or certification as an athletic trainer; and

“(B) in the case of an individual performing services in a State that provides for licensure or certification of athletic trainers, is licensed or certified as an athletic trainer in such State.

“(3) The term “certified lymphedema therapist services” means services performed by a certified lymphedema therapist (as defined in paragraph (4)) under the supervision of a physician (as defined by paragraph (1) or (3) of section 1861(r)) which the lymphedema therapist is legally authorized to perform under State law (or the State regulatory

mechanism provided by the State law) of the State in which such services are performed, as would otherwise be covered if furnished by a physician (as so defined) or as incident to a physician's professional service, to an individual--

`(A) who is under the care of a physician (as so defined); and

`(B) with respect to whom a plan prescribing the type, amount, and duration of services that are to be furnished to such individual has been established by a physician (as so defined).

Such term does not include any services for which a facility or other provider charges or is paid any amounts with respect to the furnishing of such services

`(4) The term `certified lymphedema therapist' means an individual who--

`(A) possesses a current unrestricted license as a health professional in the State in which he or she practices;

`(B) after obtaining such a license, has successfully completed 135 hours of Complete Decongestive Therapy coursework which consists of theoretical instruction and practical laboratory work utilizing teaching methods directly aimed at the treatment of lymphatic and vascular disease from a lymphedema training program recognized by the Secretary for purposes of certifying lymphedema therapists; and

`(C) in the case of an individual performing services in a State that provides for licensure or certification of lymphedema therapists, is licensed or certified as a lymphedema therapist in such State.'

(b) Payment-

(1) IN GENERAL- Section 1832(a)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395k(a)(2)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

`(v) athletic trainer services and lymphedema therapist services; and'

(2) AMOUNT- Section 1833(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)) is amended--

(A) by striking `and (V)' and inserting `(V)'; and

(B) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: `, and (W) with respect to athletic trainer services and lymphedema therapist services under section 1861(s)(2)(BB), the amounts paid shall be 80 percent of the lesser of the actual charge for the service or the fee schedule amount under section 1848 for the same service performed by a physician'.

(c) Inclusion of Services in the Therapy Cap- Services provided by a certified athletic trainer or a certified lymphedema therapist (as those terms are defined in section 1861(ccc) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (a)) shall be subject to the limitation on payments described in section 1833(g) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(g)) in the same manner those services would be subject to limitation if the service had been provided by a physician personally.

(d) Inclusion of Athletic Trainers and Lymphedema Therapists as Practitioners for Assignment of Claims- Section 1842(b)(18)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(18)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clauses:

`(vii) A certified athletic trainer (as defined in section 1861(ccc)(1)).

`(viii) A certified lymphedema therapist (as defined in section 1861(ccc)(2)).'

(e) Coverage of Certain Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services Provided in Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers-

Section 1861(aa)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(1)(B)) is amended by striking `or by a clinical social worker (as defined in subsection (hh)(1))' and inserting `, by a clinical social worker (as defined in subsection (hh)(1)), by a certified athletic trainer (as defined in subsection (ccc)(2)), or by a certified lymphedema therapist (as defined in subsection (ccc)(4))'.

(f) Effective Date- The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to services furnished on or after January 1, 2007.

New Eligibility Criteria For Low Vision Therapy Certification

Category 1 (Graduates of Low Vision Programs)

Eligibility to sit for the certifying examination:

Proof of a minimum of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university (or foreign equivalent, as verified through an independent credential evaluation company), with a specialization (major/degree) in low vision therapy. This degree should be granted from a university or college with a program of study in low vision that meets the low vision therapy core domain areas (see Appendix A).

Supporting documentation required: Official transcripts documenting the degree.

In conjunction with the university, successful completion of 350 hours of "discipline specific, supervised practice that includes, but is not limited to, direct service hours, and related phone calls, meetings, observations, report writing, etc." The practice must be supervised by a CLVT and a physician (OD or MD) practicing in low vision. The CLVT supervisor may be offsite.

