

SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM SPECIALIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves the intake and on-going case management of applicants for and recipients of a variety of services provided by a local Social Services district. The case management activities performed by a Program Specialist are program-oriented, and normally do not include social casework and social work activities performed by a caseworker. This is technical work involving responsibilities for assessing applicant eligibility for all program types, including providing information to individuals and employees on insurance affordability programs and coverage options and assisting individuals and employees in applying for insurance coverage through the NY Health Exchange. Monitors on-going recipient compliance with program regulations. The work is performed under direct supervision with considerable leeway allowed in carrying out the details of the work. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only)

Intake Activities: Conducts an initial intake interview in person, on-line, or over the telephone with applicants to obtain a wide variety of information required to assess an applicant's needs and eligibility for services. Provides application counseling in order to assist clients who may need assistance in navigating on-line applications and/or understanding eligibility rules. 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 and community, 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 to other community services. **May be required to do outreach activities throughout the County.**

On-Going Case Management Activities: Opens and closes temporary assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), disability assistance, Medicaid, and NY Health Exchange cases. Computes and issues home energy, SNAP benefits, temporary assistance grants, Medicaid, and NY Health Exchange insurance, vendor/voucher, and child care assistance. Provides information to individuals and employees on insurance affordability programs and coverage options and assists individuals and employees in applying for insurance coverage through Medicaid and the NY Health Exchange. Assesses the applicants/recipient's 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, 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 education 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.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL

CHARACTERISTICS: Good 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 personal computer and all necessary functions; Ability to gather and analyze eligibility information in person, online or via telephone, 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 either:

- A. One year of experience in a New York State Social Services Department in a position involving duties and training comparable to those required of a Social Services Program Specialist.
- B. Two years' experience in examining, investigating, or evaluating claims for assistance, veterans or unemployment benefits, insurance, or a similar program operating under established criteria for eligibility; OR
- C. Three years' experience in interviewing, collecting, and compiling data, account keeping, or related work; OR
- D. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of A, B or C.

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.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Appointees will be required to possess a valid New York State motor vehicle operator's license and maintain it during employment.

Adopted 6/26/98

Revised 9/22/98, 7/27/99, 4/9/01, 10/25/02; 3/13/12; 6/21/13; 3/23/23

Reviewed 9/7/04, 10/10/07; 1/18/10; 9/25/15; 6/17/16; 10/15/18; 9/9/22; 11/25/22; 7/30/25