ACCES-VR

RFP Rebid 2025-2028

Contract #: C015054

 Since losing my eyesight in 2003, I have had to overcome many challenges in my personal life and my professional one, as well. In 2008 I was presented with an opportunity to learn a new profession as a Certified SSA Benefits Planner and Advisor and Certified ADA Advanced Trainer. in turn, the knowledge I have gained over the past 17 years has given me the confidence, ability and strength to succeed in today’s workforce and has allowed me to become the successful and respected professional that I am today.

 Included within these years of experience and skills you will find:

* An independent and responsible individual honored in 2006 as Disabled Entrepreneur of the Year in New York State by the NYS Commission for the Blind and the Governor
* Extensive knowledge of Social Security benefits and other Federal and State programs
* Strong working relationships with the following stakeholders- OneWorkSource (DOL), Social Services, Social Security, Independent Living Centers and the local VA’s.
* A dedicated business owner, honored in 2006 as Start Up Company of the Year by the New York State Small Business Development Center
* An independent and responsible individual honored in 2006 as Disabled Entrepreneur of the Year in New York State by the NYS Commission for the Blind and the Governor
1. Years of experience providing services to ACCES-VR and NYS Commission Referrals, Vouchers and Billing.

**ACCES-VR services provided:**

**Pre-ETS: 121X, 1008X, 122X, 1005X, 124X, 1006X, 127X, 1007X,557X, 1009X, 963X, 1001X, 964X, 1002X**

**Employment Preparation Services: 125X, 175X, 125X, 625X, 630X**

**Entry Services: 118X, 1000X**

**Adjunct Services: 142X, 790X, 792X**

**Education and Certifications**

* Americans with Disabilities Act Certification, Cornell University, New York—

Title: ADA Advanced Trainer, certified to conduct workshops on the ADA. **The curriculum** consists of 60 independent training modules in topics, such as—

* Overview of the ADA
* Disability Awareness
* Disability Disclosure
* Your Rights and Responsibilities
* Disability Awareness,
* Community Work Incentives Coordinator Certification, VCU, VA— SSA Benefits Planner and Advisor, Certified since 2009 to provide benefits planning and advisement for people with disabilities.

**Relevant Experience**

9/2020 ~ Present, Certified Benefits Specialist

Integrating Supports Colorado, Inc.

Current job responsibilities:

* SSA Benefits advisement for Social Security beneficiaries, keeping confidential hard and electronic files
* Assisting people with disabilities gain, retain and sustain employment
* Collaborating with stakeholders through out Colorado

9/2015 ~ Present, 2/2008 ~ 08/2012, Certified Benefits Specialist

North Country Center for Independence, Plattsburgh, NY

My job responsibilities were, but not limited to:

* SSA Benefits advisement for Social Security beneficiaries, keeping confidential hard and electronic files
* Assisting people with disabilities gain, retain and sustain employment
* Collaborating with stakeholders in Northern New York
* Teaching ADA workshops to individuals, businesses and governmental entities
* Planning and organizing fundraising events

10/2012 ~ Present Accessible Technology Specialist

Sights Unseen, Saranac Lake, NY

Current job responsibilities:

* Assessing and evaluating consumers, Voucher Summations and Reports
* Recommendation of proper accessible technology, Software programs and APPs
* Billing— NYS Vouchers and private
* Income (hours and mileage) and expense monthly tracking
* Hands on training using JAWS, OpenBook, Microsoft programs and all Apple products

8/2012 ~ 9/2015 IL Specialist and SSA Benefits Advisor

Tri-Lakes Center for Independent Living, Saranac Lake, NY

My job responsibilities were, but not limited to:

* Assist people with disabilities in applying for State and Federal programs
* Assist people with disabilities with independent living skills so they may live more independent lives
* SSA benefits advisement- The application process and support after the denial/approval of benefits
* Database management, Intakes and Keeping confidential records

**Relevant Experience**, continued

6/2005 ~ 12/2007 Owner/Manager

Video Storm, Chateaugay, NY

Owner/Management duties included:

* Monthly budgets, P & L statements, payroll and daily revenue reports
* Marketing, promotions and advertising
* Ordering and inventories
* Creating my own Microsoft Excel spreadsheets to keep track of the information listed above.

1/2000 ~ 9/2003 Lodges General Manager

Adirondack Mountain Club, Lake Placid, NY

Management of daily operations for a 46 bed lodge and a remote 28 bed lodge, duties included:

* All food service (inventory/cooking/ordering) and reservations
* Yearly and monthly budgets, Profit and Loss statements, income statements, and payroll
* Marketing, promotions and advertising
* Planning and organizing fundraising events
* Scheduling and managing a staff of 30 year round and 35 seasonal employees

**Professional References**

Robert Poulin, NCCI, Job Title- Executive Director,

Relationship: 15 years, Contact Phone: (518) 563-9058, ext. 107

Beatrice Beguin, NYSCB, Title: Retired VR Counselor

Relationship: 20 years, Contact Phone: (518) 891-4083

Judi Grant, ACCES-VR, Job Title: VR Counselor

Relationship: 10 years, Contact Phone: (518) 572-9793

Additional References Available Upon Request