Supporting documentation required:

1. A "Clinical Competency Evaluation Form" must be completed by both the CLVT and OD/MD (see Appendix B). Please note: For applicants completing more than one internship, to meet the minimum hour or competency requirements, please submit "Clinical Competency Evaluation Forms" for each internship, as completed by the CLVT and OD/MD supervisors.
2. If the CLVT practice supervisor is offsite, an "Off-Site Supervisor Contract" must also be completed, signed by the practice supervisor and applicant, and approved by the ACVREP office prior to the practice taking place (see Appendix C).

Sign a written statement agreeing to uphold high ethical and professional standards (this statement can be found on the second page of the LVT eligibility application).

Eligibility for LVT certification:

Pass the LVT written exam demonstrating knowledge of low vision principles and applications.

Approval by the ACVREP Board of Directors.

Category 2 (General)

Eligibility to sit for the certifying examination:

Proof of a minimum of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university (or foreign equivalent, as verified through an independent credential evaluation company) in any field. In addition, the CLVT supervisor must verify that the applicant demonstrates basic competency in all core domain areas.

Supporting documentation required:

1. Official transcripts documenting the degree.
2. The Core Domain Area Checklist verifying basic competency in all core domain areas must be completed by the CLVT supervisor and submitted with your eligibility application (see Appendix D).

Have completed 350 hours of "discipline specific, supervised practice that includes, but is not limited to, direct service hours, and related phone calls, meetings, observations, report writing, etc." The practice must be supervised by a CLVT and a physician (OD or MD) practicing in low vision. The CLVT supervisor may be offsite.

Supporting documentation required:

1. A "Clinical Competency Evaluation Form" must be completed by the CLVT and OD/MD (see Appendix B). Please note: For applicants completing more than one internship, to meet the minimum hour or competency requirements, please submit "Clinical Competency Evaluation Forms" for each internship, as completed by the CLVT and OD/MD supervisors.
2. If the CLVT practice supervisor is offsite, an "Off-Site Supervisor Contract" must also be completed, signed by the practice supervisor and applicant, and approved by the ACVREP office prior to the practice taking place (see Appendix C).

Sign a written statement agreeing to uphold high ethical and professional standards (this statement can be found on the second page of the LVT eligibility application).

Eligibility for LVT certification:

Pass the LVT written exam demonstrating knowledge of low vision principles and their applications.

Approval by the ACVREP Board of Directors.

Category 3 (Expedited Track) – Can Only Apply Under This Category Through December 31, 2007

Eligibility to sit for the certifying examination:

Proof of a minimum of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university (or foreign equivalent, as verified through an independent credential evaluation company) in any field.

Proof of being a practicing low vision therapist with a minimum of 2000 hours low vision experience for at least five (5) years prior to application.

Proof that the applicant demonstrates basic competency in all core domain areas.
Submission and approval of 10 case reports.

Supporting documentation required:

1. Official transcripts documenting the degree,
2. The "Employer Verification of Hours" letter (see Appendix E),
3. The Core Domain Area Checklist verifying basic competency in all core domain areas, which must be completed by the CLVT supervisor and submitted with your eligibility application (see Appendix D), and
4. Ten (10) case reports (see Appendix F).

Have undergone sufficient observation by the CLVT and/or OD/MD to substitute for the 350 hour "discipline specific, supervised practice that includes, but is not limited to, direct service hours, and related phone calls, meetings, observations, report writing, etc."

Supporting documentation required: The "Clinical Competency Evaluation Form" (see Appendix B). This form must be completed by the CLVT and OD/MD.

Sign a written statement agreeing to uphold high ethical and professional standards (this statement can be found on the second page of the LVT eligibility application).

Eligibility for LVT certification:

Pass the LVT written exam demonstrating knowledge of low vision principles and applications.

Approval by the ACVREP Board of Directors.

AER Supports Financial Incentives For Vision Professionals Who Are Certified

Does being ACVREP certified mean additional compensation for you? Does your employer support your continuing education needs or requirements by paying for courses? AER wants to know! Support AER Resolution Number 2006-6 Recruitment

and Equitable Reimbursement of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists by helping us gather valuable data. Take the 3-Second Survey found on AER's web site (<http://www.aerbvi.org/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=976>). Survey results will be published in a future issue of AER Report. Thank you for your input!

