



**RENSSELAER COUNTY**  
**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**  
Opportunities in the Public Service  
**OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION**

**ACCEPTING ONLINE APPLICATIONS ONLY**

Click [here](#) or visit <https://rensco-portal.mycivilservice.com> to apply online.

**EXAM NUMBER: 87486010**

**EXAM TITLE: SENIOR CHILD PROTECTIVE WORKER**

**EXAM DATE: NOVEMBER 9, 2024**

**LAST FILING DATE: OCTOBER 4, 2024**

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**NON-REFUNDABLE \$20.00 APPLICATION FILING FEE MUST ACCOMPANY EACH APPLICATION. APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED ONLINE MUST BE PAID BY CREDIT CARD AT TIME OF FILING.**

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**SENIOR CHILD PROTECTIVE WORKER**, Rensselaer County. The resulting eligible list will be used to fill vacancies as they occur.

**STARTING SALARY: \$65,796 - \$66,946**

**GRADE: 18**

**RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS:** Candidates must have been legal residents of New York State for at least FOUR months immediately preceding the date of the test. Pursuant to subdivision 4a of Sec. 23 of the Civil Service Law, preference may be given to successful candidates who have been legal residents of the municipality to which the appointment is to be made for at least FOUR months preceding the date of the written test.

**TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

- Training of new CPS casework staff;
- Mentor and assist CPS caseworkers with more difficult reports;
- Handle caseloads of CPS caseworkers when positions become vacant or staff are out of the office due to vacation or leaves of absence;
- Assist with case closings when workloads become unmanageable or when workers leave the agency;
- Support CPS Supervisors as needed with daily duties such as assigning cases, on call, buffer between CPS caseworker and Supervisor, dealing with disgruntled clients;
- Investigate referrals of alleged child abuse and neglect for small caseload;
- Attend family court as required;
- Attend training and conferences on child abuse and neglect;
- Makes appropriate referrals to other agencies when indicated;
- Develops and carries out plans to meet the individual problems of the cases assigned;
- Writes letters and prepares reports as required;
- Reviews cases periodically to determine changes in client's situations affecting eligibility and need for service;
- Performs a variety of related tasks as required.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Sociology, Psychology, Human Services or Criminal Justice and three (3) years of full-time paid experience in a local Department of Social Services agency as a Caseworker/Caseworker Trainee.

**NOTE:** In compliance with Section 424a of the Social Service Law, those candidates who successfully pass the exam and who are being considered for employment will be required to sign a Child Abuse/Neglect Central Register.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS:**

Eligibility for a New York State driver's license issued by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. Possession of the license at time of appointment and license must be maintained throughout the term of employment.

**Advising and interacting with others** - These questions test for the ability to interact with other people in order to gather and present information and to provide assistance and advice in a courteous and professional manner.

**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.

**Understanding and recognizing the dynamics and effects of child abuse and neglect**- These questions test for a knowledge of standard concepts, behaviors, and indicators that enable the worker to determine or establish that abuse or neglect has occurred.

The questions deal with basic laws and techniques for dealing with the abused or neglected child and his or her family and follow-up, referral, or other action to take once abuse or neglect has been identified.

