

# CLINTON COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION FOR CASEWORKER

Clinton County is an ADA, EOE Employer

For further information on announced exams:

Visit our website: [www.clintoncountygov.com](http://www.clintoncountygov.com)

Contact: Clinton Co. Department of Personnel, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
(Telephone 518-565-4676)

## CONTINUOUS RECRUITMENT EXAM

**Examination Number: #80-829**

**APPLICATIONS AND FILING FEES WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS** – There is no deadline by when an application must be received. Examinations will be held periodically. Candidates will be contacted by mail as soon as possible with the date and location for the written exam.

**FILING FEE:** At time of application, the Clinton County Department of Personnel must receive a \$12.50 filing fee (cash, credit card, check or money order made payable to the Clinton County Treasurer).

**ELIGIBLE LIST:** A candidate's eligibility begins when his or her name is placed on the eligible list and remains on the list for two years. Regardless of the examination date, the scores for the examination are inter-filed in rank order with existing candidates' scores to form a constantly changing eligible list. You may apply for retest at six-month intervals.

All passing candidates will be placed on the Caseworker list. To be placed on the Caseworker list, you must pass the written test and provide proof of minimum qualifications. Your rank on the eligible list will be determined by your score on the written test.

**RESIDENCY:** Applicants must be residents of Clinton County for at least thirty (30) days immediately preceding the date of the examination.

**SALARY RANGE:** Salary dependent upon location.

**VACANCIES:** The eligible list established as a result of this examination will be used to fill present and future vacancies that may occur in Clinton County. Currently this title exists at the Clinton County Social Services Department and the Plattsburgh Housing Authority.

### **IMPORTANT CANDIDATE NOTICE:**

Candidates who have taken a Caseworker examination during the past year should submit a statement (on their application) clearly indicating where and when they last took the Caseworker examination.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's Degree.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:** Assignments made to employees in this class will require reasonable access to transportation to meet field work requirements in the ordinary course of business in a confidential, timely, and efficient manner.

**NOTE:** Attach to your application a copy of your high school diploma or equivalency, college transcripts and/or diploma, and any certificates applicable based on the minimum qualification listed above.

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** This is an entry-level professional position responsible for providing social work services to individuals and/or their families, including children, to assist them with their economic, emotional, social, environmental, and economic difficulties. The work is performed under the direct supervision of a supervisor or senior caseworker. In-service training is provided through the agency's staff development program and out of the area training by New York State. The incumbent, in consultation with the supervisor, formulates and carries out plans to address the problems of the cases assigned and help achieve safety, permanency, and well-being for individuals and families. The incumbent does related work as required.

**USE OF CALCULATORS:** Calculators are PERMITTED for this examination. Candidates have the option of bringing a quiet hand-held, solar or battery powered calculator to this examination. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited. You may not bring books, other reference materials, scrap paper or any other materials that are not required.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

Candidates who file for Caseworker examinations with more than one civil service agency will be required to use the score received in this examination subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. A candidate is permitted to take a Caseworker examination prepared by the NYS Department of Civil Service only once during each of the following defined periods:
  - a. January 1 – June 30
  - b. July 1 – December 31
2. A candidate who applies and is approved for more than one Caseworker examination during the same six-month period (January 1-June 30 or July 1-December 31) is required to use the score resulting from a single test administration for all examinations held during the same six-month period.
3. The candidate must inform the civil service agency if he/she has previously taken a Caseworker examination in any other civil service agency and provide the location and date the examination was taken.
4. A candidate must pay application fees for each examination requiring such fees.
5. A candidate's placement on resultant eligible list(s) and duration of eligibility for appointment will be determined by the civil service agency conducting the examination(s).

**DECLARATION STATEMENT:** A declaration statement must be signed by every approved candidate at the test site attesting to their eligibility to participate in the Caseworker examination.