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AWARE Is Pleased To Announce The Launching Of www.visionaware.org

At the VisionAWARE website, you will find questions and answers on:

1. Vision & Services
2. Coping with Vision Changes
3. Personal Self-Care
4. Using the Telephone
5. Financial Management
6. Home Management
7. Home Modifications
8. Reading and Writing
9. Braille
10. Computers
11. Maximizing All Your Senses
12. Indoor & Outdoor Travel
13. Recreation & Leisure
14. Home Mechanics
15. Additional Disabilities
16. Questions Children Ask

and more...

For additional information about AWARE, contact: Anne.Yeadon@visionaware.org. VisionAWARE provides practical self-help information and links to a wide range of helpful resources for adults with vision loss, their family members, and those who work with them.

Individuals With Disabilities Can Now Make More Without Losing Benefits

Annual Cost Of Living Increases for recipients of Social Security Disability Benefits will allow them to earn more, while earning more in monthly benefits.

One of the many benefits to receiving SSDI is the annual cost of living increase built into the benefit program that not only affects their monthly income, but also affects how much additional income individuals can make without losing their benefits.

Social Security's (SSA) annual cost-of-living increase (COLA) will begin with the benefits those on SSDI will receive in January 2007. Those on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will see the increase on December 29, 2006. The increase will be 3.3 percent.

In addition to the increased monthly income, those on SSDI can now earn more additional income without affecting their monthly benefits.

Previously, the additional amount an individual on SSDI could earn, referred to as Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA), could not exceed \$860 per month (\$1,450 per month if legally blind). With this most recent COLA increase, the SGA amount will rise to \$900 per month (\$1,500 if legally blind).

COLA takes place every year and is a key feature of SSDI benefits. Others are medical benefits, prescription drug coverage, COBRA extensions, protected retirement benefits, dependent benefits and return-to-work incentives.

Forwarded from:
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Executive Director
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VISIT US AT: www.agenciesfortheblind.org

Applicants Sought For Graduate Certificate Program In Vision

The RRTC on Blindness and Low Vision at Mississippi State University is seeking applicants for the Vision Specialist in Vocational Rehabilitation graduate certificate program being held March 26- May 25, 2007. The purpose of the program is to provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselors and graduate students in VR programs with the expertise to address issues specific to vision impairments. Students receive a stipend which includes tuition and fees, per diem for university housing and meals, and a travel allowance.

The program consists of four courses for 12 graduate-level credit hours: (1) Rehabilitation for Persons who are Visually Impaired, (2) Resources for Persons who are

Visually Impaired, (3) Computer Access Technology for Persons who are Visually Impaired, and (4) Special Project in Rehabilitation of Persons who are Visually Impaired.

The registration deadline is December 15, 2006.

Interested applicants can obtain additional information from our Web site:

<http://www.blind.msstate.edu/Vspecialist1.html> or by contacting Mr. BT Kimbrough, RRTC Training Director at (662) 325-7824 or E-mail: BKimbrough@colled.msstate.edu.

Supervisor/Instructor Blind Rehabilitation (Living Skills) Job Opening – Palo Alto, California

The Western Blind Rehab Center (WBRC) has a position open for a Supervisor/Instructor Blind Rehabilitation (Living Skills). The incumbent will supervise, provide instruction and administer the Living Skills (rehabilitation teaching) section in a 32 bed comprehensive residential blind rehabilitation program. Salary Rate: \$65,706 - \$85,414 (dependent on experience). Hiring bonus may be available. Must have a Master's degree or higher in Rehabilitation Teaching (Vision Rehabilitation Therapy). WBRC is a part of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System and is located at 3801 Miranda Ave., Palo Alto, CA, 94304. Phone number is 650-858-3921. For additional information, contact Liz Jessen, Director of WBRC, at 650-852-3431 or e-mail at Elizabeth.Jessen@med.va.gov. Government jobs are posted on the <http://www.vacareers.va.gov/> website. Go to search for occupation under Blind Rehabilitation to find the latest openings. This position will be open until filled.

Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist Job Opening – San Diego, California

HYBRID TITLE 38

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT ASF #06-021

NOTE: This announcement is open to the general public and permanent VA employees eligible for promotion, reassignment, or change to lower grade based on their current appointment eligibility. Incumbent is eligible for health and life insurance benefits, vacation and sick leave accrual.

CLOSES: 12/31/2006 (Note: Referrals will be made every two weeks.)

POSITION: Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS), GS-601-11/12

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: GS-12

DUTY LOCATION: VA San Diego Healthcare System –Social Work Service, San Diego County, CA.

SALARY: GS-11: \$55,053 - \$71,572 per annum

GS-12: \$65,984 - \$85,775 per annum

DUTIES: Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS) meets the special needs of our visually impaired population; to facilitate and enhance the accessibility of vision screening, low vision training and blind rehabilitation services to this population through outreach services. The incumbent manages and provides direct blind rehabilitation training services to eligible beneficiaries. The incumbent is a multi-skilled and experienced blind rehabilitation instructor who has advanced technical knowledge and competencies in at least two of the following disciplines at the journeyman level: Orientation and mobility, living skills, manual skills, and visual skills. A Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist has been cross-trained to acquire broadly based knowledge in each of these Blind Rehabilitation Center disciplines, plus computer access training (CAT). BROS represents a treatment option in the continuum of care for visually impaired veterans. Identifies, assesses, trains, manages and provides follow-up for clients using clinical resources of the facility. The incumbent is an active member of the interdisciplinary Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST), and interacts with all relevant services in the medical center, agencies of the VA and the community. In concert with VIST and other facility resources, the BROS is responsible for identifying beneficiaries who have blind rehabilitation training potential. Consults with VIST, VA and community clinics, VA and community Blind Rehabilitation Centers, state and local agencies and other community resources to locate potential qualifying patients. Selects, interprets and adapts traditional strategies in order to meet client needs. Develops an individualized rehabilitation-training plan for each client with rehabilitation potential. Consults with State, local and regional resources for information. Rehabilitation training will be designed to shorten waiting time and minimize use of the inpatient treatment at a Blind Rehabilitation Center. Maximizes client's rehabilitation potential by utilizing a wide variety of complex training aids and devices. Works closely with local VIST, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service and the local regional state rehabilitation agencies to fabricate, prescribe and obtain equipment for clients during their rehabilitation training.

QUALIFICATIONS: Basic Requirements: Degree: major study in an academic field related to the health sciences or allied sciences appropriate to the work of the position. Plus one (1) year of specialized experience, equivalent to the next lower grade level, that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, 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.

NOTE: Targeted positions; (a) selection does not guarantee promotion to the target grade or any intervening grade, if appropriate; (b) all legal and regulatory requirements for promotion to the next higher grade must be met; and (c) subsequent promotion to the next higher grade is dependent on the selectee's demonstration of the ability to perform the duties of that grade to the satisfaction of the supervisor and the availability of enough work at the next higher grade to support the target position.

Time-in-Grade Requirements:

GS-11: One (1) year at or equivalent to the next lower grade level

GS-12: One (1) year at or equivalent to the next lower grade level

BASIS OF RATING: Qualified applicants may be evaluated on knowledge, skills, and other factors as measured by the following job-related elements and must be addressed as part of the application package:

1. Ability to teach in blind rehabilitation disciplines (skill areas).
2. Ability to organize, coordinate and manage the activities of the Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient program.
3. Ability to use assessment techniques in skill areas (orientation/mobility, living skills, low vision, manual skills, computer access training) to determine the rehabilitation needs of blinded veteran patients.
4. Ability to provide counseling to blinded veterans concerning blindness related issues.

Substitutions: Permissible substitutions for experience (education and training) may be reviewed in Human Resources Management Service, Room 1545. See Qualification Standards Operating Manual.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: This agency provides reasonable accommodation(s) 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 made on a case-by-case basis.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: All qualified candidates will receive consideration based on merit and qualifications without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, politics, physical handicap, or membership or non-membership in an employee organization.

