



SCHUYLER COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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Lorry Johnson
Personnel Officer

Examination Open to the Public Social Welfare Examiner—Exam #63505

EXAM DATE: June 26, 2021

LAST DATE TO FILE: May 7, 2021 by 4:30pm

SALARY: \$19.25 per hour

HOW TO APPLY: Must complete Civil Service application and submit to Schuyler Co. Civil Service, 105 Ninth St., Unit 21, Watkins Glen, NY 14891. A **\$15.00 examination fee payable by cash, money order, or check made payable to the Schuyler County Treasurer must be submitted with application.** Please write the name and number of the examination on the check.

VACANCY: At the present time, there are no vacancies in this title. This examination is being held to establish an eligible list and will be used to fill any appropriate full-time and/or part-time vacancies as they occur in Schuyler County municipalities.

Note: A promotional exam for this title will also be held at the same time as the open-competitive exam. Any resulting eligible list from the promotional exam will be used to fill vacancies before using any resulting eligible list from the open-competitive exam.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Candidates must have been **legal residents of Schuyler or a contiguous (Chemung, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins and Yates) county** for at least one month immediately preceding the date of the written examination. Preference in appointment may be given to a resident of the jurisdiction for which there is a vacancy.

JOB DESCRIPTION: The work involves responsibility for determining eligibility for the various programs administered by the local Social Services Department and/or recommending amounts of assistance in accordance with established policies and procedures. Incumbents perform a combination of assignments in connection with determining financial eligibility, categorical classification, continued eligibility, and income maintenance by the review and evaluation of applications and direct interviews with applicants. A Social Welfare Examiner uses a computer terminal in the performance of the duties. This use is usually limited to the input or retrieval of information, but may involve some word processing. Work is performed under the direct supervision of a higher ranking Social Welfare Examiner with leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in planning and carrying out the details of the work according to prescribed rules and procedures. Supervision over the work of others is not a function of this position. Does related work as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and two years of work experience, or its part-time equivalent, in examining, investigating or evaluating claims for assistance such as veterans and unemployment benefits, or determining qualifications for insurance or other similar programs operating under established criteria for eligibility.

NOTE: Satisfactory completion of semester credit hours from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees may be substituted for work experience as follows: Thirty (30) credit hours is equivalent to one (1) year of experience; sixty (60) credit hours is equivalent to two (2) years of experience.

SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION: Use of calculators is ALLOWED

A written test designed to evaluate knowledge, skills and /or abilities in the following areas:

1. Interpreting and applying written Social Welfare program materials, and using basic arithmetic in determining eligibility for assistance

You will be presented with written passages related to Social Services policies and procedures and be asked to interpret their meaning and/or apply this material to hypothetical case situations. Secondly, you will be given sets of written instructions and regulations regarding such Social Services programs as cash assistance, medical assistance, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

You must read and understand the instructions given, including schedules of arithmetic figures, and apply these instructions to hypothetical case problems. Some questions require using arithmetic to compute the correct amount of assistance.

Previous knowledge of Social Services programs or the eligibility process is not required.

2. Recording case notes

You will be given several sentences from a typical case report paragraph and one additional sentence. You must determine the best place in the paragraph to put the additional sentence in order to make the report coherent and meaningful.

3. Interviewing

You must apply principles and techniques of interviewing to such problems as asking and answering questions, explaining requirements and helping the client understand his or her responsibilities, helping the client feel at ease, structuring and controlling the interview, reacting appropriately to inconsistencies, dealing with a variety of feelings of clients, maintaining confidentiality, and identifying the need for and making appropriate referrals. In addition, some questions may deal with contacting or interacting with other community organizations and agencies to benefit the client or the general public.

A Guide for the Written Test for Social Welfare Examiner is available at the New York State website: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm> . Candidates not having access to a computer or the internet may request copy of the test guide from the municipal civil service office conducting this examination using the contact information found elsewhere on this announcement.

