

SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM SPECIALIST TRAINEE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position is for training incumbents in the intake and on-going case management of applicants for and recipients of a variety of services provided by a local Social Services district. Incumbents undergo a comprehensive training program consisting of state and locally sponsored formal courses and seminars and on-the-job work experience under the close supervision of an experienced program specialist. Work assignments increase in level of complexity and responsibility as incumbents progress in training and increase their competency. Persons appointed at the trainee level will be advanced to Social Services Program Specialist without further examination upon satisfactory completion of a one-year traineeship. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only) Incumbents are trained in and gradually assume greater responsibility for performing the following activities, i.e. incumbents initially assist in these activities, and as they gain knowledge and experience, they progress to performing the activities independently.

Intake Activities: Conducts an initial intake interview with applicants to obtain a wide variety of information required to assess an applicant's needs, eligibility for services offered and related matters. Reviews forms completed by an applicant to ensure that they are complete and consistent. Where necessary, requests additional information from the applicant and others regarding incomplete forms and to clarify any discrepancies and/or inconsistencies noted in information submitted. Provides applicants with an overview of the services and programs available through the agency including the purposes and requirements of such services and programs. Advises applicants of services provided by other agencies. Makes initial assessments of an applicant's needs including but not limited to emergency needs in the areas of housing, food, finances, etc., non-emergency needs in the areas of child care, health care, education, employment, etc. Evaluates and/or screens applicants in the areas of identity and citizenship documentation, potential for fraudulent claims, substance abuse, domestic violence, child support enforcement, etc. Makes referrals as necessary to fraud investigations unit, child support enforcement and others. **May be required to do outreach activities throughout the County.**

On-Going Case Management Activities: Opens and closes temporary and Medicaid cases. Computes and issues home energy, Medicaid, and family assistance grants, food stamp allotments, vendor/voucher, and child care assistance. Assesses the applicants'/recipients' education, experience, aptitudes, and interests to determine appropriate job placement. Assists recipients in obtaining employment by contacting potential employers and performing job bank searches. Conducts and arranges for on-going training related to securing and maintaining employment on a group or individual basis including such things as preparation of resumes, completion of job applications, and preparation for and conduct during job interviews. Monitors compliance with employment requirements by verifying recipient contacts with employers and employment agencies. Monitors recipient progress in completing educational and occupational training and on-the-job work performance. Works with recipients to resolve problems that hinder continued employment, such as lack of transportation, child care, etc. Monitors recipient compliance with a variety of program regulations to detect and prevent fraud. Conducts periodic on-going group and/or individual face to face recertification of recipient's eligibility for various programs. Reviews on-going payments to determine if any over or under payments have been made and takes appropriate corrective action. Prepares and presents and/or assists in the preparation and presentation of administrative fair hearings and employment conciliations. Operates a computer.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Working knowledge of Federal, State, and local rules, regulations and laws that govern applicant/recipient eligibility for social services financial assistance and employability requirements; Working knowledge of programs that relate to eligibility for social services programs, such as Workers Compensation, Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, etc.; Working knowledge of agencies that provide employment services and occupational training; Working knowledge of employment recruitment, screening, and placement principles and techniques; Working knowledge of methods of using computerized information processing systems; Ability to operate a computer; Ability to gather and analyze eligibility information, compare to eligibility criterion, and make correct decisions regarding eligibility; Ability to evaluate applicant/recipient education, experience, aptitude, and interest to determine appropriate job placement and occupational training; Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others; Good powers of observation and perception; Good judgment; Emotional maturity; Initiative; Tact; Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Either:

Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and one year of fulltime paid, or its parttime equivalent, experience in counseling; job developing; employment interviewing; examining, investigating, or evaluating claims for assistance, veterans or unemployment benefits, insurance or a similar program operating under established criteria for eligibility; account keeping; or related work.

NOTE: Study in a college, university, or business school may be substituted for the experience on a year for year basis. Study must have been conducted at a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secretary of Education. If your study was conducted at an educational institution outside the United States and its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency. A list of acceptable companies who provide this service can be found on the Internet at <http://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker/degrees.cfm>. You must pay the required evaluation fee.

NOTE: A valid New York State driver's license is required at time of appointment and must be maintained during employment.

Adopted 12/7/98

Revised 2/5/99, 7/27/99, 4/9/01, 10/25/02; 3/13/12; 3/23/23

Reviewed 9/7/04, 10/10/07; 1/18/10; 9/25/15; 2/14/17; 10/15/18; 9/9/22; 8/28/24