

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASS SPECIFICATION

Class Title: Rehabilitation Engineer

Class Code: 40885

Pay Grade: GJ

A. Purpose:

Provides rehabilitation engineering services to enable individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain productive employment and to eliminate architectural barriers.

B. Distinguishing Feature:

Rehabilitation Engineer specializes in rehabilitation engineering and accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The incumbent provides advice and regulation interpretation to rehabilitation personnel, architects, employers, and other interested parties on accommodation, accessibility, and other related issues.

C. Functions:

(These are examples only; any one position may not include all of the listed examples nor do the listed examples include all functions that may be found in positions of this class.)

1. Directs and monitors rehabilitation engineering services for clients to ensure the needs of those with disabilities are met.
 - a. Receives and processes requests for rehabilitation engineering services from rehabilitation counselors.
 - b. Determines the appropriateness of services requested.
 - c. Determines and establishes specific client needs with counselors.
 - d. Interviews clients and parents or guardians to determine client needs and evaluate client strength and functional limitations.
 - e. Evaluates the physical settings of clients by making site and home visits.
 - f. Evaluates client workstations for modification needs.
 - g. Designs or modifies adaptive devices to assist clients in performing work or personal tasks.
 - h. Evaluates client needs for adaptive devices.
 - i. Reviews, approves and/or disapproves, and provides technical consultation on requests for repair or replacement of adaptive devices.
 - j. Compiles statistical information on rehabilitation engineering services usage and service outcomes.
 - k. Provides in-depth review of rehabilitation engineering services to department counselors.
2. Acts as a liaison between clients, counselors, vendors or other service providers, businesses or agencies and others to ensure appropriate rehabilitation engineering services are provided.
3. Provides initial and refresher training to department staff and other individuals or organizations to provide current information on rehabilitation engineering, accommodations, accessibility, and adaptive devices.
 - a. Provides information regarding rehabilitation engineering training opportunities available through other sources; including colleges, research and training centers, and private organizations.
 - b. Compiles, maintains, and distributes information on available resources for adaptive devices and equipment.

- c. Makes presentations to a variety of public and private organizations to explain and promote accessibility for people with disabilities.
 - d. Maintains a directory of rehabilitation engineering service providers in South Dakota and neighboring states.
4. Provides consultation to architects, engineers, and other parties on federal and state construction requirements pertaining to building accessibility to ensure compliance with rules and regulations regarding access for people with disabilities.
- a. Provides cost estimations on providing accessibility on new or remodeled buildings.
 - b. Identifies suitable equipment and materials for use in new construction or remodeling of existing buildings to accommodate people with disabilities.
 - c. Makes accessibility and accommodation on-site inspections of new or remodeled buildings during construction, and reviews plans to provide technical assistance and ensure compliance with federal and state regulations.
5. Performs other work as assigned.

D. Reporting Relationships:

Typically no subordinates report to this position.

E. Challenges and Problems:

Challenges include designing and modifying workstations, adaptive devices and equipment; and maintaining currency with new developments in the profession.

Typical problems include determining the best adaptive devices to be used that are cost effective and meet the needs of the client and determining how buildings can be made accessible at a reasonable cost.

F. Decision-making Authority:

Decisions include determining what adaptive equipment is best suited to meet the client's need; the content and frequency of training sessions; what information needs to be distributed to staff; which organizations to speak to and what information to present; whether a building meets accessibility standards and the most cost-effective methods to modify buildings to meet accessibility standards; requests for rehabilitation engineering services; and repair or replacement of adaptive services.

Decisions referred include which non-staff individuals or organizations to include in training sessions; final approval on which non-state buildings to inspect; budget; and what legislation or administrative rules are necessary.

G. Contact with Others:

Daily contact with rehabilitation clients, counselors, and supervisor to explain and advise on services and to provide training as necessary. Frequent contact with vendors of adaptive devices, other state agencies involved with people with disabilities, local and county government officials and the general public to obtain and provide information on current devices available, services provided and other information; and with federal agencies to obtain technical advice as needed.

H. Working Conditions:

Typical office environment or various work sites as required by the position.

I. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Knowledge of:

- rehabilitation philosophy and practices;
- functional limitations associated with various physical and mental disabilities;
- architecture as applied to building construction;
- federal and state regulations governing accessibility and accommodations.

Ability to:

- work with people with disabilities and assist them in overcoming their functional limitations;
- communicate sufficient to explain the state and federal regulations pertaining to rehabilitation engineering;
- interpret regulations;
- develop and design solutions to site or equipment problems.