COUNTY OF ERIE - DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL
invites applications for the position of:

Assistant Special Investigator #74-745
PROMOTIONAL

SALARY: $30,586.00 - $39,291.00 Annually

OPENING DATE: 04/03/14

CLOSING DATE: 04/23/14

DESCRIPTION:

THIS EXAMINATION IS OPEN TO ALL QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES OF THE ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES. This test will be used to fill future vacancies anticipated at the Erie County Department Of Social Services.

The eligible list resulting from this examination will not supersede currently existing promotional eligible lists for this title, if any. The duration of all promotional eligible lists is four years from date of establishment unless otherwise indicated.

Persons who are currently employed under Section 55a, New York State Civil Service Law, and who meet all the above eligibility requirements in the non-competitive rather than competitive class may compete in this examination.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

An ***Assistant Special Investigator*** assisting in the field of Social Services investigation; reviews cases for falsification and investigates to verify written documents and determines if there is overpayment of funds; prepares and computes budgets of cases to determine if there is overpayment of funds; helps locate clients that have left the area and obtains agreements of repayments in fraud cases; may interview and assist clients in mortgaging their real property, filing for Veteran's benefits and life insurance; may investigate and determine assets and resources available to clients; may maintain cases of clients who need Social Services to pay their bills from Social Security, S.S.I., or other programs; may identify and apply for benefits of children in custody of department; may interview relatives and investigate into available assets of individuals who apply for County burial and coordinate process with vendor; establishes accounts and arranges repayment schedules, monitors and receives payments; assists in preparing civil recovery and fraud packages for collection or prosecution; serves summonses and subpoenas, conducts Fire Investigations and lost/stolen check investigations; searches indexes and files of the Clerks and Courts to determine and verify existence of property holdings and encumbrances; prepares deeds, mortgages and assignments as needed; conducts continuous investigations of resources for clients to detect any financial changes in status, as needed in estates or negligence claims, prepares assignment, as needed; contacts mortgagors to secure and verify mortgage data; performs investigations as required for all areas of Social Services; may conduct field investigations as required.

QUALIFYING EXPERIENCE FOR TAKING THE TEST: Candidates must be permanently employed in the competitive class and must be serving and have served continuously on a permanent or contingent permanent basis in the competitive class for **12 months** immediately preceding the date of the written test in the position of **Job Group VI** and in addition must meet one of the following:

A. Completion of two years of study at a regionally accredited or New York State registered two or four year college or university and two years of experience in a position involving the making of confidential inquiries and investigations in the field of insurance, financial resource, credit, public assistance eligibility, license tax, or personal investigations, or experience in interviewing and determining eligibility in public assistance programs; or:

B. Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and four years of experience as per (A) above; or:

C. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A) and (B).

NOTES: **1.** Verifiable part-time and/or volunteer experience will be pro-rated toward meeting full-time experience requirements. **2.** Your degree and/or college credit must have been awarded by a regionally accredited college or university or one recognized by the New York State Education Department as following acceptable educational practices. A grade of "D" or better is necessary for a course to be credited as successfully completed. 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.

Notice to Candidates: Transcripts will now be accepted by the Department of Personnel ONLY at time of application. All subsequent transcripts must be submitted at time of interview.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

VETERANS: PROOF OF SERVICE MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE LIST IS ESTABLISHED TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL POINTS. *(See application for more information.)*

NOTICES TO APPEAR FOR THE EXAMINATION ARE MAILED APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION DATE

NO CELL PHONES ARE PERMITTED AT THE EXAM SITE.

EXAMINATION DATE	APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
MAY 17, 2014	**APRIL 23, 2014**

A Guide for the Written Test for Investigators is available at the New York State website:www.cs.ny.gov/testing/localtestguides.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.

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

1. EVALUATING INFORMATION & EVIDENCE: These questions test for the ability to evaluate and draw conclusions from information and evidence. Each question consists of a set of facts and a conclusion based on the facts. The candidate must decide if the conclusion is warranted by the facts.
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. UNDERSTANDING & INTERPRETING WRITTEN MATERIAL: These questions test how well you comprehend written material. You will be provided with brief reading selections and will be asked questions about the selections. All the information required to answer the questions will be presented in the selections; you will not be required to have any special knowledge relating to the subject areas of the selections

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES It is **recommended** that candidates use a quiet, hand held, solar or battery powered calculator. 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.

