



PUTNAM COUNTY PERSONNEL OFFICE
Announces Employment Opportunities

Social Services Specialist (Trainee)
61-512 OC

2136

EXAMINATION DATE: December 5, 2020 • LAST FILING DATE: October 23, 2020 • FILING FEE: \$35

ONLY EXAMINATION APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED ONLINE Will Be Accepted

TO APPLY: 1. go to <https://putnam.munisselfservice.com/employmentopportunities/default.aspx>

2. View exam information & click APPLY 3. Complete & submit online application. 4. Mail, deliver or pay filing fee online within five (5) business days

Applications cannot be submitted after the above Last Filing Date

- Filing fees must be RECEIVED by Putnam County Personnel Dept. within FIVE (5) BUSINESS DAYS following application submission.
- Exam filing fees are **NOT REFUNDABLE** for any reason, including disqualification. As per Putnam County Resolution #305 of 2005.
- If your filing fee is not received within the time permitted, your application will be disqualified without review.

Make CHECK or MONEY ORDER payable to "Putnam County Personnel Department" – NO CASH

Returned checks are subject to a \$15 fee as per Putnam County Resolution #247 of 1998

Administration of This Examination Does Not Imply That a Vacancy Exists

**** Please read the back of this notice carefully for Important Civil Service Information ****

VACANCY: The eligible list established as a result of this examination will be utilized where appropriate for filling any current or future vacancies in the above-named title in the Putnam County Department of Social Services.

STARTING SALARY: \$44,785 (2020); \$45,680 (2021)

DUTIES: Under supervision of higher-level employees, incumbent serves as a trainee, learning the principles, practices and procedures of public sector social services case management, as well as acquiring the ability to provide these services and apply these skills and knowledges in handling an assigned case load. Appointees to this class are provided training for a period of one year, consisting of on the job as well as classroom/workshop instruction designed to provide the essential knowledges, skills and abilities toward fulfilling the full responsibilities of the position. Trainees receive instruction on the mission and organization of the department, the legal and theoretical framework of departmental programs, with special attention to federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations and program eligibility criteria. Assignments initially predominantly involve case load maintenance activities but as experience in the Social Service programs is gained, the workload and the complexity of the duties will increase. As familiarity with the various financial service programs (public assistance, medical assistance, food stamps, etc.) increases, greater leeway for independent judgment in the performance of the duties will be allowed. Upon the successful completion of the one year training program, the employee is promoted to the full performance position of Social Service Specialist I without further examination. Supervision is not a function of this class. Performs related work as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Associate's degree or its equivalent.

PLEASE NOTE: Education beyond the secondary level must be from an institution accredited or recognized by the Board of Regents of the New York State Department of Education as a post-secondary, degree-granting institution.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Access to transportation may be required to complete possible field work assignments in a timely and efficient manner.

SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION: A written 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.

Use of calculators is **ALLOWED**.

FOR INFORMATION:

PUTNAM COUNTY PERSONNEL DEPT
Donald B. Smith County Government Campus
110 Old Route 6, Bldg 3, Carmel, NY 10512
Tel. (845) 808-1650 x 46104

www.putnamcountyny.com/personneldept

<http://www.facebook.com/PutnamCountyPersonnelNY>

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>

ISSUED: 10/9/2020

ADMISSION TO EXAMINATIONS: Call the Personnel Department if you do not receive a notice within three days of the date of examination. Admission to examinations does not necessarily mean that the application has been approved unconditionally; final review of applications for all requirements may not be made until after the written test. You may not be admitted to the examination room without official notice, or more than one half hour after an examination has begun. You must bring picture identification (such as a driver's license) and your Social Security number to the examination. You may be fingerprinted prior to admission to the examination.

AGE LIMITS: There may be statutory restrictions on your employment if you are under 18 or over 70 years of age; any other age restrictions are stated on the face of this examination announcement.