**SUBJECTS OF EXAMINATION:** The written test is designed to test for knowledge, skills and /or abilities in the such areas as:

1. **ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE HELPING RELATIONSHIPS IN A SOCIAL CASEWORK SETTING:** These questions test for an understanding of the factors contributing to the development and maintenance of productive client-worker relationships. You will be provided with descriptions of specific client-worker interactions and asked to select the appropriate responses. The questions cover such topics as confidentiality, time management, professional ethics and referral techniques.

2. **INTERVIEWING (CASEWORKER):** These questions test for an understanding of the principles and techniques of interviewing and their application to specific client-worker situations. You will be provided with a series of concrete interviewing situations for which you will be required to select an appropriate course of action based on an analysis of the situation, the application of the information provided and the ramifications of various interviewing principles and strategies. You will also be asked questions about the interviewing process and various interviewing techniques.

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 and then asked to choose from four suggestions the order for the sentences.

This examination is being 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 the 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.

**TEST GUIDE STATEMENT:** The New York State Department of Civil Service has published a test guide intended for candidate preparation use for this particular examination. This test guide contains important test-related information as well as sample test questions similar to the questions that will be used in this written test.

The New York State Department of Civil Service is making a copy of this test guide and other related information available on its website at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/localtestguides.cfm>. In addition, a copy of this test guide can also be obtained at our local civil service office at 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh NY.

**APPLICATION FEE:** A filing fee of \$12.50 is required for each separate examination for which you apply. The required fee must accompany your application. This fee is non-refundable, and can be paid by: cash, credit cards, check or money order payable to the Clinton County Treasurer office. Since no refunds will be made, you are urged to compare your qualifications carefully with the minimum qualifications and residency requirements for each exam and file only for those for which you are clearly qualified. The application fee will not be refunded upon failure to qualify for the exam. If you do qualify to take the exam, but fail to participate in the exam, the filing fee will not be refunded.

Individuals receiving public assistance (Medicaid, Home Relief or Aide to Dependent Children) from a State or local Social Services Agency or Supplemental Social Security (SSI) payments can request waiver of the application fee. Attach written verification of eligibility from the agency from which you receive assistance to your application(s). This verification must include the name of the agency from which you are receiving public assistance or SSI, the type of assistance being received and the case number you have been assigned. The verification must also include effective dates of assistance or SSI payments and be signed and dated by the proper authority.

If requesting a fee waiver as unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household, you must submit a signed written statement indicating that you are the primary support of a household which includes the name and address of the last place of employment; date employment ended; names, relationship and income of others within the household; and whether or not unemployment insurance is being received. An updated verification must be submitted with each application. Such waiver is subject to verification and if not supported by appropriate documentation, are grounds for requiring submission of the \$12.50 application fee.

If you submit a personal check for payment of the application fee, and the check is returned by the bank prior to the date of examination, you may not be admitted to the examination. Should your check fail to clear the bank prior to the examination date and be returned for insufficient funds after you have sat for the examination, you may not receive a score. A processing fee may be charged if your check is not cleared by the bank.

**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 arrangements for taking all tests at one test site.

If you have applied to take a written test announced by New York State scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify us no later than two weeks before the test date. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center.

Be sure to check “Yes” in the Conflicting Exams Section on the first page of your application and include in the Remarks Section on page four the titles of the exams you are scheduled to take and whether they are offered by another Local agency or New York State.

If you are taking two Local exams, indicate in which county you want to take the exams. If you are taking a Local and a State exam, you must take the exams at the State site.

You must call our office at 565-4676 no later than two weeks prior to the examination date to confirm that arrangements have been made for you to take all the examinations at one test site. You will be advised by letter when and where to report for your examinations.

