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EXAM ISSUED ON 7/5/17
GREENE COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE
411 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Catskill, NY 12414
518-719-3253 --- www.greenegov.com

Announces an
OPEN-COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR
Exam #67054 - VETERANS BENEFITS REPRESENTATIVE

REFER TO GENERAL INFORMATION ON PAGE 2 BEFORE COMPLETING APPLICATION

LAST FILE DATE: AUGUST 4, 2017
(Postmarked no later than 8/4/17)

EXAMINATION DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

VETERANS BENEFITS REPRESENTATIVE: Currently there is one vacancy within the Greene County Veterans Department. The eligible list established from this exam will also be used to fill future vacancies within the Greene County Veterans Department.

SALARY: \$17.11 per hour

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS (By the last file date): Candidates must be legal residents of Greene County for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the date of the examination.

NON-REFUNDABLE FILING FEE: A \$15 check or money order must be submitted with your application. **CASH NOT ACCEPTED**

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Candidate must be a Veteran* of the armed forces and meet one of the following qualifications:

- A. Graduation from a New York State registered or regionally accredited college or university with an Associate's Degree;
- OR**
- B. Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and two (2) years of experience in examining, investigating, evaluating or reviewing claims for benefits and/or assistance;
- OR**
- C. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by A and B above.

*A veteran is described (Article 17, Section 350 New York State Executive Law) as "a person, male or female, resident of this state, who has served in the active military or naval service of the United States during a war in which the United States engaged and who has been released from such service otherwise than by dishonorable discharge, or who has been furloughed to the reserve."

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: 1. At the time of appointment the incumbent must have possession of valid New York State driver's license appropriate to the vehicle(s) operated and must maintain that license throughout employment.

2. At the time of appointment the incumbent must be eligible for VA accreditation, as an agent, attorney, or representative of a VA-recognized veteran's service organization to assist in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of a claim for VA benefits in accordance with 38 U.S.C. §§ 5901-5902, 5904; 38 C.F.R. § 14.629.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only)

Reviews and evaluates eligibility requirements of veterans and family applicants for veteran's benefits offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and other government bodies; Assists the applicant in the preparation and processing of claims for government benefits; Determines the need for supportive services including outreach and dissemination of information and making referrals as necessary; Performs various research tasks to develop alternatives benefit sources for applicants; Prepares a variety of documents, records and reports to support the requirements of the benefits programs offered; Develops and maintains working relationships with staff, community organizations and other interested groups to develop additional resources for applicants; Assists in the maintenance of Agency files and records; Works with the accounting function of the Agency to assure the maintenance of proper statistical and financial records; Operates computerized equipment for the purpose of entering, maintaining and utilizing information and records related to the program; May assist in the public information and education efforts of the Veterans' Service Agency as it relates to the intent and focus of benefit programs; May assist Veterans in obtaining GI Bill and other education benefits; May assist applicants to transition into meaningful employment by developing linkages and collaborating with employers in the public or private sector; May review client applications to determine eligibility for Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW), job training or skill development programs; Attends public veterans' events, annual training, and conferences.

SUBJECTS OF EXAMINATION: A written test designed to evaluate knowledge, skills and /or abilities in the following areas:

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Public contact principles and practices:** These questions test for knowledge of techniques used to interact with other people, to gather and present information, and to provide assistance, advice, and effective customer service in a courteous and professional manner. Questions will cover such topics as understanding and responding to people with diverse needs, perspectives, personalities, and levels of familiarity with agency operations, as well as acting in a way that both serves the public and reflects well on your agency.
- 4. Understanding and interpreting written material:** These questions test for the ability to understand and interpret written material. You will be presented with brief reading passages and will be asked questions about the passages. You should base your answers to the questions only on what is presented in the passages and not on what you may happen to know about the topic.

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 "How to take a written test" helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available on line at:
www.cs.ny.gov/testing/localtestguides.cfm

GENERAL INFORMATION ----- GREENE COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
APPLICATIONS AND FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE OR AT www.greenegov.com

