# Vocational Rehabilitation Services Manual C-600: Orientation and Mobility Services

Revised April 1, 2021

## Introduction

The In-house Orientation and Mobility (O&M) instructor prepares Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) customers who are blind/visually impaired to travel independently with competence and confidence. O&M tools may include white canes, sleep shades, and dog guides.

"Orientation" refers to the process of applying the customer's working senses to establish his or her position and relationship to the environment.

"Mobility" refers to the act of moving in the environment with the use of an established tool to aid in travel.

"White cane," for the purpose of O&M services, specifically refers to a rigid, non-folding, long, fiberglass white cane with a metal tip.

Notes:

* All sections in C-600: Orientation and Mobility Services apply to “In-house” O&M instructors (O&M instructors employed by TWC-VRS).
* Section C-602: Contracted Orientation and Mobility Services applies to contracted O&M services only.

If a counselor has determined that an exception will facilitate a customer’s progress and there is not an approval exception listed in policy, counselors are encouraged to staff the request through their chain of management to the Deputy Division Director for Field Services for consideration. VRSM clearly states when no exceptions are allowed.

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