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PLEASE POST CONSPICUOUSLY

AN OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR
HOUSING OUTREACH SPECIALIST,
EXAM #87506-010

FILING FEE: EXAM FEES FOR JURISDICTIONS UNDER THE ALBANY MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION HAVE BEEN WAIVED EFFECTIVE JULY 2023.

Individuals who are on military leave or recently discharged from military service are permitted to file for an examination up to ten days prior to the examination.

TO BE HELD: **Saturday, March 1, 2025.** Candidates will be notified by email of date, time and location.

LAST FILING DATE: Applications must be submitted through **jobs.albanyny.gov** no later than 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 2025.

Computers are available for use in the Human Resources Office at City Hall, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Individuals who are on military leave or recently discharged from military service are permitted to file for an examination up to ten days prior to the examination.

VACANCY: List will be used to fill future vacancies as they occur in the jurisdictions covered by the City of Albany Civil Service Commission.

SALARY RANGE: \$44,333.61 annually

DUTIES OF THE POSITION: Under the supervision of the Director of Community Development and in cooperation with other professional staff of the department, the Housing Outreach Specialist is responsible for housing counseling services.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must meet the following qualifications by the date of the examination:

A minimum of two (2) years experience in consumer banking, housing counseling, or related fields.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

#1 AGE LIMITS:

Unless otherwise specified in the examination announcement, there are no age restrictions. However there may be statutory restrictions on your employment if you are under 40 or over 70 years of age.

#2 APPLICATIONS:

Applications can be submitted by visiting jobs.albanyny.gov/exams

A standard application must be submitted for each examination. The applicant should be certain that every question is answered and that the application is complete in all respects, including the title of the examination.

#3 VETERAN'S CREDITS:

For the purpose of claiming veteran's credits on a civil service examination, an applicant must have been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances after serving on active duty with the armed forces of the United States during time of war. Disabled and non-disabled veterans who establish eligibility for additional credits and are successful in the examination are entitled to have 10 and 5 points, respectively, (5 and 2.5 points in the case of promotional examinations) added to their earned scores, provided they have not used such credits to obtain permanent appointment or promotion. Veterans may determine to waive the use of their credits at any time up to the time of permanent appointment or promotion.

#4 TRANSCRIPTS:

Whenever college transcripts or diplomas are requested, they should be submitted with the application for the examination or as soon thereafter as possible BEFORE the examination.

#5 ADMISSIONS TO EXAMINATION:

The Commission does not acknowledge receipt of applications but all applicants are notified of the disposition of their applications. Approved candidates will be notified at least four days in advance of the place, date and hour of the examination. Applicants who have not received notice by this deadline should contact the office of the Commission.

Every candidate should bring his or her notice to appear, social security number and photo ID to the examination. Do not interpret a notice to appear for, or an actual participation in, the examination to mean that you have been found to meet fully the announced requirements. Applicants are admitted to the examination on the basis of statements made in the application. These statements may not be verified until after the examination has been held. Those candidates not meeting the requirements are disqualified at that time.

Inquiries may be made as to character and ability of candidates. All statements made by candidates in their applications are subject to verification.

#6 SATURDAY SABBATH OBSERVERS & HANDICAPPED PERSONS:

If special arrangements for testing are required, indicate this on your application form.

#7 RATINGS REQUIRED:

This examination will be prepared and rated in accordance with Section 23.2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of New York State Civil Service Law, rules and regulations dealing with the preparation and rating of examinations, will apply to this examination.

#8 MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS:

Candidates may be required to have a medical examination to determine if they are physically capable of performing the duties of the position.

#9 ELIGIBLE LISTS:

Eligible lists are established for a minimum duration of one year but may be extended by the Commission before expiration, for a total of no more than four years.

Changing conditions may make it necessary to certify to future vacancies at higher or lower salaries than those originally announced.

#10 CHILDREN OF POLICE/FIREFIGHTERS KILLED ON DUTY CREDITS:

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.

SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION

A test designed to evaluate knowledge, skills and /or abilities in the following areas.