Applications and announcements are available at www.schuylercounty.us
or the Schuyler County Civil Service Office
105 Ninth St., Unit 21, Watkins Glen, NY 14891 (607) 535-8190

Issue Date: March 30, 2021

SCHUYLER COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE—GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXAMINATIONS

Application: An original application must be filed for each separate examination. Applications must be received by 4:30pm in the Civil Service office on the “Last Filing Date” to be considered for this examination. We do not make formal acknowledgement of the receipt of an application or take responsibility for non-delivery or postal delay. Submission of a resume does not relieve you of the responsibility for completing all sections of the application. Answer every question; incomplete applications will be disapproved. Be sure to read the detailed announcement to determine whether or not you meet the announced requirements. No fee refund will be made to applicants who are disqualified or fail to appear for the examination. Notify this office if your address changes after applying. No attempt will be made to locate candidates who have moved. Download application and forms at web site www.schuylercounty.us.

Education: A copy of your diploma should be submitted if you qualify by possession of a degree. Transcripts should be submitted whenever the qualifications require a specific college major or specified number of credits.

Fee and Fee Waiver: Application fee of \$15 must be submitted with application. Cash, money order or check made payable to Schuyler County Treasurer. Write exam name and number on check. The examination fee may be waived for persons claiming to be “unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household.” Use Schuyler County Waiver form.

Application Review: Disqualified candidates will receive a disapproval letter and will have the opportunity to submit facts in opposition to disqualification. Approved candidates will receive an admission letter a week before the date of the exam telling when and where to appear for the examination. If you do not receive your letter within five days of the examination, call the Civil Service office at 607-535-8190. Falsification or material misstatements of any part of the application may result in disqualification from the exam or from permanent competitive appointment. Statements on the application may be verified after the examination is held. At that time those candidates not meeting the requirements will be disqualified.

Residency: Candidates must be legal residents of Schuyler County of one of the contiguous counties (Yates, Seneca, Steuben, Chemung, or Tompkins) for at least one month immediately preceding the examination date. For some examinations, residency may be waived. Under Section 23-4a of Civil Service Law, a municipality may request a certification of eligible candidates who have been residents of that municipality for at least one month prior to certification.

Multiple Examinations: Qualified candidates may take a combination of examinations being given on the same date. The time limit for any combination or series of examinations cannot exceed eight (8) hours.

Cross-filing: If you have applied for any other civil service examinations to be given on the same test date by New York State or any other local government jurisdiction, you must notify Schuyler County Civil Service of your intent to take both a State and local government examination. When taking both a State and local government examination you will be required to take all your examinations at a State examination center. You will be advised by letter when and where to report for your examination. (2) If you have applied for examination with another local civil service agency, submit a cross filing form with each agency to make arrangements no later than two weeks before the date of the examinations; indicate the test site at which you wish to take your examination.

Calculators: Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use a quiet hand-held, solar or battery powered calculator. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited. No books or other reference materials are allowed.

Eligible Lists: Unless otherwise noted, the final rank order of the eligible list established as a result of this exam will be determined on the basis of the scores received on the written test, plus veterans and seniority credits where appropriate. The resulting eligible list for this examination will not be less than one year but no more than four years. Appointment from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept the appointment.

Rating: This examination is announced and will be rated in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating of exams will apply to this examination.

Veterans/Military: Veterans or disabled veterans who wish to claim additional credit must submit a copy of their DD-214 and supporting paperwork before the eligible list is established. The requirements set by NYS for these credits must be met. Military Service members on active duty on the exam date may request a military make-up examination.

Children of Firefighters and Police Officers Killed in the Line of Duty: In conformance with section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. You must inform this office when you submit your application and must also submit documentation before the eligible list is established.

Religious Observers: Most tests are held on Saturdays. If the test date conflicts with a religious observance or practice, check the box on the application. Arrangements will be made for an alternate test date, usually the following Monday.

Disabled Persons: If special accommodations for testing are required, please indicate in writing the disability and desired conditions necessary to accommodate your disability by the last filing date of the exam.

School District Positions: Per Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, to be employed in a position designated by a school district as involving direct contact with students, a clearance for employment from that state education department is required.

Background Investigation: Candidates may be required to pass a pre-employment drug test and/or undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, including a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment.

This examination may be rescheduled if there is a weather emergency. Listen to radio station WFLR for information.