

DESCRIPTION: Under general supervision, performs entry level work involving the adjustment counseling and teaching of non-visual techniques for clients who are experiencing personal and social problems which are associated with the on-set of blindness. Tasks performed are varied based on the needs of each individual client; performs related work as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: (A position is assigned to this class based on the scope and level of work performed as outlined below.)

This is the first classification level of two in the Visually Impaired Orientation Counselor class series. Positions allocated to this class perform basic counseling and teaching tasks under the leadership of Visually Impaired Orientation Counselor II's. The second level of this series performs orientation and counseling activities at the full performance level and may serve as a lead worker over positions allocated to lower levels of this class series.

Positions allocated to the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor series perform counseling and guidance related to vocational training and work placements.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (A position may not be assigned all the duties listed, nor do these examples include all the duties that may be assigned.)

Assists in evaluating the present level of skills in determining what the client is capable of performing and the needs which still exist in order to adjust to blindness.

Educates clients in understanding the various implications of blindness and how it pertains to individual and public attitudes toward blindness.

Presents instructional programs for clients to address the necessary skills to deal effectively with blindness such as computer use (email, internet, screen readers or low vision applications), cooking and other homemaking skills, Braille and cane travel.

Prepares periodic reports to evaluate clients' progress toward successful rehabilitation and monitor the overall effectiveness of programs provided.

Refers clients to additional opportunities provided by the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and other social service agencies.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (These are needed to perform the work assigned.)

Knowledge of: various educational modalities as they pertain to the rehabilitation of blind individuals (i.e. Braille, cane traveling, computer use with adaptive technology, etc.); understanding of problems arising from blindness; counseling techniques used in the rehabilitation of the blind.

Skill in: evaluating each client's needs and the subsequent preparation and implementation of instructional programs to answer these needs.

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Ability to: organize and coordinate various ongoing instructional programs; effectively evaluate the results of instructional programs and revise such programs if warranted; establish a strong working rapport with clients, general public and other service agencies.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: (Applicants will be screened for possession of these qualifications. Applicants who need accommodation in the selection process should request this in advance.)

Bachelor's degree in behavioral science, social science, counseling, education or related field. Experience providing counseling and/or instruction to clients with a visual impairment or other disability may be substituted for the educational requirement on a year-for-year basis.

SPECIAL NOTE:

State agencies are responsible to evaluate each of their positions to determine their individual overtime eligibility status as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).