Maryland State Department of Education

**Division of Rehabilitation Services**

**Office for Blindness & Vision Services**

# Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialist

## Main Purpose of Job

The Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialist is responsible for developing, coordinating, and delivering orientation and mobility services for blind, deaf/blind and low vision consumers. These services enable the consumer to travel safely, efficiently, and independently in their home, school, community, and vocational environments.

This position works as part of an interdisciplinary team to ensure necessary services are provided for the consumer to achieve independence in their homes and communities in accordance with their Individualized Plan for Employment or Independent Living Plan.

## Job Duties include:

* Perform O&M evaluations that focus on long- and short-term travel needs of the consumer in home, community, educational, and vocational environments.
* Assist the consumer to understand impact of vision and make safe travel decisions.
* Instruct the consumer with visual impairments in the skills and knowledge that enable them to travel independently.
* Teach the consumer to travel with proficiency, safety, and confidence in familiar and unfamiliar environments.
* Be responsible for the consumer’s safety during O&M instruction and in other environments while fostering maximum independence during O&M lessons.
* Prepare and use equipment and materials, such as tactile maps, models, optical devices, pre-canes, GPS devices, and long canes, for the development of O&M skills.
* Provide instruction in sighted guide, protective techniques, indoor travel, basic cane travel, residential travel, business travel, and public transportation.
* Instruct consumer in the use of low vision equipment used for travel, such as a monocular.
* Be available for monthly meetings with referring counselor and consumer (as requested).
* Generate monthly reports and invoicing for the referring counselor.

## Minimum Qualifications:

1. High School Diploma with three years of relevant experience or a bachelor’s degree in a related field.
2. O&M certification:
* Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist (COMS) from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP), or
* National Orientation & Mobility Certification (NOMC) from the National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB).
1. Reliable means of transportation.
2. Ability to pass background check.

## Application Materials required:

* Anyone interested in providing services for DORS consumers as a private vendor will complete the [DORS Vendor Application](https://dors.maryland.gov/crps/Pages/vendors.aspx) which can be found on the DORS website.

## Copy of COM or NOMCT certification.

## Personal resume demonstrating education and work experience relevant to teaching orientation and travel skills to students from preschool through high school, or adults; including adapted mobility devices, long cane, public transportation, etc.

## Application Review:

* OBVS will review the application materials provided and request any additional documents, as needed.
* OBVS Program Manager or Staff Specialist will make a recommendation to the OBVS Director regarding vendor approval.
* OBVS Director will review recommendation and forward to the DORS Director, as appropriate.

## Vendor Responsibilities:

* Maintain updated contact information with OBVS main office (410-554-9277).
* Provide monthly reports and invoices by the 10th of the month following service provision.

## Rates of Pay:

* **O&M Assessment and Training** – $90 per hour
* Approved **vendor trave**l – $35 per hour (prorated each 15 minutes)
* **No Show** – Not to exceed 25% of the cost of examination/evaluation.

## For More Information

* Contact Muttasim Fadl at elmuttasim.fadl@maryland.gov or 410-554-9104.