



**Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS)
Dually Certified CLVT, CVRT or CAITS or Licensed OT with SCLV Preferred
Bilingual (English-Spanish) Preferred**
(updated February 2018)

BVIC

The Blind & Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County, Inc. (aka: BVIC; Blind Center) has served Monterey County residents since 1971. It offers a complete spectrum of services that help people adapt to the loss of sight. Collectively our staff provided support to 379 people last year. The majority of our clients are seniors who often have other age related health conditions. Our services are designed for the individual needs, abilities and goals of each person and are offered by our professional specialists in the comfort of your home, community and at the BVIC. Services include Training in Orientation & Mobility, Independent Living Skills, Support Services, Braille Instruction, Information and Referral, Assistive Technology, the Marjorie McNeely Low Vision Clinic, outreach and social activities. An Optometrist who specializes in low vision attends the clinic two afternoons a week. The BVIC is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. BVIC is a fragrance free work environment.

Mission

BVIC's mission is to empower the blind and visually impaired toward independent living through responsive education, support services and skills training. BVIC's vision is to be *the go to place* for information, education and services for the visually impaired in Monterey County.

Position Summary

The primary purpose of the Orientation and Mobility Specialist is to organize, plan and implement orientation and mobility services to adults (largely seniors age 50-90+) who are blind and visually impaired and who may or may not have additional disabilities. With a strong Hispanic and mono-lingual Spanish speaking community, bilingual (English-Spanish) is highly preferred. Based on dual certification, in addition, you may provide assistive technology/rehabilitation/daily living skills related services by assessing consumer needs in their home or other environments. You may also assist in the Low Vision Clinic, Assistive Technology Lab and/or with social activities and community outreach. You will work with other staff to create a service plan, as well as connect clients to other services and resources. The BVIC is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, culture, age, disability, gender or sexual orientation.

This position is open until filled.

APPLICATION AND INQUIRIES

Send cover letter, resume, and three references with contact information by email to vision@blindandlowvision.org or mail to:

Blind & Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County, Inc.
225 Laurel Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Review of applications will proceed as qualified applicants respond. They will continue until a suitable candidate is selected. While we sincerely appreciate all applications, only those candidates selected for interview will be contacted.

Please note the selected candidate will be required to submit to any special requirements e.g., criminal records check, TB testing, provide proof ability to work in the U.S., proof of a valid California driver's license, and proof of insurance.

The Blind & Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County, Inc.
255 Laurel Ave, Pacific Grove, Ca 93950
(831) 649-3505 office (831) 649-4057 fax
vision@blindandlowvision.org www.blindandlowvision.org



**Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS)
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Position: Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist. Dual certified & Bilingual (English-Spanish) preferred
Hours: 40 hours per week FTE, Exempt
Salary: We offer a competitive salary, including bi-lingual and dual certification stipends; plus medical, dental & vision insurance; and mileage reimbursement.
Holidays: Ten paid holidays per year
Paid Time Off: Employee accrues up to 20 paid days off per year
Benefits: Full-time employees are eligible for health, dental and vision benefits
Retirement: The BVIC offers a simple IRA retirement plan
Responsible to: Executive Director

Education and Experience:

- Required: Master's Degree with concentration in Orientation & Mobility and Bachelor's Degree with concentration in Special Education, Occupational Therapy, or related field
- ACVREP or COMS certification as an O&M Specialist or commitment to attain certification within one year of hire date
- Preferred: Dually Certified CLVT, CVRT or CAITS or Licensed OT with SCLV
- Minimum one-year experience working with the visually impaired
- Additional educational background and/or work experience in other areas of Blind Rehabilitation and working with the elderly is a plus

Qualifications:

- Ability to cooperate and work collaboratively toward achieving client, department and agency goals
- Energetic, flexible, patient, organized and detail-oriented
- Ability to think independently, problem solve, and execute assigned tasks
- Ability to counsel in a caring manner while also being able to balance agency policy with individual perceptions and sensitivity to clients
- Proficiency with MS Office suite produces
- Excellent report writing and computer skills required
- Must be familiar with the blindness community and professional resources, as well as standard concepts, practices, and procedures within the vision rehabilitation field
- Must have a valid California driver's license, access to your own reliable transportation, and insurance. Mileage reimbursement at current IRS rate
- Acquire appropriate CEUs in order to maintain certification
- Must have current TB test, CPR certification, and HIPAA training

Essential Duties and Responsibilities: (include but are not limited to)

- Provide O&M instruction to adults (generally senior citizens), who are blind/legally blind/low vision throughout Monterey County, Ca
- Perform new client intake, as assigned
- Work with staff to create a service plan
- Coordinate referral or connection to other service providers and resources, as needed
- Maximize the safety, functionality and independence of clients



- Document progress/outcomes and complete all reporting in accordance with established guidelines
- Maintain electronic documentation (and paper as needed) in accordance with established guidelines
- Possess the ability to work independently as well as in a team setting
- Listen and understand the goals/needs of the client
- Conduct thorough assessments to determine individual goals and needs
- Provide services to meet identified client goals and achieve successful outcomes
- Provide basic daily living skills/rehabilitation services, as needed
- Communicate regularly and effectively with clients, colleagues, managers, Board members and volunteers to ensure successful outcomes
- Stay current on trends and adaptive equipment in the field
- Provide input toward program/service improvements and/or assist with developing new programs/services
- Occasional networking with other agencies and individuals
- Occasional community outreach for public education about BVIC services
- Other duties as assigned