

**ISSUED:** September 21, 2022

**ANNOUNCES AN OPEN-COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR:  
SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM EXAMINER**

**EXAM NO. 86-027**

**DATE OF EXAMINATION:** December 2, 2023

**EXAM FILING FEE:** \$15.00

**LAST DAY FOR FILING:** Applications must be **received** no later than close of business October 27, 2023.

**VACANCY:** This examination is being held to fill present and future vacancies in the Lewis County Department of Social Services

**SALARY:** \$ 20.52 hr. - \$24.57 hr.

**DUTIES:** Involves responsibility to participate in the delivery of financial service programs including: Temporary Assistance, Medical Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), and Child Support Enforcement and Collection Services.

**NOTE:** Applicants that may be assigned to the Child Support Unit are required to undergo a criminal history investigation including fingerprinting to determine suitability for employment.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must meet one of the following requirements on or before the last day for filing: Either:

- A) Two years of study (60 credit hours), or higher at a regionally accredited or New York State registered college, university, or business school; or
- B) Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and two years of full-time paid (or the equivalent part-time) experience in examining, investigating or evaluating claims for assistance, financial support, veterans or unemployment benefits, insurance or similar program operating under established criteria for eligibility; or
- C) An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined within the limits of (A) and (B) above.

**COPY OF COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT MUST ACCOMPANY COMPLETED APPLICATION**

**SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION:** A test 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.

**TEST GUIDE:** 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.

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

**APPLICATIONS:** Unless otherwise indicated on this announcement, the candidate will complete one “Application for Examination or Employment” for each exam he/she wishes to take. No copies will be accepted. Applicants must answer every question on the application form and make sure that the application is complete in all respects. Incomplete applications will be disapproved. All statements made by candidates are subject to verification. **POST-MARKED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**FILING FEE:** The fee must accompany the application. Applicants whose forms are not accompanied by the appropriate fee or whose personal checks are returned for insufficient funds will not be considered as candidates. Payment must be in the form of check or money order made payable to the Lewis County Treasurer. Refunds of fees will not be issued to applicants who are disqualified for failure to apply by the last day for filing, not meeting the minimum qualifications, or a candidate’s failure to appear for testing on the scheduled test date.

**WORK EXPERIENCE:** Unless otherwise noted, experience credited towards meeting the minimum qualifications must be full-time paid work experience. Part-time paid work experience will be accepted based on its full-time equivalent.

**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 Medicaid, or receiving Supplemental Security Income payments, or Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Family Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program 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. If you can verify eligibility for application fee waiver, 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. Fee waiver forms are available at the Lewis County Civil Service office or online at [www.lewiscounty.org](http://www.lewiscounty.org).

**TIME AND PLACE OF EXAM:** Accepted candidates will be notified when and where to appear for an exam. No one will be admitted to an exam without the official admittance notice.

**RESIDENCY:** New York State Residence is not required for most positions. However, you must be eligible for employment in the United States. An appointing authority may exercise its rights under Section 23-4a of Civil Service Law to give preference to legal residents of their jurisdiction.

**VETERAN CREDITS:** If you are a War-Time Veteran, or if you are currently in the United States Armed Forces, you may be eligible to have extra credits added to your passing exam score. **However, it is your responsibility to submit the appropriate Veterans’ Credit form(s) on or before the date of the examination.** Forms are available in the Civil Service office or online at: [www.lewiscounty.org](http://www.lewiscounty.org). In addition to the Veterans’ Credit Form, you must include a copy of your discharge papers (DD-214). The time periods for which veterans’ credit is permitted are listed on the Veterans’ Credit Application.

**ADDITIONAL CREDIT ALLOWED 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 10 points in a competitive exam for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. If you are qualified to participate in this exam and are a child of a firefighter or a police officer killed in the line of duty killed in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for exam. 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.

**ELIGIBLE LISTS:** Eligible lists will be established in the order of final rating for successful candidates and will be established for a minimum period of one (1) year and a maximum of four (4) years. Appointment from an eligible list must be made from the top 3 candidates willing to accept appointment.

**SABBATH OBSERVERS/DISABLED CANDIDATES/MILITARY MEMBERS:** Applicants whose religious beliefs or military service prevent their taking exams on the scheduled date and disabled candidates who require special accommodations to take the test should indicate the need for special arrangements on their application.

**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 the written test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than two 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. The Cross-Filer form is available at the Lewis County Civil Service or online at [www.lewiscounty.org](http://www.lewiscounty.org).

**CALCULATORS:** Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with typewriter keyboards, Spellcheckers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries, or any other similar devices are PROHIBITED.

**CELL PHONES or ELECTRONIC/COMMUNICATION DEVICES AT THE TEST SITE:** Do **not** bring cell phones, beepers, headphones, or any electronic or other communication devices to the test site. The use of such devices at the test site in the test room, hallways, restrooms, building, grounds, or other areas could result in your disqualification.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** If you move, it is your responsibility to notify the Civil Service Office of your new address. The Civil Service Office makes no attempt to find candidates who have moved. Failure to notify the Civil Service Office could result in being passed over for appointment.

**BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION:** Appointees from an eligible list are required to undergo a criminal history background investigation, which may include a fingerprint check to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS:** Per Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by regulations of the Commissioner of Education, to be employed in a position designation by a school district as involving direct contact with students, a clearance for employment from the State Education Department is required.

This examination is prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-3 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations, which deal with the rating of examinations, will apply. Federal and State law prohibits discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin.

**APPLICATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE LEWIS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE OFFICE, 7660 N. STATE STREET, LOWVILLE, NY 13367. PHONE (315) 376-5349.**