

**Office of State Budget and Management**  
**Establish New, Receipt-Supported Positions**  
 (G.S. 143-34.1)

Agency: DHHS

Division: Services for the Blind

Budget Code: 14450

Center Title: Counseling and Placement

Center Number: 1510

**\*\*\* Position Information \*\*\***

Proposed Classification: Rehabilitation Counselor I Proposed Salary Grade: 68

Salary Range: 37,451

Proposed Effective Date: 07 / 01 / 04

Number of Positions: 1

	<u>Authorized Budget</u>	<u>Current Request</u>
Total Budget	\$ 12,691,596	\$ 53,865
Receipts	<u>9,894,536</u>	<u>53,865</u>
Appropriation	\$ 2,797,060	\$ 0

Funding Source(s): Rehabilitation Services Basic Support Grant and Local Funds

Justification for Position (including description of duties and responsibilities):

Students who are blind and visually impaired often have not had the opportunity to develop a work history through part-time or summer work during high school. This lack of work experience puts these students at a serious disadvantage as they exit high school in terms of knowing what types of jobs they might want to pursue as well as developing basic work skills and understanding employer expectations.

Through a cooperative agreement between the Division of Services for the Blind and the Durham County Public School System, a trained Rehabilitation Counselor will be available to serve students age fourteen and up. The counselor will provide specialized vocational services to help the students prepare to exit from high school and enter into post-secondary education or employment. Summer programs that focus on adaptive technology skills, independent living skills, safe travel skills and other skill areas will be available to the students. Job shadowing, trial work opportunities, and after school or summer employment will be options through job development and placement services provided by the counselor and based on the student's specific interests, strengths, and

limitations. Where needed, work site modifications and adaptive equipment can be provided.

The primary goal of this program is to better prepare students as they exit high school to become self-sufficient and independent adults. One-on-one services provided by a counselor with specialized knowledge and resources can significantly increase the likelihood of achieving this goal.

It should be noted that no State funds will be required in support of this position as it will be funded through county money matched with Federal Rehabilitation Basic Support Grant monies (21.3% to 78.7%)

Statutory Reference for Request

Allyn Guffey

Presentation to be made by

Director, Budget and Analysis

Title

Debbie Jackson

Agency Head Signature

State Budget Officer Signature