HOW TO APPLY: Comply with VAMC/HRM INST. 030104, Instructions to Applicants.

Instructions To Applicants:

Read the job announcement, the eligibility, and qualification requirements for the position for which you are interested. If you feel you meet those requirements, comply with the following applicable instructions:

1. **PERMANENT VA SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE SYSTEM EMPLOYEES:**
 - a. Submit completed VAF 5-4078 by the closing date of the announcement. VAF 5-4676a, Employee Supplemental Qualification Statement, and VAF 5-4667b, Supervisory Appraisal of Employee for Promotion will be completed for all Wage Grade positions and for GS positions when rating and ranking procedures are required.
 - b. Ensure that your Official Personnel Folder (OPF) is up-to date. Training or job experiences not recorded in your OPF should be documented on OF-612 or resume, and

must be included with your application package for submission by the closing date of the announcement. This will assure that all your experiences, education, and qualifications are considered. A separate copy of this package should be submitted for filing in your OPF.

2. OTHER APPLICANTS: VRA (Veterans Recruitment Appointments), VEOA (Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1988), TRANSFER or REINSTATEMENT ELIGIBLES, PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC (for temporary positions) submit one of the following:

a. OF-612, Optional Application for Federal Employment and OF-306, Declaration for Federal Employment;

b. A resume or any written application format of your choice, which must include at minimum the items of information requested on OF-612 and OF-306. Forms may be accessed at www.opm.gov.

3. PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY/QUALIFICATIONS:

a. VRA - Veterans must attach a copy of the most recent DD Form 214 that indicates the type of discharge received.

b. To claim 10-point veterans preference, attach a copy of the Civil Service Preference Letter ("802 letter") issued from the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office within a year from the closing date of the announcement.

c. VEOA - Veterans who have been separated under honorable conditions from the armed forces with substantially three or more years of continuous active service. Veterans must attach a copy of the most recent DD Form 214, which indicates the type of discharge received.

d. TRANSFER OR REINSTATEMENT ELIGIBLES - Must include a copy of the most current SF-50 (Notification of Personnel Action), which identifies transfer or reinstatement eligibility.

e. PERSONS WITH DISABILITY - Must attach a copy of Schedule "A" certificate from The Department of Rehabilitation for the State of California within a year from the closing date of the announcement.

f. ALL APPLICANTS - In cases where college level education is used as the basis to be eligible to apply or qualify for a position, you must attach a school transcript or a completed OPM Form 1170 for verification of college courses/degrees. Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited towards qualifications (particularly positions with a positive education requirement.) Therefore, applicants must report only attendance and/or degrees from schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S.

Department of Education. Applicants can verify accreditation at the following website: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>. All education claimed by applicants will be verified accordingly.

4. DRUG TEST: All applicants tentatively selected for VA employment (in a testing designated position) are subject to random urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use prior to appointment. Applicants who refuse to be tested will be denied employment. Appointment to the position will not be effected upon a verified positive drug test.

5. NOTE: Applications will be accepted for posted announcements only, and must be received by 4:00 PM on the closing date of the announcement. The application must contain the position title, corresponding announcement number, signature, and date. Applicants must meet all eligibility and qualification requirements as of the closing date of the announcement. Documents required by these instructions and in the announcement must be submitted by the closing date. Applications and any attached material will not be returned. Do not submit original documents that you may need in the future. Mail application to:

VA San Diego Healthcare System
Human Resources Management Service (05)
3350 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego, CA 92161

Call (858) 552-8585 ext. 3401 for additional information. Applications sent in government-metered envelopes or sent by electronic transmission (fax) will not be processed.

Vision Rehabilitation Therapist Job Opening – Pensacola, Florida

Independence for the Blind of West Florida, Inc. is seeking a Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (Rehabilitation Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired).

