

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
A.A./E.E.O. EMPLOYER
CIVIL SERVICE OPPORTUNITY
EXAMINATION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

EXAMINATION DATE: August 5, 2023

LAST FILING DATE: June 14, 2023

Peer Advocate - # 66-167

There are currently one (1) vacancies for Peer Advocate at St. Lawrence County Community Services. The eligible list resulting from this examination will be used to fill vacancies as they occur in agencies under the jurisdiction of the St. Lawrence County Human Resources Department. The current salary is \$42,842.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Either:

- (A) Possession of a Bachelor's degree in social work, counseling, psychology, human services or closely related field **AND** one (1) year of experience in providing direct, professional services to at-risk-youth or adults and their families; **OR**
- (B) Possession of an Associate's Degree in social work, counseling, psychology, human services or closely related field **AND** three (3) years of experience in providing direct, professional services to at-risk-youth or adults and their families; **OR**
- (C) Graduation from high school, possession of a high school equivalency diploma or possession of an Individual Education Plan Diploma **AND** five (5) years of experience in providing direct, professional services to at-risk-youth or adults and their families.

Special Requirements:

- 1. Candidate must be eligible to obtain and maintain Youth and/or Family Peer Advocate Certification or Certified Recovery Peer Advocate as required by the regulatory agency (OMH and/or OASAS).
- 2. A valid NYS Driver's License

Note: To meet certification requirements Youth/Family/Peer Advocates must be personally in recovery and have been a past recipient of mental health services; Youth/Family/Peer Advocates must have lived-experience being a primary care giver of a special needs child.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Per Chapter 575 of the Laws of 2004, and by New York State Office of Mental Health, to be employed in a position designated by St. Lawrence County Community Services as involving direct contact with clients, a clearance for employment from New York State Office of Mental Health is required.

Your degree must have been awarded by 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 degree was awarded by an educational institution outside of 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: Submission of a resume does not relieve you of the responsibility for completing ALL sections of the official application. Your resume is a supplement to the application, not a substitute for it.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Effective November 7, 2018, the St. Lawrence County Personnel Officer has assumed the administration of civil service for the City of Ogdensburg. At that time, St. Lawrence County eligible lists will, as appropriate, be certified to fill vacancies in the City of Ogdensburg. Candidates interested in employment with the City of Ogdensburg must now participate in examinations conducted by the St. Lawrence County Human Resources Department.

APPLICATION FEE: The St. Lawrence County Human Resources Department will be collecting an application fee of \$12.50 from examination applicants. The required fee must accompany your application and must be in the form of either a check or money order payable to the St. Lawrence County Treasurer. Write the number of the examination on your check or money order. **DO NOT SEND CASH.** As no refund will be made, you are urged to compare your qualifications carefully with the specified minimum qualifications and file for the examination only if you believe you are clearly qualified. Any application received after the last filing date will be returned along with the application fee. There will be a \$15.00 returned check fee of any returned check.

APPLICATION FEE WAIVER: A waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household. In addition, a waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are determined eligible for Medicaid, or receiving Supplemental Security Income payments, or Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance) or are certified Job Training Partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act eligible through a State or local social service agency. **All claims for application fee waiver are subject to verification, please complete a "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification" form and submit it with your application by the close of business on the Application Deadline as listed on the Examination Announcement. The "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification" form is located on the St. Lawrence County web site at: www.hr.stlawco.org or by contacting the Human Resources Department at (315) 379-2210.**

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: This position is responsible for coordinating the activities related to the development and implementation of Peer Support Services. The Peer Advocate provides support and advocacy to children and adults with substance use disorders, serious emotional disturbances and their families. The incumbent correlates service needs between home, school and other providers as appropriate. General supervision is received from the Addiction Services Program Director and/or Mental Health Program Director in the Community Services Department. The incumbent performs related work as required.

NOTE: Calculators are **RECOMMENDED** for this exam.

SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION: SEE ATTACHED EXPANDED SCOPE STATEMENT

Applications and application fees must be submitted or postmarked by the last filing date stated above. Normal business hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Late applications and/or application fees will not be accepted. Candidates will be notified approximately two weeks prior to the examination date, as to the time and place of the examination. In order to assure you receive all correspondence from our office, we **must** have your current address on file. Email changes to: exams@stlawco.org or contact the St. Lawrence County Human Resources Department at the number listed below.