**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 USE OF CALCULATORS IS ALLOWED.**

**Test guide:** 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 'General Guide to Written Tests' helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available on line at: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Each candidate must complete an application form and file it with the Rensselaer County Civil Service Commission, County Office Building, 99 Troy Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061. Applications should be filed as soon as possible after the announcement of the examination. Applications must be submitted online using the Civil Service Portal located on the Rensselaer County website at [www.rensco.com](http://www.rensco.com). **BE SURE EVERY QUESTION IS ANSWERED. SUBMISSION OF A RESUME INSTEAD OF A COMPLETED APPLICATION IS UNACCEPTABLE. AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION MAY BE DISAPPROVED.** Please contact out office if you are unable to complete the online application process.
  2. Accepted candidates will be notified by email when and where to appear for examination. No one will be admitted to the examination without the official admission notice. If an application is rejected, you will be notified in writing. The Civil Service Commission does not make formal acknowledgment of receipt of an application. **Email the Civil Service Office if you have not received your notice three (3) days prior to the date of examination. Send emails to: [civilservice@rensco.com](mailto:civilservice@rensco.com).**
  3. Unless otherwise stated, all candidates are required to be legal residents of Rensselaer County for four (4) months immediately preceding the date of examination. Appointing authorities may give preference to legal residents of their jurisdiction. (Candidates who are not residents of Rensselaer County but live within the geographical boundaries of a governmental agency under the jurisdiction of the Rensselaer County Civil Service Commission will be considered residents for examinations held to fill positions in that governmental agency.)
  4. **SENIORITY CREDITS-(PROMOTIONAL EXAMS ONLY)** will be added to an eligible score as follows: Using as a basis six (6) months of continuous permanent or contingent permanent service in the jurisdiction for which the eligible list is being established as an equivalent to 0.1. No seniority credit will be allowed for service in excess of twenty (20) years.
  5. For purposes of claiming veterans credits on a Civil Service examination, an applicant must have received an honorable discharge and have served in the armed forces of the United States at any time during the following periods:

December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946	June 1, 1983 to December 1, 1987*
June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955	October 23, 1983 to November 21, 1983
December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975	December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990*
August 2, 1990 to end of such hostilities	
- \*Credit for Lebanon, Grenada and Panama will be limited to those who receive the armed forces expeditionary medal, the navy expeditionary medal or the Marine Corps expeditionary medal. Veterans wishing to claim additional credit on the examination must make claim when filing application. All veterans making application for additional credit must file a Photostat copy of their discharge papers with applications. A candidate who fails to establish, by appropriate documentary proof, his eligibility to receive additional credit by the time an eligible list is established, shall **not**, thereafter be granted additional credit on such eligible list.
- Effective January 1, 1998, the State constitution was amended to permit a candidate currently in the armed forces to apply for and be conditionally granted veteran's credit in examination. Any candidate who applies for such credit must provide proof of military status to receive the conditional credit. No credit may be granted after the establishment of the list. It is the responsibility of the candidate to prove appropriate documentary proof indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Section 85 of the Civil Service Law, and that the candidate received an honorable discharge or was released under honorable conditions in order to be certified at a score including veteran's credits.
6. 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 (10) points in a competitive examination for original appointments 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 (2) months from 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.
  7. 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 dealing with the rating and review of examinations will apply. **VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS** may be investigated and

candidates may be called for an interview to determine whether they are qualified for appointment. You may be required to take a medical examination to determine if you are medically and physically capable of performing the duties of the position.

8. Eligible lists will be established in order of final rating for successful candidates and will be established for a period of four (4) years or until the establishment of an appropriate new list.
9. **NOTICE TO CANDIDATES**: Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held solar or battery powered calculators. Cell phone calculators are not permitted. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell-check, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited.
10. **APPLICATION FEE**: A **non-refundable** fee of \$20.00 is required for each separately numbered examination for which you apply. Certain examinations will require a \$30.00 filing fee. **The required examination fee listed on pg.1 of this announcement must be paid online at time of filing each application.** As no refund will be made, you are urged to compare your qualifications carefully with the requirements for admission and file only for those examinations for which you are clearly qualified.
11. **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.** If you can verify eligibility for application fee waiver, you must complete a "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification" form **and provide the required documents with your application** by the application deadline as listed on the Examination announcement. The Examination Fee Waiver Request and Certification Form is available at time of submitting your online application. Application Fee Waiver and Certification Forms **WILL NOT** be accepted after the last filing date of an examination or without the required documentation.
12. **Religious Accommodations**: Most written tests are held on Saturdays. If you cannot take the test on the announced test date due to a conflict with a religious observance or practice, check the appropriate box under "Religious Accommodations" on your application. We will make arrangements for you to take the test on a different date.

**RENSELAER COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.**