

TOMPKINS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

Inclusion Through Diversity



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tompkins County Department of Human Resources Office
125 E. Court Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
(607) 274-5526

Tompkins County is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply

TITLE: Substance Abuse Evaluator

EXAM NO: 62063

SALARY: \$22.05 per hour - 2017 Hire Rate

LOCATION: Department of Social Services

EXAM DATE: 05/13/17

ISSUE DATE: 03/21/17

THE FINAL DATE TO FILE APPLICATIONS: 04/05/17

DATE THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM POSTING: 05/14/17

RESIDENCY: : Candidates must have been legal residents of Tompkins County or one of the six adjoining counties (Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Schuyler, Seneca, Tioga) for at least one month immediately preceding the date of application and maintain residency. For Examinations: The eligible list resulting from the examination will be established in accordance with the final earned numerical ratings of passing candidates regardless of residence. A municipality or district may exercise its right under section 23-4-a. of Civil Service Law to request a certification of eligible candidates who have been residents of that municipality or district for at least one month prior to appointment. After the names of residents have been exhausted, Tompkins County must then certify the names of non-residents on the list.

THE USE OF A QUIET HAND HELD CALCULATOR IS ALLOWED FOR THIS EXAMINATION.

LOCATION OF POSITIONS/VACANCIES:

There is currently one vacancy in the title of Substance Abuse Evaluator located at Tompkins County Department of Social Services. The eligible list resulting from this examination may be used to fill any appropriate full-time, part-time, and/or temporary vacancies that may occur during the life of the eligible list.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

(a) Possession of a Bachelors Degree in Human Services/Development or closely related field **AND** two years of full-time paid (or the equivalent part-time and/or volunteer) experience working in the human services field; **OR**

(b) Possession of an Associate's Degree in Human Services/Development or closely related field **AND** four years of full-time paid (or the equivalent part-time and/or volunteer) experience working in a human services field **OR** performing the duties of a Social Welfare Examiner; **OR**

(c) Any combination of training and experience equal to or greater than that specified in (a) and (b) above.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Must be certified as a Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC).

Must possess a valid New York State driver's license at the time of appointment and maintain such license for the duration of employment.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

An incumbent in this class performs substance abuse evaluations, crisis intervention, back-to-work substance abuse assessments, works with others to create treatment plans, makes treatment referrals and communicates with referral sources, funding sources and other entities in accordance with agency practice. Duties also include regular participation in staff meetings and case review.

The work is performed under the direct supervision of a member of the Department's Senior Staff with some leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in planning and carrying out the details of the work in accordance with prescribed rules and procedures. Supervision over the work of other staff is not a function of this position. The incumbent will perform all related duties as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

This job description should not be construed to imply that these requirements are the exclusive standards of the position. Incumbents will follow any other instructions, and perform any other reasonably related duties as required by the supervisor.

- Perform substance abuse evaluations in a jail setting;
- Assess substance abuse issues of parents of child welfare clients;
- Conduct back-to-work substance abuse assessments for public assistance clients;
- Refer clients to appropriate staff/agencies for individual counseling sessions;
- Assist substance abuse treatment professionals in preparing, reviewing and updating individualized treatment plans on an as needed basis
- Assist clients and substance abuse treatment professionals with creating a discharge plan;
- Assist Community Reentry Coordinator in developing reentry plans;
- Make appropriate treatment referrals for Community Reentry clients;
- Complete all documentation in a timely manner in accordance with state and agency regulations.
- Maintain a knowledge of client group activities such as recreational therapy, work therapy, and homework assignments, etc.
- Assist the agency with interpretation/ evaluation of client activity participation reports as received by treatment providers;
- Work with Insurance and other funding sources to assure client payment;
- Participate in community activities that foster recovery;
- Participate with community partners to assure effective client care.
- Attend staff and clinical team meetings and collaborate on cases as necessary.
- Provide addiction counseling training to peers;
- Develop / modify curricula as needed for use in educational and therapy groups.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Good knowledge of addiction & recovery issues;
- Good knowledge of interviewing and counseling techniques;
- Working knowledge of group process, strength-based principles of treatment, and an individualized approach to treatment;
- Working knowledge of motivational interviewing desired;
- Excellent interpersonal skills;
- Effective written and verbal communication skills,
- Skill in crisis intervention;
- Ability to operate a personal computer and utilize software for documentation and communication;

- Ability to multi-task,
- Ability to maintain healthy & appropriate professional boundaries,
- Ability to be a team player;
- Ability to teach and train addiction counseling techniques to peers and community professionals,
- ability to develop group curriculum through research and best practices and be able to represent the agency professionally.

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Complete Scope of the examination and Expanded subtest descriptions:

1. Educating and interacting with the public

These questions test for knowledge of techniques used to interact effectively with individuals and/or community groups, to educate or inform them about topics of concern, to publicize or clarify agency programs or policies, to negotiate conflicts or resolve complaints, and to represent one's agency or program in a manner in keeping with good public relations practices. Questions may also cover interacting with others in cooperative efforts of public outreach or service.