Location: Independence for the Blind of West Florida, Inc.
1302 Dunmire Street, Pensacola, FL 32504
Phone: (850) 477-2663 Fax: (850) 479-4025
E-mail: email@ibwest.org Website: www.ibwest.org

Purpose: Independence for the Blind of West Florida (IB West) is a private, not-for-profit agency that teaches individuals with blindness and visual impairments to obtain and maintain an independent life style at home or in a business setting.

Function: This position is to instruct blind and visually impaired persons in all areas of daily living to include home, personal, money management, and communication skills.

Geographic Area of Responsibility: This is an outreach position covering a four county area that comprises the western aspect of the state of Florida. Travel may be required in six additional counties of the Florida panhandle.

Requirements: Master's degree in Visual Disabilities or Rehabilitation Teaching preferred. Bachelor's degree acceptable. ACVREP (CVRT) certification is required. For new graduates, certification must be obtained within first twelve months of employment. Applicant must possess excellent communication skills both verbal and written. Interns are welcome to apply.

Salary: Competitive for area – based on level of education, certification and experience. Forty hour work week.

Benefits: Medical, Life, and Short Term Disability following a 90 day probationary period. Ten paid holidays from start of employment.

Paid Time Off (Vacation/Sick/Other): Eighteen days per year.

Professional Memberships: Annual dues, conferences, and continuing education seminars are paid.

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Wichita, Kansas

Join the Leaders in Vision Rehabilitation! Envision, a private, non-profit company dedicated to providing choices and resources in employment, vision rehabilitation, and public education for people who are blind or low vision, is expanding services and is looking for a Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist (COMS) to join our team. Position is salaried with excellent health and retirement benefits!

Make a Difference: By joining the Envision team, you will help make a difference in the lives of people who need vision rehabilitation. You will have the advantage of working with three doctors with combined experience of over 50 years of optometric experience focusing on pediatrics and vision rehabilitation as well as a team of ACRVEP certified vision rehabilitation professionals. The team includes a PhD of Vision Sciences, Occupational Therapist, Certified Low Vision Therapists, and a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist. Through the use of the Scanning Laser Ophthalmoscope Microperimetry, we have the ability to educate our patients about their functional vision and define their individual ability through vision rehabilitation. Since 1931, Envision has been helping people who are blind or have low vision obtain employment, vision rehabilitation and independence. Envision has the region's most comprehensive vision rehabilitation team and leads the way with innovative low vision clinical services, services for older adults, children, adaptive aids and vision replacement services. Check out more information on employment at www.envisionus.com.

For more information or to send a resume, please contact:
Michael Epp, Director, Outreach & Continuing Education

Envision Rehabilitation Center
2301 S. Water
Wichita, KS 67213
Phone: 316-682-4646
Direct: 316-425-7119
Mobile: 316-204-3849
Toll Free: 1-866-319-4646
Fax: 316-267-9034
michael.epp@envisionus.com
www.envisionus.com

Vision Rehabilitation Therapist Job Opening – Portland, Maine

POSITION: Vision Rehabilitation Therapist, full-time, 37.5 hours per week, position based in Southern Maine.

AGENCY: The Iris Network, 189 Park Avenue, Portland, Maine 04102

QUALIFICATIONS: The Vision Rehabilitation Therapist shall have a Master's degree in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (formerly Rehabilitation Teaching) and be ACVREP certified or eligible for certification; or a Bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Teaching with two years related experience and be ACVREP certified or eligible for certification; or a Master's degree or Bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, Special Education, Social Work, Sociology, or related field may be considered due to the national shortage of trained specialized staff, if the individual can become ACVREP certified.

DUTIES: To work with people who are visually impaired and blind in assessing needs and developing a rehabilitation plan; to teach independent living and low vision skills to individuals or to small groups and to provide information on obtaining adaptive materials; to provide information and counseling, serve as an advocate, and make referrals to other agencies for support services; to prepare and maintain case records in a professional manner; to work within the requirements of the funding source contracts; to serve as a resource, providing information and public education within the community; to participate in the establishment and implementation of department program development; to accept and perform other duties as assigned, which specifically relate to the professional role and responsibilities of rehabilitation professional.

