**NNOUNCEMENT**

# 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

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Area of Consideration:**VA NATIONWIDE**

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

# RELOCATION EXPENSES ARE NOT AUTHORIZED

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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

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**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.**

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**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 remedation 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.

**I. 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