1. **APPLICATIONS:** Mail to: Greene County Civil Service Commission, 411 Main St., Catskill, NY 12414, or at www.greenegov.com. Applications are accepted up to the last filing date indicated on announcement. This department does not make formal acknowledgment of the receipt of an application, or take responsibility for non-delivery of mail or postal delays. The Commissioners reserves the right to reject or accept applications after the advertised filing period. Read and compare your qualifications carefully with the minimum qualifications as outlined. Only apply for those exams for which you are qualified for. Resumes are not accepted as a substitution for indicating work experience on your application, but are accepted as an addition to your application. All experience is considered as paid work experience, **unless** specified under the minimum qualifications; volunteer experience, unpaid internship experience (if paid, verification must be provided) and education will not be accepted and/or substituted for experience in meeting the qualifications. **FAX & COPIES ARE NOT ACCEPTED—THE ORIGINAL SIGNATURE MUST APPEAR IN INK.**
2. **NON-REFUNDABLE FILING FEE & FEE WAIVER:** A \$15 fee is required for EACH exam you are applying for. A \$25 fee is required for the POLICE OFFICERS, DEPUTY SHERIFFS OR CORRECTIONS OFFICERS exams. The **fee** must accompany your application. **Do not send cash! A check or money order payable to Greene County Civil Service Commission is required.** Include the exam title and exam number on your check or money order. Fees may be waived per C.S. Law §50.5(b). In order to be eligible for the FEE WAIVER, the completed Fee Waiver form must be submitted with your exam application. A \$10 SERVICE CHARGE will be imposed on any checks returned to the Greene County Treasurer.
3. **TIME AND PLACE OF EXAM:** Accepted candidates will be notified by letter approximately two (2) weeks prior to the exam date when and where to appear for the exam.
4. **MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS & CROSS FILERS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY:** If you have applied to take a written exam announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written exam, 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 exams at one exam site. All exams for positions in State government will be held at a State exam center. When taking both **State and Local** government exams, you are required to take all exams at the **STATE** exam site. For Greene County call (518) 719-3253, or obtain the cross filer form from our website or write to the above address no later than **two (2) weeks** prior to the date of the exams.
5. **SPECIAL EXAM ARRANGEMENTS & RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS:** If you require particular accommodations or special testing arrangements as a person with a disability or alternate test date candidate (in accordance with alternate test date policy) clearly indicate this on your Application and the required form must accompany the application. For religious accommodation, most written exams 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, please check the box under #5 "RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION." We will make arrangements for you to take the exam on a different date, usually the following Monday.
6. **AGE REQUIREMENT:** Unless otherwise specified in the exam announcement, there are no age restrictions. However, there may be statutory restrictions on your employment if you are under 18 or over 70 years of age.
7. **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT:** Unless otherwise specified in the exam announcement, candidates in all open competitive exams must at the time of the exam, have been legal residents for at least six (6) months of the political subdivision in which they seek appointment.
8. **VETERANS' CREDIT:** Disabled and non-disabled veterans who establish their eligibility for additional credits and are successful in the exam are entitled to have 10 and 5 points respectively (5 and 2 ½ points of credits in the case of promotion exams), added to their earned scores provided they have not used such credits to obtain permanent appointment or promotion. You will be allowed the option of waiving these credits after the completion of the exam. Effective 1/1/98 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 exams. 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 PROVIDE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTARY PROOF TO THIS OFFICE** indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Sec. 85 of C. S. Law and that the candidate received an honorable discharge or was released under honorable conditions in order to be certified at a score including veterans' credit. An appropriate application form may be obtained at the Civil Service Office. **FAILURE TO PROVIDE PROOF PRIOR TO ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ELIGIBLE LIST WILL RESULT IN NO ADDITIONAL CREDIT BEING GRANTED.**
9. **ADDITIONAL SERVICE CREDIT FOR CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:** In conformance with Section 85-a of the C.S. Law children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten 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 is 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 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.
10. **TRANSCRIPTS & COLLEGE DEGREES:** Whenever college transcripts or diplomas are requested, they should be submitted with the application for the exam or as soon as possible thereafter before the examination. For further details contact this office.
11. **RATING & REVIEW:** The passing grade is 70. Unless the announcement states otherwise, this examination is being prepared and rated by the NYS Civil Service in accordance with Section 23.2 of the NYS C.S. Law. The provisions of the NYS C.S. Rules and Regulations dealing with the preparation and rating of written exams will apply to this exam.
12. **TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** Training and experience will not be a subject of the exam unless specified on the front of the announcement. If a subject of the exam, training and experience may not be rated if all passing candidates are expected to be immediately reachable for appointment. If rated, training and experience will be based on the statements in your application which are subject to verification.
13. **ELIGIBLE LIST:** Eligible lists will be established on the basis of passing grades received by the candidates in the competitive portions of the exam. Lists are established for duration of one year unless further extended. The resulting eligible list will be used to fill appropriate vacancies as they occur. Lists resulting from promotion examinations are certified first.
14. **SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOCES:** Per Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, to be employed in a position designated by a school district or BOCES involving direct contact with students, a clearance for employment from the State Education Department is required.
15. **FOR POSITIONS REQUIRING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION & FINGERPRINTING:** 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. 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 the Civil Service Law. As mentioned above, this Chapter applies to applicants or eligibles for original appointment to positions in the classified service. Current employees, transfer candidates, individuals reinstated from preferred lists pursuant to Section 81 of the Civil Service Law and applicants for promotion exams or current eligibles on promotion eligible lists are specifically exempted from the provisions of this Chapter. This act took effect July 22, 2003.
16. **CALCULATORS:** **Unless otherwise notified**, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, solar or battery powered calculators. **The calculator function on cell phones** and devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited. You may not bring reference materials unless notified to do so.
17. **WEATHER:** Listen to your local TV & Radio Stations, (WNYT, WRGB, WTEN, WXXA & 98.5 THE CAT, OLDIES 93.5, 1230 WHUC, 810 WGY, 107.7 WGNA)
18. **EMERGENCIES (OTHER THAN WEATHER):** If any emergency prevents you from appearing for the exam please notify this office no later than 10:00 AM on the Monday following the test date. (Tuesday, if Monday is a holiday) providing verifiable documentation of the reason.

NOTE: As a condition of employment only within Greene County Departments candidates receiving a conditional offer of employment must Successfully pass a drug screen, failure to meet the above standards may result in disqualification.