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 interpreting numerical data related to community development and housing

These questions test for the ability to understand and interpret numerical data related to community development and housing. The data will be presented in formats such as tables and charts. All the information needed to answer the questions will be provided in the data presented. You may be required to perform basic mathematical functions such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division and to calculate averages and percentages.

You should bring with you a hand-held battery- or solar-powered calculator for use on this test. You will not be permitted to use the calculator function of your cell phone or other electronic devices.

Understanding, interpreting and applying housing and community development laws, rules and regulations

These questions test for the ability to understand, interpret, and apply a variety of federal and State housing and community development laws, rules, and regulations. You will be provided with a brief reading selection based on or extracted from a passage of legal text. You must read the selection and then answer one or more questions based on that selection. All the information needed to answer the questions will be provided in the reading selections.

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.

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>.

THE USE OF CALCULATORS IS RECOMMENDED: Candidates are permitted to use a quiet hand-held, solar or battery powered calculator. Devices with typewriter keyboards such as computers, spell checkers, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries and any similar devices are prohibited. **YOU MAY NOT BRING HIGHLIGHTERS, FIREARMS, BOOKS OR OTHER REFERENCE MATERIAL TO THE TEST.**

CROSS-FILER STATEMENT: If you have applied for other civil service examinations for employment with New York State or any other local government jurisdiction, you must make arrangements to take all the examinations at one test site.

If you have applied for both State and local government examinations, you must notify the City of Albany of your intent to take both a State and a local government examination. When taking both a State and a local government examination you will be required to take all your examinations at a State examination center. You will be advised by letter when and where to report for your examinations.

If you have applied for other local government examinations, call or write to each Civil Service agency to make arrangements. You must make your request for these arrangements no later than 14 days before the date of the examination. You must notify all local government Civil Service agencies with which you have filed an application of the site where you wish to take your examinations. A cross-filer application must be completed for City of Albany examinations.

VETERAN'S CREDIT: Veterans or disabled veterans who are eligible for additional credit must submit an application for veteran's credit with their application for examination or at any time between the dates of their application for examination and within two weeks of the examination date. Veteran's credits can only be added to a passing score on the examination.

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 examinations. 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 indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Section 85 of 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.

Veterans or disabled veterans who are eligible for additional credit must submit an application for veteran's credit and a DD-214 with their application by the last filing date of the examination. Applications for veteran's credit are available from this office by emailing Civilservice@AlbanyNy.Gov and on the "Info on Taking Exams" tab of the website. If you are claiming Veterans Credits, you must indicate it within the online exam application, answer all questions accurately and completely, submit an application and a DD-214 form. Candidates who are currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States on a full-time active duty basis (other than active duty for training) may file for Veterans Credits by providing documentation of active duty status.

Veterans Credits will not be added after the establishment of an eligible list unless the candidate has submitted an application for credit and supporting documentation by the last filing date of the examination and a scoring error has been made. If an error has been made, you must notify our office in writing no later than 30 days after receiving your score.

If you are claiming credits as a disabled veteran, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs must also certify that you were disabled in the actual performance of duty in a war, that the disability is rated at ten percent or more, and that the disability existed at the time of application for appointment or promotion. In addition to the proof above, applicants must also submit a "Veterans Disability Records Release" form.

All requests for Veterans Credits must be verified and all statements you make in support of your claim for Veterans Credits are subject to investigation and substantiation by the City of Albany Civil Service Office. In the event of subsequent discovery of any material misstatement or fraud in your claim, your appointment may be rescinded and you may be disqualified from further appointment to any position on which you have been granted additional credits.

Effective January 1, 2014, additional Veterans Credits may be granted to veterans who (1) used non-disabled Veterans Credits to obtain a civil service appointment or promotion with New York State or a local government, and (2) were certified by the US Department of Veterans Affairs as having a service connected disability rated at 10% or more after that civil service appointment.

FINGERPRINTING REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT TO CERTAIN POSITIONS: If appointed on or after September 1, 2013, employees of the Police Department who have access to unencrypted Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) shall be subject to a state and national fingerprint-based background check for the purpose of a criminal history check.