



Promoting Independence and Opportunities for People with Vision Loss.

## **Social Worker Position Description**

### **About INSIGHT**

Founded in 1925 as the Rhode Island Association for the Blind, INSIGHT's mission is to inspire confidence, build skills and empower people who are blind and visually impaired to become fully integrated, equally valued members of society by providing diverse services that produce opportunities and choices.

In 2018, the agency provided services to 959 adults and children who are blind and visually impaired. These services included low vision evaluations, independent living skills training, orientation and mobility training, workshops, support groups, recreational activities, a summer youth camp, and a radio reading service.

### **Position Background**

This is a new position at INSIGHT that presents the selected candidate with the opportunity to help build a dynamic new program that will provide support, information, and resources for people who are living with vision loss.

Working cooperatively with other INSIGHT staff members, the Social Worker will help identify individual client needs, provide emotional support, help clients determine their independent living goals, and then develop a plan to help them meet those needs.

The Social Worker will connect clients with the INSIGHT's current programs as well as services at other agencies, while also identifying opportunities for new initiatives to help people meet their needs.

The Social Worker will also provide support and information to family members and friends who may be struggling with how to best support their loved one.

This position requires someone who is a creative, upbeat, client centered, self-starter who has a passion for helping people achieve higher levels of self-confidence and independence. The position requires someone who is willing to invest the time in getting know our clients, many of whom may initially may not be motivated to connect with services due to fear, anger, anxiety, or denial in terms of their vision loss and its effect on their lives.

While INSIGHT serves people of all ages, as most vision loss is related to age, the vast majority of our client base is comprised of people who are over the age of 70. The successful candidate will have experience successfully working with this population and will have a solid understanding of the best ways to provide services to them.

[www.in-sight.org](http://www.in-sight.org)

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## **Essential Functions**

- Determines the nature of the client's situation by interviewing the client and assessing their psychological, emotional, and social information.
- Establishes a course of action by exploring options and setting goals with the client.
- Fosters the client's action or adjustment by interpreting attitudes and pointing out and explaining new options.
- Monitors planned actions through periodic follow up with clients.
- Facilitates small group workshops focused on adapting to vision loss in healthy ways.
- Keeps track of client needs and goals and works with the Director of Client Services to develop programs, workshops, or other initiatives to help people meet their needs.
- Identifies barriers to service and works with the Director of Client Services and the Executive Director to find ways to overcome those obstacles.
- With consent from the client, offers support and resources for their families, caregivers, and friends who may also be struggling with the client's vision loss.
- Maintains a record of client interactions, goals, and progress.

## **Skills and Qualifications**

- Minimum BS Degree in Social Work (BSW), Master's Degree (MSW) preferred.
- At least 5 years of experience in the Social Work field.
- Ability to make psychosocial assessments and develop and implement viable care plans.
- Excellent listening and communication skills.
- Bilingual (Spanish) preferred.
- Experience working with older adults and/or people with disabilities highly desired.
- Demonstrated group facilitation skills.
- Reliable source of transportation.