

Orientation and Mobility Training

Kansas Department for Children and Families

Rehabilitation Services (RS) is a state agency which provides vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to help people with disabilities achieve permanent, integrated, competitive employment consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities capabilities, interests and informed choice. VR services are customized according to each consumer's needs and goals.

Purpose

The primary purpose for providing orientation and mobility training services is to assist VR consumers who are blind or visually impaired in increasing or maintaining skills to move independently, safely and purposefully in the community environment, work place and home. These skills will support their successful movement toward independence, employment skill development or employment stabilization.

Scope of Services

Orientation and mobility training services must be provided face-to-face with "hands-on" assistance by the orientation and mobility specialist to the VR consumer.

Orientation and mobility training shall be based on a formal assessment of the consumer's ability to move independently, safely and purposefully in the community environment, work place and home. It may include concept development (i.e. body image); motor development (i.e. motor skills needed for balance, posture and gait); sensory development (i.e. functioning of the various sensory systems); residual vision stimulation and training; techniques for travel (indoors and outdoors) including human guide technique, trailing, cane techniques, following directions, search techniques, utilizing landmarks, route planning, techniques for crossing streets and use of public transportation; and instructional use of low vision devices.

Contracted Service Process:

The RS Counselor will notify the contractor of a potential referral for services. It is expected that the contractor will accept or reject the referral for services within one week.

When the contractor accepts and agrees to provide the service the following occurs:

The RS Counselor will create a service authorization for the assessment of the consumer's Orientation and Mobility training needs and the development of an Orientation and Mobility Training Action Plan that will meet the consumer's needs.

- The Orientation and Mobility Training Action Plan is developed with the consumer and RS Counselor. The Orientation and Mobility Training Action Plan will complement the consumer's IPE, and require final approval by the RS Counselor before implementation.
- The details of instruction and training within the Orientation and Mobility Training Action Plan will be developed based on the assessed needs and the purpose of the service identified by the RS Counselor. The Orientation and Mobility Training Action Plan should include instruction and training methods, frequency of instruction, how progress will be measured, the estimated timelines and number of hours required to complete the training.
- Once the RS Counselor agrees to the Orientation and Mobility Training Action Plan, payment for the Action Plan will be completed.
- RS Counselor will also authorize the number of Orientation and Mobility Training hours based upon the agreed training time estimate in the Orientation and Mobility Training Action Plan.
- Once the Orientation and Mobility Training Action Plan is approved, the contractor will implement the training and instruction as outlined in the Action Plan to achieve the goals/purpose of the referral for service.
- Weekly reports will be provided to the RS counselor outlining the progress towards the goals in the Orientation and Mobility Training Action Plan and identifying instruction and training that has occurred.
- Instruction and training are to be provided face-to-face with the consumer.
- Payment for Orientation and Mobility Training hours will be completed by the RS Counselor upon receipt of periodic billing from the contractor based on:
 - required reports being up-to-date;
 - the agreed upon action plan is being followed; and
 - documentation that clearly supports that the contractor has provided services as described in the consumer's Orientation and Mobility Training Action Plan.

Qualifications

Orientation and Mobility Specialists must meet one of the following standards:

- A. Certification through the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professions (ACVREP) – <http://www.acvrep.org/>
- B. Degree or certification through an accredited university program; the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired offers a list of such programs at:
<http://www.aerbvi.org/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=1103>

- C. Certification from the National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB)
 - <http://www.nbpcb.org/pages/NOMCcertification.php>

Documentation of qualifications must be submitted with completed fee for service contract.

Rate

Payment of \$200 will be made based on an agreed upon Orientation and Mobility Training Action Plan. Hours of training will be authorized by counselor based on the approved Action Plan. Hours of training will be paid at a rate of \$70 an hour.