Date Published: May 10, 2023

APPLICATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION
St. Lawrence County Human Resources Department
48 Court Street, Canton, New York 13617-1169
(315) 379-2210
www.hr.stlawco.org
(SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS)

SITTING CONDITIONALLY FOR AN EXAMINATION

Candidates who will receive a qualifying college degree within four (4) months after the date of this examination will be allowed to sit conditionally. The candidates' name will be withheld from certification until proof of the qualifying degree has been received by the Human Resources Department. The candidate will be required to furnish proof that they have received said degree, **no later than four (4) months after the establishment of the Eligible List** resulting from this examination. Upon receipt of said proof within the time frame so stated, the candidate will become eligible for certification.

SPECIAL EXAMINATION ARRANGEMENTS

Special accommodations for handicapped candidates will be made unless such accommodations would impose an undue hardship on the Human Resources Department. Written requests specifying such accommodations should be filed with the examination application in order to allow for the necessary documentation, determination and arrangements.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

Candidates who, because of a religious observance or practice, are unable to compete in an examination scheduled to be held by this office, will be rescheduled. Notification must be made in writing to the Human Resources Department with the examination application. The candidate will be notified by the Human Resources Department of an alternate test date.

MILITARY COMMITMENT

Candidates who are unable to appear on the regularly scheduled examination date due to ordered military duty should contact the Human Resources Department for information regarding their rights to an alternate test date.

OTHER ALTERNATE TEST DATES

Alternate examination dates may be granted for qualifying circumstances. A request for alternate examination date must be submitted to the St. Lawrence County Human Resources Department no later than the close of business on the next business day following the examination date, whenever practicable. Any alternate examination date administration beyond the Saturday following the scheduled Saturday examination date must be reviewed with the New York State Department of Civil Service.

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY (CROSS FILERS)

If you have applied to take a written test announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than two (2) weeks before the test date, so they can make arrangements for taking all tests at one test site. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center.

VETERANS CREDITS

For purpose of claiming Veterans Credits on a Civil Service examination, an applicant must have served in the armed forces of the United States at any time during the following periods:

Dec. 7, 1941 - Dec. 31, 1946

June 27, 1950 - Jan. 31, 1955

Feb. 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975

June 1, 1983 - Dec. 1, 1987

Oct. 23, 1983 - Nov. 21, 1983

Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990

Aug. 2, 1990 - End of Persian Gulf Conflict

Disabled or Non-Disabled Veterans who claim additional credits will receive information as to the filing procedure approximately 2 weeks prior to the date of the examination. (See section 6 of the application for additional information)

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. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child 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 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.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

This written examination is prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations which deals with the rating of examinations will apply.

CONTINUOUS RECRUITMENT EXAMINATIONS

Names of candidates from a continuous recruitment examination will be inter-filed on the continuing eligible list in rank order regardless of the date on which they took the test. A department/agency/municipality reserves the right to terminate the continuous recruitment program.

ELIGIBLE LISTS

Eligible Lists will be ranked in the order of final rating, and will be established for a minimum of one year to a maximum of four years unless exhausted prior to that date. Established Eligible Lists may be extended by the Personnel Officer not to exceed four years.

NOTE TO CANDIDATES

Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, solar or battery powered calculators. The use of cellular phones, smart watches, Fit Bits, Beepers, Headphones or other communication devices; devices with typewriter keyboards, 'spell-checkers', 'personal digital assistant', 'address books', 'language translators', 'dictionaries' and any similar devices are strictly prohibited. Books or other reference materials are also prohibited.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS, FINGERPRINTS AND FEES

Fingerprinting is sometimes required at the time of appointment. If so, you may be required to pay the processing fee. 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.

EXPANDED SCOPE STATEMENT

Peer Advocate

Exam Date: 08/05/2023

66-167

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

1 Applying information

These questions test for the ability to apply simple information. You will be given a Resource Directory that describes community agencies, their purposes and the type of client each serves. Questions describe clients with a variety of problems and situations. You must determine the appropriate referral for clients based on the services which each agency provides.

2 Working with people in human services situations

These questions test for a knowledge of general techniques used to deal with common client behaviors such as fear, hostility, shyness, resistance, defensiveness, withdrawal, anxiety and confusion.

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 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.

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: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>.