APPLICATION: A separate application must be filed for each examination desired. Effective April 13, 2013, Putnam County Personnel Department accepts ONLY EXAMINATION APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED ONLINE. Paper examination applications will not be accepted. Go to www.putnamcountyny.com/personneldept/exam-postings/ for information, explanation, and to access the online application form.

APPLICATION FEE: A fee (see front) is required from candidates for each separately-numbered examination for which they apply. Mail, deliver or pay filing fee online within five (5) business days. **NO CASH. NO REFUNDS** will be made to applicants who fail to appear for the scheduled examination. File only for those examinations for which you are qualified. As of February 1, 2006, per Putnam County Resolution #305 of 2005, **EXAM FILING FEES WILL NOT BE REFUNDED**, even if you are disqualified from taking the exam. It is therefore recommended that you consider very carefully whether or not you believe that you meet the minimum qualifications before submitting your application.

APPLICATION FEE, WAIVER OF: 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, complete a "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification" form and submit it with your application and proof of benefits by the close of business on the Application Deadline as listed on this Examination Announcement. A copy of the waiver request form can be obtained from the website or by calling the Putnam County Personnel Department.

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. The cost for fingerprinting is the responsibility of the candidate being considered for, or conditionally offered, appointment.

CALCULATORS: Candidates are permitted to use quiet, held-held, solar or battery powered calculators, *UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED*.

CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS Killed in the Line of Duty: In conformance with section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, signed into law on September 17, 2002, 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 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 (2) 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.

CITIZENSHIP: Citizenship is required only for Public Officer positions.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Any changes in contact information must be communicated to the Personnel Dept. in order to ensure timely delivery of important information. A change of address form is available on our website or the Personnel Dept. It is the candidates' responsibility to obtain and submit the necessary documents.

CROSS FILING or EXAMINATIONS IN MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS:

If you have applied to take an examination announced by more than one local jurisdiction (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions as early as possible (no later than two weeks before the test date), so that arrangements can be made for taking all examinations at one test site. You must inform each jurisdiction of all examination titles and numbers, and at which jurisdiction you want to sit for the examinations. Please note that all examinations for positions in State government must be taken at a State examination center. Cross-file form is available on the website.

DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING: You may be required to take a pre-employment alcohol and drug test to determine that you are free of such substances.

EDUCATION: Where high school graduation is required, a High School Equivalency Diploma from any State or an armed forces GED (high school level) will be acceptable. College graduation, when required, must have been from a regionally accredited college or university or one recognized by the New York State Education Department as following acceptable educational practices. In evaluating a candidate's qualifications, the equivalent of 30 college credit hours equals one year of college. Transcripts should be submitted with the application or as soon thereafter as possible whenever the qualifications call for a specific college major or specified number of credits. **NOTE:** If your degree and/or college credit was awarded by an educational institution outside of the United States and its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency. You can write to this Department for a list of acceptable companies providing this service; you must pay the required evaluation fee.

ELIGIBILITY, ANTICIPATED: If the minimum qualifications require a degree in education and/or experience/licensure/certification, the following statements shall pertain to this exam announcement: if you expect to complete the educational or experience requirement within 6 months from the date of the examination date on the reverse side of this examination announcement, you can be admitted to this examination on a conditional basis. If successful on the examination, you will not be certified for appointment until you have submitted proof of completion of the announced requirements to the Putnam County Personnel Department. In the case of anticipated education degree, proof must be submitted within 3 months following award of degree; failure to do so will result in removal of your name from the eligible list. In the case of anticipated experience, your name will not be certified until you obtain and show proof of the necessary experience. In the case of licensure/certification, if you are eligible for the required licensure/certification you can be admitted to the examination. If successful on the examination, you will not be certified for permanent appointment until you have submitted proof of possession of the required licensure/certificate to the Putnam County Personnel Department.

