

**HAMILTON COUNTY PERSONNEL/CIVIL SERVICE  
ANNOUNCES AN OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR:**

**SOCIAL WELFARE EXAMINER**

**EXAMINATION NO: 87643  
EXAM DATE: JUNE 15, 2024**

The incumbent determines financial eligibility for the various programs administered by a Social Services district and recommends amounts of assistance in accordance with established policies and procedures. The incumbent may perform any or a combination of assignments in connection with determining financial eligibility, categorical classification, continued financial eligibility and income maintenance depending on the size, organizational structure and work activity needs of the Social Services district. The work involves the review and evaluation of applications, records, and direct interviews with applicants.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

Two years experience in examination, investigation or evaluating claims for assistance, veterans, or unemployment benefits, insurance or a similar program operating under established criteria for eligibility.

**Note:** Study in a regionally accredited college or university or one registered by New York State may be substituted for the experience on a year-for-year basis.

**Residency:** Candidates must, at time of the examination and at least 1 month prior thereto, be resident of Hamilton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Herkimer, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren or Washington County.

**Proof of minimum qualifications are required at the time of application.**

For more information or an application, please contact:  
Hamilton County Personnel  
PO Box 174, Court House  
Lake Pleasant, NY 12108  
(518) 548-6375

**Applications must be received no later than May 9, 2024**



**HAMILTON COUNTY PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**  
102 COUNTY VIEW DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 174, ROUTE 8, COURTHOUSE  
LAKE PLEASANT, NEW YORK 12108  
PHONE: (518) 548-6375 \* FAX: (518) 548-3108

**announces a Civil Service examination  
for the following:**

**No. 87643 Open-Competitive  
\* \* \* SOCIAL WELFARE EXAMINER \* \* \*  
Hamilton County Department of Social Services**

**LAST FILING DATE:**  
MAY 9, 2024

**EXAMINATION DATE:**  
June 15, 2024

**APPLICATIONS:** Examination applications must be obtained and filed with the Hamilton County Personnel Department. The Department recommends that you do not wait until the last day to file your application. When received in our office after 4:30 p.m., on the last filing date, the application will be rejected and returned to the applicant. The correct examination number and title must appear on the application form. EVERY question on the application should be answered and complete in all aspects. This Department does not acknowledge receipt of applications or take responsibility for non-delivery or postal delay. Failure to notify this office of a change of address may result in disqualification for examination or certification for appointment following examination. Any application you may have previously filed will not gain you admittance to this exam and will not be used to obtain additional information. You must file a separate Application for Examinations during the official period as set forth in this announcement.

**DISQUALIFICATION OF EXAMINATION APPLICATIONS:** When an application for an examination is disapproved by the Director of Personnel, the candidate will be given ten (10) calendar days to appeal this determination. Your appeal must clearly demonstrate that you meet or exceed the minimum qualifications as set forth on the examination announcement. Additional information must be pertinent, detailed and accurate. Your appeal must be in writing, addressed to the Personnel Office, P.O. Box 174, Lake Pleasant, NY 12108, and received in this department no later than 4:30 p.m. of the tenth calendar day. If the tenth calendar day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the candidate will have until 5:00 p.m. that following Monday to submit their appeal.

**LOCATION OF POSITIONS/VACANCY:** The location of the positions are within the Hamilton County Department of Social Services.

**ELIGIBLE LIST:** The eligible list will remain in existence for a period of one (1) year, unless extended by the Personnel Officer to a maximum of four (4) years. When a list has existed for more than one year, it may terminate upon the establishment of a new list. This list will be used to fill all appropriate full-time or part-time competitive vacancy occurring in an agency under the jurisdiction of the Hamilton County Personnel Officer, anytime during the life of the eligible list.

**SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** May be made if you require a religious accommodation, are a disabled person, or deprived of participation on the scheduled date due to active military service. Specific information must be requested when filing your application.

**APPLYING FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS IN MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS WHEN EXAMINATIONS ARE SCHEDULED ON THE SAME DATE:** If you have applied for any other civil service examinations to be given on the same test date for employment with New York State or any other local government jurisdiction excluding New York City, you must make arrangements to take all the examinations at one test site.

If you have applied for both State and Local government examinations, you must make arrangements to take all your examinations at the State examination center by calling (518) 474-6470 in the Albany area or toll free at 1-877-697-5627 (press 2, then press 1), no later than two weeks before the test date.

If you have applied for another local government examination with another local civil service agency, call or write to each civil service agency to make arrangements. You must make your request for these arrangements no later than two (2) weeks before the date of the examinations. You must notify all local government civil service agencies with who you have filed an application of the test site at which you wish to take your examination. For this examination call (518) 548-6375 or write to the Hamilton County Personnel Office, P.O. Box 174, 102 County View Drive, Lake Pleasant, NY 12108.

**PLEASE POST CONSPICUOUSLY AT A HEIGHT REACHABLE BY PEOPLE IN WHEELCHAIRS AND WITH OTHER MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS – REMOVE AFTER LAST FILING DATE**

**2024 Salary:** \$38,836 – \$65,225

**RESIDENCY:** Candidates must, at the time of examination and at least one (1) month prior thereto, be a resident of Hamilton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Herkimer, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren or Washington County. Preferences in appointment from open-competitive lists may be given to candidates who have been residents of the locality in which appointment is to be made for four (4) months prior to the date of the written test. For appointment in some jurisdictions you may be required to become a resident thereof in accordance with law or resolution.

**TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES (Illustrative but not exhaustive):**

- Reviews the certification form to determine that all statements are complete and consistent with every other item of information provided. Where necessary for clarification or completion of certification form, asks applicant appropriate questions and makes necessary additions or corrections on the form;
- Makes an evaluation of applicant's financial eligibility for assistance and may determine initial categorical eligibility;
- Evaluates available resource details in relation to financial eligibility;
- Prepares and computes budget for the applicant;
- Advises applicant of the eligibility determination, the amount of assistance, and when the first grant can be expected;
- Advises the applicant about the program under which he/she is eligible for assistance and any documentation or additional information which is necessary for final program classification;
- Recommends emergency grants as needed;
- Explains the validation process to the applicant;
- Advises the applicant about his/her duty to keep the agency informed of any change in status which may affect his/her ability for assistance;
- Informs applicants about the range of services in the agency. If mandatory, or requested by applicant or client, or need for services is indicated, refers applicant to social services section or to other specialists, such as resources, housing, employment, legal, medical, etc.;
- Makes referrals for full field investigation where presumption of fraud is indicated.

The above examples of duties are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to the position.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must meet the following requirements on or before the last filing date:

Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma as described in Section 58 of the Civil Service Law (**Photocopy required**) and:

**Open Competitive:**

Two (2) years experience in examination, investigation or evaluating claims for assistance, veterans, or unemployment benefits, insurance or a similar program operating under established criteria for eligibility.

**Promotion:**

One (1) year permanent competitive status in a senior level clerical position or two (2) years of permanent competitive status as a Community Service Worker or in an entrance level clerical position.

**NOTE:** Study in a regionally accredited college or university or one registered by New York State or a business school registered by New York State may be substituted for the experience on a year for year basis.

All experience required to meet the minimum qualification section is PAID.

Part-time experience will be pro-rated as follows:

16-23 hrs./wk....1/2 time    24-31 hrs./wk....3/4 time    32+ hrs./wk....full-time

If qualifying by A or B (education options), a copy or photocopy of your official academic transcript showing courses taken and degree conferred (if a degree is required) must accompany your application. If submitting a photocopy, this office must be able to verify it is an official transcript. Your transcript does not have to be submitted in a sealed envelope from the Registrar's Office. If your transcript, as previously described, does not accompany your application, your application will be disqualified and you will be given ten (10) days to submit documentation to substantiate your qualifications. If you fail to provide a copy or photocopy of your official transcript within the ten (10) day period, you will not be allowed to participate in the examination.

Your degree and/or college credit must have been awarded by a regionally accredited college or university or one recognized by the NYS Education Department as following acceptable educational practices. If your degree and/or college credit was awarded by an educational institution outside the United States and its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency from a member company of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc. (NACES). You can write to the Personnel Office for a list of NACES members who provide this service. You must pay the required evaluation fee.

**SUBJECTS OF EXAMINATION:** The written, multiple-choice test will be 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.

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 'General Guide to Written Tests' helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available on line at: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>.

**CALCULATOR POLICY:** Quite, hand-held solar or battery-powered calculators are allowed. Devices with typewriter keyboards, "Spell Checkers", "Personal Digital Assistants", "Address Books", "Language Translators", "Dictionaries", or any similar devices are prohibited.

**AT THE EXAM THE USE OF CELLUAR PHONES, BEEPERS, ETC. ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

**VETERANS' CREDITS:** Veterans, Disabled Veterans, or candidates currently in the armed forces claiming the additional credit allowed veterans in competitive examination, must apply for such credit while filing their examination application or at any time between the date of the application but prior to the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. The time periods, for which veterans' credit is permitted, are defined on the examination application.

To receive additional veterans' credit you must file a separate Veterans' Credit Application including acceptable supporting documentation for each examination. Veterans' Credit is added only to the score of the examination when the candidate's passing grade is 70 or higher.

**CHILDREN AND SIBLINGS OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY CREDIT:** In conformance with Sections 85-a and 85-b of the Civil Service Law, children and siblings of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten (10) points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent, sister or brother has served. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child or sibling of a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty 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 (2) 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. Children and Siblings of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty credit is added only to the score of the examination when the candidate's passing grade is 70 or higher.

**RATING AND REVIEW:** This written examination is being prepared by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23.2 of the Civil Service Law and Section 7.1 of the State's Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

**NOTICE TO APPEAR:** Approved applicants will receive an Admission Notice for the written examination providing the location and time. Late arrivals will not be admitted into the exam room under any circumstance. Please contact this office if you have not received an Admission Notice for the written examination four (4) days prior to the date of the examination by calling (518) 548-6375.

**EMERGENCIES:**

If an emergency prevents you from appearing for the examination, please notify this office no later than 10:00 a.m. on the Monday following the test date, providing verifiable documentation of the reasons.

***Weather Emergencies:*** In the case of adverse weather conditions, any delay or cancellation will be on the voice mail message of the Personnel Office at (518) 548-6375 between 6:30 and 8 AM on the date of the examination.

**HAMILTON COUNTY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, CREED, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, MARITAL STATUS, SEX, RELIGION, AGE OR DISABILITY IN EMPLOYMENT OR THE PROVISIONS OF SERVICES.**

ISSUED: 03/11/24