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES WHO ARE ALSO TAKING ANOTHER CIVIL SERVICE EXAM(S) ON THIS DATE

(See Below)

(IF YOU ARE TAKING 2 OR MORE ERIE COUNTY EXAMS ON THIS DATE IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO CALL)

INFORMATION FOR PROMOTION CANDIDATES

Unless otherwise indicated, the eligible list resulting from this examination will have a duration of four years and will not supersede existing promotional lists, if any.

RATINGS REQUIRED: Test is rated on a scale of 100 with a passing mark at 70. Test instructions may further divide the tests into parts and set minimum standards for each part.

Points will be added to scores of candidates who achieve a passing mark as follows: Seniority: For each year of service in the classified service:

Less than 1 year.....0 points
1 year up to 6 years.....1 point
Over 6 years up to 11 years.....2 points
Over 11 years up to 16 years.....3 points
Over 16 years up to 21 years.....4 points
Over 21 years.....5 points

VETERANS: Disabled and non-disabled veterans as defined in Section 85, New York State Civil Service Law, will have 5 and 2.5 points, respectively added to their earned scores if successful in the examination. You must claim these credits when you file application but you have an option to waive them any time prior to appointment. If you have already used these credits for a permanent position in NYS, you may not claim them again.

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 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 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.

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. ****For this exam, please complete and submit an Erie County EXAMS CROSS-FILER Form with your Erie County exam application to alert Erie County Civil Service about your additional exams being held at other locations on the same day.**** The Cross-Filer Form is found online at: www2.erie.gov/employment/index.php?q=applications or call (716) 858-8484. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center. You will be advised by letter when and where to report for your examinations.

MILITARY STATUS: Active duty military personnel may file an application for this exam. A special military make-up examination will be conducted for any member of the armed forces of the United States who has duly filed a timely application but who was deprived of the opportunity to compete in the scheduled exam due to active military duty. Special conditions apply to these requests and may be reviewed at the Erie County Department of Personnel.

ADMISSION TO EXAMINATION: Notice to appear for the test will be conditional as review of application for minimum requirements may not be made until after the written test. Call or write this Department if you have not received your notice 3 days before the date of the test. You may not be admitted to the examination room without official notice.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Applicants whose religious beliefs prevent their taking examinations before sundown on Saturday and physically handicapped candidates who require special examination facilities should so inform the Erie County Department of Personnel, by a separately mailed letter at the earliest possible date before the test.

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: If a subject of the examination, 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 subject to verification. If this examination includes a qualifying written test, candidates admitted to the test will have conditional approval only. Final decision regarding the qualifications of candidates rests with the New York State Department of Civil Service.

ELIGIBILITY FOR EXAMINATION: You may take the examination if you meet the following requirements: (a) Meet the qualifications as printed in the announcement; (b) you have been separated from the service and permanently reemployed within one year, (c) your name is on a preferred eligible list.

NOTICE: Any person, otherwise meeting the requirements for an examination, who is laid off from any agency for which the examination is being held, and whose name is presently on a preferred list is eligible to compete in the examination. When completing their applications such persons should be title and location of their last permanent Civil Service employment.

APPLICATION FORMS: You may obtain these forms in person at the Erie County Personnel Department, Rath County Office Building, 95 Franklin Street, Buffalo. Forms are also available in the libraries and at Town, Village and School District administrative offices.

****IMPORTANT APPLICATION FEE –**
READ CAREFULLY**

A $20 filing fee is required for this exam. The required fee must accompany your application. Send or bring check or money order made payable to Erie County Personnel Department and write the examination number(s) on your check or money order. Do not send or bring cash, as the County cannot be responsible for cash payment. 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.

This examination is prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service, and held in compliance with the New York State Civil Service Law and the rules and regulations of the New York State Department of Civil Service.