CONTACT: Send resume and cover letter to Sherry MacKinnon, Vice President, Program Services, smackinnon@theiris.org or 189 Park Avenue, Portland, ME 04102.

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Brookline, Massachusetts

ViHAB (Vision Habilitation Services) at MAB Community Services is currently looking for an ACVREP certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist to provide mobility and low vision services to individuals with vision loss and developmental disabilities.

ViHAB is a fast growing program that is contracted by the Department of Mental Retardation to provide vision services to their consumers. This population of visually impaired individuals has been underserved, and is in need of quality, professional

services. Massachusetts Commission for the Blind and Department of Mental Retardation have recognized this and has proposed to increase funding and expand services to meet these needs.

It is an exciting opportunity to work with a diverse and eager community of consumers, families, direct care staff, support networks, and DMR professionals. We provide direct service, consultative service, advocacy, and public education to the Greater Boston Area.

Independent travel and knowledge of and/or willingness to learn the Department of Mental Retardation service model are required. Full time position and part time positions available. Compensation is based on experience.

Please contact Gail Brash at MAB Community Services, 200 Ivy Street Brookline, MA 02446, email to gbrash@mabcommunity.com or fax to 617-732-0226.

Outreach Director Job Opening – St. Louis, Missouri

Outreach Director at Missouri School for the Blind: twelve-month position responsible for administration of statewide outreach system for blind/VI and multi-handicapped/deaf-blind students (ages 5 to 21 years). Work with intra-agency program components, Directors of Special Education, and persons from other blind/VI agencies.

Supervise/manage involvement with agencies serving the blind/VI and multi-handicapped/deaf blind. Supervise/advise Vision Supervisors, Lead Parent Advisor, APH/LRC Supervisor, transition, and other program coordinators regarding students/families. Work with Principals and Division Directors to ensure quality service delivery. Resource to Administrative Cabinet, LEAs, parents/guardians, and others involved in education/evaluation of blind/VI children. Write, implement, manage budget, and submit annual report for federally-sponsored grant(s). Qualifications: Master's in Special Education or related field; 3 years' supervisory experience; excellent oral and written communication skills. Submit resume/cover letter to Human Resources, Missouri School for the Blind, 3815 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63110; fax 314-772-1561; or cflynn@msb.k12.mo.us.

Vision Supervisor Job Opening – St. Louis, Missouri

Vision Supervisor at Missouri School for the Blind: twelve-month position providing statewide outreach services to LEAs and SEAs, parents, and others about educational needs of blind/VI children (ages 5 to 21 years). Develop, coordinate, and deliver functional vision assessments for students enrolled in local and state programs. Travel to local school programs to provide technical assistance/follow up on recommendations made to improve visual efficiency. Other duties include: work with APH Supervisor, ophthalmologists, optometrists, and parents; interpret reports from eye care specialists and implications for educational programming; provide in-service/pre-service training and prepare written reports of services; research/maintain knowledge of field; chair assessment/technical assistance meetings with local program representatives and parents; coordinate mentoring activities; provide instruction to local school personnel in

acquisition/use of low vision devices; provide appropriate instructional strategies/methodology for blind/VI students; provide O&M services as appropriate. Qualifications: Bachelor's with Master's preferred from accredited college/university with vision education certification or ACVREP O&M certification complete. Experience teaching/assessing blind/VI students. Able to meet requirements for Missouri State Teacher Certification in VI/blind. Submit resume/cover letter to Human Resources, Missouri School for the Blind, 3815 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63110; fax 314-772-1561; or cflynn@msb.k12.mo.us.

Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Openings – New Jersey

A New Jersey state agency seeks full-time certified O&M Itinerant Instructors in Rehab/O&M required. ACVREP certification in O&M required. Office bases in Newark, Toms River, Camden, New Brunswick. Starting salary from 43K - 57K commensurate with experience and education. Excellent benefits include medical/dental, pension, tuition. Rewarding, professional working environment. Come join our team! FAX cover/resume to "NJCBVI - Human Resources, O&M" at (973) 693-5034 or EMAIL to cbvi.hr@dhs.state.nj.us.

Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist/Certified Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Opening – New York, New York

Lighthouse International, 111 East 59th Street, New York, New York 10022 has a job opening for a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist/Certified Orientation and Mobility Instructor.

Job Summary: The dual certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist/Orientation and Mobility Instructor will provide high quality client 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.

Requirements: The ideal candidate must have dual degrees (Bachelor's or Master's) in Rehabilitation Teaching (Vision Rehabilitation Therapy) and Orientation and Mobility from an accredited university. In addition, the candidate must hold both VRT and O&M Certification/License from ACVREP or acquire the certification within a year of their hire date. Candidate must have experience working with persons who are visually impaired and/or persons with multiple impairments. Candidate must be flexible with their scheduling to meet the needs of the client. 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. Fax (212) 821-9708.

Teacher Of The Visually Impaired Job Opening - Chapel Hill, North Carolina

AGENCY: Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

DUTIES: Serve a caseload of about 20 children with visual impairments, ages K-12, various functioning levels. Responsible for vision assessments, Braille instruction, consultation to schools and parents, and other skills related to working with this population. Work with VI support staff (includes VI teacher assistants and Brailist) and COMS colleague. Experienced TVI available to mentor if needed. Minimal driving required to several closely situated schools. Interested in qualified applicant to start the Spring 2007 semester, but will consider good candidate to start the 2007 / 2008 school year. Opportunity to work extended school year services in Summer. Current students in university VI programs who will graduate by August 2007 are encouraged to apply.

QUALIFICATIONS: Master's degree in VI desirable. Eligibility for North Carolina teacher's certification required. Dual certified in O&M a plus. Multi-handicapped experience helpful. Braille, assistive technology, low vision and consultation skills needed.

SALARY: Based on NC state employee salary schedule plus 12% local supplement.

LIFESTYLE: Great area to live and work for singles and families. One of the top rated school districts in the US. Moderate climate, & close enough for day trips to both the mountains and the ocean. Close to 3 major universities (UNC Chapel Hill, Duke University, & NC State). Active nightlife, cultural / intellectual opportunities, and many outdoor recreational activities.

CONTACT: Margaret Blackwell—Executive Director for Exceptional Children, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, Lincoln Center, 750 S. Merritt Mill Road, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516; Phone: (919) 967-8211 Ext. 234; Fax: (919)933-4560; E-mail: mblackwell@chccs.k12.nc.us.

Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Opening – Erie, Pennsylvania

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services, Erie District Office has a job opening for an Orientation and Mobility Instructor. This is a Permanent, full-time position. Salary - \$38,475 to \$58,465.

Instructor would be itinerant, serving a multi-county area, which includes rural communities, small cities and, periodically, urban areas (Erie). Caseload consists mainly of adults, with periodic training of teens and children.

Minimum experience and training for the job:

1. Successful completion of an approved orientation and mobility program which includes study in such areas as the history of O&M, the psychological effects of

blindness, identification of common eye diseases, sensory devices and travel techniques; and a practicum in orientation and mobility.

2. Pennsylvania residency requirement waived.
3. Be eligible for selection in accordance with Civil Service rules.

Please contact for additional information:

Iva Newton-Gatts
District Manager
Erie District/BBVS
3100 Lovell Place
Erie, PA 16503
814-871-4401
866-521-5073
inewtongat@state.pa.us

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Memphis, Tennessee

Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired was founded in 1903. Today, 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 an Orientation & Mobility Specialist at our Memphis, Tennessee location. The O&M position provides evaluation & instruction to clients in the Memphis area. Must possess a valid certificate in Orientation and Mobility from ACVREP or be actively pursuing certification. Individual must be able to document and maintain grammatically correct records/reports, provide blindness awareness to community and able proficient in P/C skills. Responsibilities also include performing visual assessments, accompany consumers to low vision clinic and instruct on use of low vision near and distance aids. Also conducts functional low vision assessments as needed.

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 513-728-6229, or email kweaver@clovernook.org.

Quote Of The Day!

“Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value.” - Albert Einstein