ELIGIBLE LIST: The eligible list is made up of all candidates who successfully pass all portions of the examination. The eligible list resulting from this examination will remain in

existence for a minimum of one year up to a maximum of four years or until terminated by the establishment of an appropriate new eligible list. In the case where a **Promotional** exam is being held in conjunction with an Open Competitive exam in the same title, the resulting eligible list from the Promotional exam will be canvassed first. Any person whose name is on a preferred eligible list and who meets the requirements for a promotion examination in the agency for which the examination is being held is eligible to compete in the examination. Candidates currently holding a permanent 55-a position will be afforded the same opportunity as employees in the competitive class to take promotion examinations, if qualified.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: It is the policy of the Putnam County Personnel Department to provide for and promote equal opportunity in employment, compensation and other terms and conditions of employment without discrimination on the basis of age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, or arrest and/or criminal conviction record, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification or other exception. Those requiring special testing arrangements (such as military personnel or Saturday religious observers) must note this on their applications. It is Putnam County's policy, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to provide equal employment opportunity and equal opportunity to participate in and receive any benefits, services, programs and activities to persons with disabilities. Any person who requires reasonable accommodations and reasonable modifications (e.g. Braille booklet, amanuensis, reader, sign language interpreter, etc.) must note this on their application.

EXPERIENCE: For each examination, unpaid, verifiable part-time and volunteer experience in one of the specialized areas will only be credited when specifically allowed by the examination announcement. The number of years of experience required in the minimum qualifications is based upon the presumption of full-time employment (35 hour workweek). Part-time experience will be prorated.

FINGERPRINT CHECK: A state and/or national fingerprint supported background investigation is required before an appointment is made to some positions. If such search is required, the applicant will be responsible to pay the Division of Criminal Justice Services fee for such search (approximately \$100-150)

INCLEMENT WEATHER: In rare cases, an examination may be postponed if weather conditions are unsafe. In such cases, call 845-808-1650 for recorded information available 24 hours. Also, announcements will be made over the radio on WHUD (100.7 FM). If an examination is postponed due to weather conditions, a new examination date will be set as soon as possible. Candidates will be notified of such new examination date in writing by Putnam County Personnel Department as soon as this information becomes available.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION: 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.

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY: Applicants may participate in multiple examinations given for Putnam County on the same day. The maximum time allowed for any combination of examinations is eight (8) hours. If you have applied for multiple examinations scheduled for the same day, please indicate this on your application.

PROHIBITED DEVICES: Cell phones, pagers, and similar devices are prohibited at examination sites. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checks, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, cell phones, dictionaries and/or similar devices are prohibited.

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS: College graduates with student loans may be eligible to have part of their loan paid for after being employed in a full-time position at Putnam County. Additional information is available at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service#qualifying-employment>

RATINGS AND REVIEW: When this written examination is being 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 apply. Otherwise, rating and review of the examination is governed by the Putnam County Civil Service Rules.

RATINGS REQUIRED: Tests are rated on a scale of 100 with the passing mark at 70.0. Unless the announcement states otherwise, you must pass the written test as a whole and the oral and practical tests, if any. Test instructions may further divide the tests into parts and set minimum standards for each part.

RESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE: Preference in appointment from open-competitive lists may be given to residents of the jurisdiction making the appointments; for appointment in some jurisdictions you may be required to become a resident thereof, in accordance with law or resolution. Residence requirements and such preferential certifications do not apply in promotion examinations.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS: In accordance with the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) legislation, Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, candidates for appointment in school districts must obtain clearance for employment from the State Education Department prior to employment based upon a fingerprint and criminal history background check.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION, DISABILITIES, MILITARY): If special arrangements for testing are required, you must indicate this on the online application and/or submit a written/emailed request, & arrangements for an alternate date may be made.

VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates may be investigated or called for an interview to determine whether they are qualified for appointment. All statements made by candidates on the application form are subject to verification.

VETERANS: Eligible disabled and non-disabled war veterans may have ten or five points, respectively, added to an earned passing score in an open-competitive examination and five or two and a half-points added in a promotion examination. It is the candidate's responsibility to obtain and submit the necessary forms and documents prior to the establishment of the eligible list. You may waive these credits any time prior to appointment. These forms are available on our website.