2. Interviewing

These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices employed in obtaining information from individuals through structured conversations. These questions require you to apply the principles, practices, and techniques of effective interviewing to hypothetical interviewing situations. Included are questions that present a problem arising from an interviewing situation, and you must choose the most appropriate course of action to take.

3. Preparing written material

These questions test for the ability to present information clearly and accurately, and to organize paragraphs logically and comprehensibly. For some questions, you will be given information in two or three sentences followed by four restatements of the information. You must then choose the best version. For other questions, you will be given paragraphs with their sentences out of order. You must then choose, from four suggestions, the best order for the sentences.

4. Principles and practices of social casework

These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices used to provide casework services. Questions may cover such topics as developmental, mental, physical, and social disabilities and/or impairments; assessing client strengths and needs; building and maintaining relationships with clients and their support network; ability to make and advocate for appropriate service referrals; ability to provide advocacy and support; and professional and ethical concerns in casework practice.

The New York State Department of Civil Service has not prepared a test guide for this examination. However, candidates may find information in the publication "How to take a written test" helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available on line at: www.cs.ny.gov/testing/localtestguides.cfm

FURTHER INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Falsification of any part of the "Application for Employment" will result in disqualification.

Accepted candidates will be notified when and where to appear for the examination. If you do not receive your notice to appear at least three days before the date of the written examination, call Tompkins County Department of Human Resources at 274-5526. If an application is disapproved, due notice will be sent. This department does not make formal acknowledgment of the receipt of an application or take responsibility for non-delivery or postal delay.

Applicants must answer every question on the application form and make sure that the application is complete in all respects. Incomplete applications will be disapproved.

ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL, VETERANS OR DISABLED VETERANS desiring to claim additional credit will request the Veterans Credits application form, at any time between the date of application for examination(s) and the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. You must meet the requirements set by NYS for these credits and they may be used only once. **YOU MAY NOT CLAIM ADDITIONAL CREDITS AFTER THE ELIGIBLE LIST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. IT IS THE CANDIDATE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REQUEST THE VETERANS CREDIT APPLICATION FORMS AND TO SUBMIT THESE FORMS AND ANY SUPPORTING PAPERWORK BEFORE THE ELIGIBLE LIST IS ESTABLISHED.**

Tompkins County's written examinations are prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations, which deal with the rating and review of the examinations apply.

The duration of the eligible lists may be fixed for a minimum of one and a maximum of four years and may be extended beyond four years if there has been a restriction against the filling of vacancies in that title.

The candidates must complete a separate "Application for Employment" for each open-competitive and/or promotional examination that the candidate is eligible to take.

All experience required meeting the acceptable training and experience is full-time experience. (Part-time experience will be credited on a prorated basis).

Appointment from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept the appointment.

Tompkins County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. As part of its efforts to provide employment opportunities to the physically handicapped, Tompkins County Civil Service has adopted a rule permitting the employment of qualified physically handicapped persons without competitive examination (pursuant to Section 55 of Civil Service Law). If you meet the minimum qualifications for this position and wish to know more about this rule, please contact the Tompkins County Department of Human Resources Office.

Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, and solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with Typewriter Keyboards, Spell Checkers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited. You may not bring books or other reference materials.

CROSS-FILING - APPLYING FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS IN MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS WHEN EXAMINATIONS ARE SCHEDULED ON THE SAME DATE: When applying for examinations across multiple jurisdictions - all of which are scheduled on the same day - you must submit a Tompkins County Cross-Filing Form. This form must be submitted no later than 4:30 PM on the final filing date of the examination. On this form, list each examination that you are taking and then tell us where you would like to sit. The purpose is to ensure that all of the test materials for the various examinations that you are taking will be available in one location. If you do not provide the cross-filing form to us by the final filing date, we cannot ensure that we can accommodate your desire to cross-file. If any of the examinations are State level examinations, you must sit at the State test center. You will still need to complete the Tompkins County cross-filing form. If sitting at the State site, the State will notify you of when and where to report for your examination(s) and you should bring all admittance letters to the State site. If you are not taking a State examination, bring all admittance letters to your chosen testing site. If you have any question please call Tompkins County Department of Human Resources Department (607) 274-5526. The Cross File form is located at <http://www.tompkins-co.org/personnel/CivilSrvForms/index.html>

FOR RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS: If special arrangements for testing are required, please indicate this on your application.

ALL CANDIDATES FOR EMPLOYMENT FOR POSITIONS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOCES GOVERNED BY TOMPKINS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE MAY HAVE THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL REQUIREMENT. 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 OR BOCES AS INVOLVING DIRECT CONTACT WITH STUDENTS, A CLEARANCE FOR EMPLOYMENT FROM THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED.

In conformance with Section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duties 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. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child of firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duties in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. However, no credit may be added after the eligible list has been established.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Applicants may be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

TOMPKINS COUNTY PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, 125 EAST COURT STREET, ITHACA, NY 14850