

# North Country Association for the Visually Impaired

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## Job Description – Vision Rehabilitation Therapist/Orientation & Mobility Instructor

**Job Title:** Vision Rehabilitation Therapist/Orientation & Mobility Instructor (VRT/OM)  
**Service Area:** Clinton/Essex/Franklin/St. Lawrence Counties, NY (as assigned by NCAVI)  
**Reports To:** Executive Director  
**Starting Salary Range:** \$45,000-\$47,000

### Summary:

**VRT/OMs** work with blind, legally blind or visually impaired individuals to reestablish or develop their ability to perform tasks in daily living/working environments and provide rehabilitation/orientation/mobility services that enhance or maintain independence.

VRT/OM's implement the core practices of vision rehabilitation therapy and orientation and mobility to instruct consumers in a multitude of activities including using a computer or caring for daily needs such as dressing, cooking and eating. They complete diagnostic assessments to determine consumers' current ability to travel independently and to assist in the development of realistic goals that will serve as the focus of lessons. The VRT/OM creates individualized treatment plans that are structured according to the individual's interests, needs and abilities.

VRT/Oms work with individuals to reestablish or develop independent travel skills. This is done through both assisting the individual with utilizing sensory information to establish their position in the environment (orientation) and through the teaching of techniques for traveling safely from one point to another (mobility). VTR/OMs demonstrate the use of adaptive equipment. They teach consumers how to use special equipment needed at home or at work, including computer-aided adaptive equipment to improve communication and control various situations in their environment. VRT/OMs are knowledgeable in methods of working with visually impaired individuals who are congenitally or adventitiously (acquired) blind or visually impaired.

Qualified candidates will be capable of producing paperwork in accordance with the requirements of the NYS Commission for the Blind and/or other funders. VRT/OMs perform assessments of consumer needs, prepare and implement teaching plans for the Commission and for grant sponsored and non-sponsored consumers. VRT/OMs work as a team, which includes sharing information with other staff members involved with consumers and making referrals to other disciplines as required. VRT/OMs work with individuals of all ages.

### Essential Duties and Responsibilities

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions which include but are not limited to:

1. Maintaining a clean driving record;
2. Traveling long distances to meet with consumers in rural Upstate New York;

3. Consulting with other staff and other professionals (The Commission and Low Vision Providers) to plan, coordinate and assess consumer rehabilitation objectives;
4. Assisting consumers in learning how to use low vision aids as employed for VRT tasks;
5. Providing individualized and/or group instruction to consumers in their homes or in the community in which consumers live;
6. Providing rehabilitation training, i.e., meal management, home management, financial management, childcare, personal management and communication skills;
7. Performing Level 1 Social Casework as needed to meet the agency's needs;
8. Providing orientation and mobility training, i.e., indoor mobility, sighted guide techniques, sidewalk travel, street crossing and use of public transportation;
9. Designing lessons that incorporate OMS goals when indicated;
10. Documenting consumers' progress through the use of standardized reports submitted within the time frame required by CBVH and/or other funders;
11. Maintaining a schedule of appointments, seeing a minimum of two consumers a day four days a week, or the equivalent;
12. Maintaining a home office day for updates in the agency's Consumer Information System (CIS) and other essential office work;
13. Closing cases in a timely manner;
14. Participating in staff in service training and community conferences (when appropriate) to maintain proficiency in the use of methods and equipment to meet consumer needs;
15. Participating in team meetings and making referrals to other service providers;
16. Participating in professional development activities as both a participant and presenter when needed;
17. Serving consumers in areas assigned by NCAVI throughout Clinton, Essex, Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties in Upstate New York;
18. Other duties as assigned.

### **Education and/or Experience**

OMS must have a Masters degree in Blind Rehabilitation and be ACVREP certified in Orientation and Mobility. Certification must be obtained within one year of hire.

VRTs must have a Masters degree Blind Rehabilitation and be certified or eligible for certification in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP). Certification must be obtained within one year of hire.

VRT/OMs are required to have solid computer/word processing skills, strong communication skills and demonstrate an ability to work both independently and as part of a team.

A combined Masters degree in VRT/OM is preferred