

Job Location: 955 E. 20th Street, Cookeville, TN 38501

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Masters- Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing Services

The Department of Human Services mission is to offer temporary economic assistance, work opportunities and protective services to improve the lives of Tennesseans. Our vision is to be a leader in effectively partnering with human service customers in establishing or re-establishing self-sufficiency to create a better quality of life.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services' Division of Rehabilitation Services recognizes the unique needs of individuals who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing. In 2005, the division established a new unit to provide specialized vocational rehabilitation services to eligible clients who are deaf, deaf-blind or hard of hearing. Thirteen (13) Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors Masters, who are specially trained to work and communicate with persons who are deaf, deaf-blind or hard of hearing, provide services that enable their clients to enter, retain, or return to competitive employment. Services are individualized and depending upon a person's needs may include the following:

Position Responsibilities (In addition to general Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Masters Responsibilities):

- **Guidance and Counseling** – Involves helping customers discover avenues most appropriate to their needs and abilities as well as helping the customers to become adjusted to their current situation and to plan his or her future in line with their abilities, interests, and social needs.
- **Vocational Training** – Involves assisting customers obtain education and training aimed to equip them with skills and competencies required for specific employment objectives.
- **Post-Secondary Education** – involves providing customers with information and or economic assistance with obtaining higher learning.
- **Interpreting Services** – Involves providing services to help facilitate linguistic interactions between customers and employers, agencies, and other paraprofessionals.
- **Provision of Hearing Aids and Other Adaptive Devices** – Adaptive equipment as loosely defined as approved equipment that is used to maintain or improve functional capabilities.
- **Personal Adjustment Training** – Involves assisting customers obtain services to will enable them to become more independent in their homes and community.
- **Technology Services** - Involves assisting customers obtain professional services aimed to provide specialized technology –oriented solutions which will enable customers to achieve their employment goal.
- **Job Placement** – Involves providing services to assist customers with finding employment.
- **Physical Restoration** – Involves assisting customers obtain services or devices to correct or substantially modify within reason physical conditions.
- **Information Referral** – Involves providing customers with information and referrals to agencies and or people to assist in reaching employment or other goal related objectives.

Position Preferred Requirements:

Minimum of one (1) year of professional work experience which provided the demonstrated knowledge of

- The causes and treatment of deafness; hearing loss and/or deaf-blindness; psycho-social and cognitive influences of deafness, hearing loss and/or deaf-blindness, pre-lingual and post-lingual onset
- Educational aspects of mainstreaming and transitioning for independent functioning in the community
- Dynamics of the community, its perceptions and misconceptions, and its influence on persons who are deaf,

hard of hearing and/or deaf-blind

- Language and communication concerns of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing and/or deaf-blind
- Community resources and their availability and ability to meet the needs of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or deaf-blind
- Physical and interpersonal accommodation and assistive devices available to meet the needs of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing and/or deaf-blind at school, work or home

Such experience may have been gained concurrently or separately in meeting the minimum qualification requirements for the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Masters.

Information regarding State of Tennessee benefits:

<https://www.tn.gov/hr/topic/benefits>

Applicants may be subject to background screening.

Any position could ultimately be designated as work from home, mobile work or free address (i.e. Employees work in office and can choose from various space options based on need for a given day such as private meeting rooms, conference rooms, collaborative spaces and enclaves for individual work assignments.)

Pursuant to the state of Tennessee's policy of non-discrimination, The Tennessee Department of Human Services does not discriminate based on race, sex, color, creed, pregnancy, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or military services—in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, services or activities.