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Each candidate must complete an application and file it with the Clinton County Dept. of Personnel, Clinton County Government Center, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, NY, as soon as possible after the announcement of the exam but not later than the closing date. **BE SURE YOU ANSWER EVERY QUESTION** before filing your application. **AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION MAY BE DISAPPROVED.**
2. The Clinton County Dept. of Personnel will notify you by admittance letter when and where to appear for the exam. If you fail to receive an admission letter at least seven days prior to the exam date, you should contact the Clinton County Dept. of Personnel immediately. No one will be admitted to the exam without the official admittance letter. The Department will also send due notice if an application is rejected. The Department does not make formal acknowledgment of the receipt of an application.
3. Restrictions on employment may exist for candidates who are under 18 years of age.
4. Unless otherwise stated, all candidates are required to be legal residents of Clinton County for one month immediately preceding the date of exam. Appointing authorities may give preference to legal residents of their jurisdiction.
5. **VETERANS:** To learn about your rights regarding Civil Service exams, request a copy of Clinton County's "Veterans' Rights For Exams" Summary from the Clinton County Dept. of Personnel or visit our website: [clintoncountygov.com](http://clintoncountygov.com).
6. **VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS:** Appointing authorities may investigate or call candidates for an interview to determine whether they are qualified for appointment.
7. When the written exam is prepared and rated by the NYS Dept. of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law, the provision of the NYS Civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating and review of exams apply.
8. The Dept. will establish eligible lists in the order of final rating for successful candidates and will establish lists for a period of 4 years.
9. **RETIREMENT SYSTEM:** It is mandatory that persons appointed to full-time positions in a political subdivision participating in the NYS Employees' Retirement System, join the system on appointment. For other employees, membership is optional.
10. **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Candidates requiring special arrangements for testing must indicate this on their application form or write to the Department not later than the last date for filing.
11. **RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS:** The Department is not responsible for the arrival of applications if not personally delivered to this office. Therefore, you should contact the Department on or before the final date for filing to verify receipt.
12. **USE OF CALCULATORS:** Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, solar or battery-powered calculators. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited. You may not bring books or other reference materials.
13. **FOR NON-CITIZENS:** At the time of appointment, you must be a legal alien authorized to accept employment in the United States and you must maintain such status throughout the term of your employment with Clinton County.
14. **ALTERNATE TEST DATE POLICY:** Clinton County has an Alternate Test Date Policy, which allows a candidate to participate in the exam other than the set exam date. The alternate test date must be set during the week following the exam date. At no time can an exam be set later than one week following the exam unless NYS Civil Service provides prior approval. If you are unable to take the exam on the set exam date, contact this office for information regarding the policy. For emergency situations, which may occur on the exam date, you must contact the Clinton County Dept. of Personnel no later than 5 o'clock p.m. on the Monday following the exam.
15. **WEATHER CONDITIONS:** Clinton County will attempt to hold scheduled exams regardless of weather conditions. If an exam is cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, it will be announced on our website: [clintoncountygov.com](http://clintoncountygov.com) – Personnel Dept. – Exam Weather Alert.
16. Clearance from the Commissioner of Education will be required for positions that are designated by school districts as having direct contact with students.
17. You may wish to retain a copy of your application since we are unable to provide copies of exam applications.
18. **POLICE OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER SURVIVOR CREDITS:** Per Section 85-a of Civil Service Law, children of firefighters or police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive exam for which they qualify for original appointment in the same municipality in which his/her parent served. The parent is deemed to have "served" in a municipality if he/she was employed by or worked primarily in that municipality. If you qualify, inform this office when you submit your application for exam. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of 2 months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. No credit may be added after establishment of the eligible list.
19. **BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION:** Applicants may be required to undergo and pay for a state and national criminal history background investigation, which includes a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification. Fingerprints to be used in performing the background checks would be collected from applicants pursuant to regulations promulgated by the DCJS, which will perform the state background check. DCJS will also submit the fingerprints to the FBI for the completion of the national background check. Individuals found to have criminal histories that bar their appointment to the position sought would then be disqualified by the municipal civil service agency pursuant to Section 50(4) of Civil Service Law.
20. Clinton County is in compliance with ADA requirements.

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