



NIAGARA COUNTY
CIVIL SERVICE
111 Main Street – Suite G2
Lockport, New York 14094-2740

Malcolm A Needler
Personnel Officer
(716) 438-4071

SOCIAL SERVICES WORKER

No 70-106 Promotional Examination

Salary Range: \$22.58 – \$27.19

The examination will be held to establish an eligible list used to fill current vacancies and any other appropriate vacancies in the Niagara County Department of Social Services that may occur during the life of the list. **This list will supersede any existing eligible list that has fewer than three (3) interested candidates.**

PROMOTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must be permanently employed in the competitive class or a 55-a designated position in the Niagara County Department of Social Services and must have served on a permanent basis for one (1) year as a Clerical I, Clerical II, Clerical III, Account Clerical I, Account Clerical II, Account Clerical III or Energy Assistance Worker or any combination of these titles. The service must all have been at the Department of Social Services immediately preceding the date of written examination.

SENIORITY CREDIT: Seniority is based on the length of continuous permanent classified service in the jurisdiction in which promotion is sought, with points added to an eligible candidate's passing score for each appropriate five-year period or fraction thereof in accordance with the following schedule:

Less than 1 year	0 points
1 year up to 6 years	1 point
Over 6 years up to 11 years	2 points
Over 11 years up to 16 years	3 points
Over 16 years up to 21 years	4 points
Over 21 years up to 26 years	5 points

NOTE: Any person otherwise meeting the requirements for an examination, who was laid off from an agency for which the exam is being held, and whose name is presently on a **PREFERRED LIST**, is eligible to compete in the exam. When completing their application, such persons should be sure to indicate their present employment and/or title and location of their last permanent employment in the municipality.

DUTIES: This is a technical position in the Department of Social Services. Incumbents in this class participate in the delivery of financial service programs including: Public Assistance, Medical Assistance, Food Stamps and Child Support Enforcement services. The work is performed in accordance with regulations and department policy and involves investigations; in-depth interviewing, frequently under stressful conditions; making appropriate referrals; and the processing and maintenance of a variety of forms and records. In addition, the incumbents may represent the department in court as custodian of record to ascertain the completeness of records. Depending upon unit and/or assignment, work is performed under the direct or general supervision of a higher-level employee with some leeway allowed in the performance of work assignments. Supervision is not normally a function of the class; however, this class may act as a technical resource in a specialized area. Does related work as required.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY OR POSTMARKED BY THE FILING DEADLINE.
YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE DISAPPROVED IF PAYMENT IS NOT RECEIVED BY THE FILING DEADLINE.**

FILING DEADLINE

OCTOBER 19, 2023

A non-refundable \$15.00 application fee is required.
Apply and pay online or submit a check or money order
payable to: **Niagara County Civil Service**

ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED: September 15, 2023

EXAMINATION DATE

DECEMBER 2, 2023

FEE WAIVERS: Waivers for the filing fee must be completed in full and submitted with required supporting documentation or your application will be disapproved.

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES: The use of calculators is **ALLOWED**. Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with typewriter keyboard such as computers, spell checkers, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited. **Cell phones and smart watches are prohibited.**

SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION: There will be a written test which you must pass in order to be considered for appointment. The written test will be designed to test for knowledge, skills, and/or abilities in such areas as:

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.

A Guide for the Written Test for **Social Welfare Examiner** is available at the New York State website: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>. Candidates not having access to a computer or the internet may request copy of the test guide from the municipal civil service office conducting this examination using the contact information found elsewhere on this announcement.

CANDIDATES NOTE: You are responsible for completing all sections of the official application. To receive credit for experience on a job, basic information such as address, name and title of supervisor, hours in the work week, final salary, and duties performed by you, must be shown. Be very specific in explaining experience that will qualify you for the position sought. Ambiguity and vagueness will not be resolved in your favor. **EACH SEPARATE SHEET ATTACHED TO THE APPLICATION MUST BE SIGNED.**

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY: 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 weeks before the test date, so they can make arrangement for taking all tests at one test site. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State Examination Center.

This examination will be prepared and rated in accordance with Section 23(2) of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Law, Rules and Regulations dealing with preparation and rating of examinations, as well as establishment and certification of eligible lists for positions in the classified service will apply to this examination.

Please review [**IMPORTANT EXAMINATION INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**](#)