



SENECA COUNTY

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

CIVIL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



**Peer Advocate
\$16.398 per hour**

Full benefits package including NYS Retirement

Seneca County has a residency requirement that an applicant must be a resident of Seneca County or one of the six contiguous counties (Cayuga, Ontario, Schuyler, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates) for one month to be eligible for appointment.

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 Seneca County. Additional information is available at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/public-service-loan-forgiveness.pdf>.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered two year college with an Associate's Degree in Human Services or Social Sciences and one year of full-time, paid experience in advocacy work, conflict resolution or a related area OR
- B. Graduation from High School or possession of a High School Equivalency diploma and three years of full-time, paid experience in advocacy work, conflict resolution or a related area.

SPECIAL NOTE: College credit may be substituted on a year for year basis for experience provided it surpasses what is required in "A".

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS:

Possession of a valid New York State Driver's License.

APPLICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND RETURNED TO:
SENECA COUNTY PERSONNEL OFFICE,
1 DI PRONIO DRIVE, WATERLOO, NY 13165

Applications Accepted Up To:
July 31, 2017
Or Until Position Is Filled

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE.....

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

Peer Advocacy - to protect and promote Mental Health recipients' rights and their ability to access services and supports of their choices. Peer advocate services are provided by individuals who have been trained in such areas as negotiation and mediation skills, recipients rights, Mental Hygiene Law, and access to entitlements and local resources. Both individual, issue - specific advocacy and broad systems change advocacy services are provided.

The Peer Advocate will meet with consumers to identify consumer needs. Community resources which can meet these needs will be identified to the consumer. If the consumer is unable to access these services, tangible assistance will be provided. These needs may include the following: housing, finances, medical care, mental health treatment and counseling, childcare, transportation and employment. This position requires flexible hours to meet the needs of consumers.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only)

Responds to recipient's and family's/significant other's complaints of difficulties in accessing services, and requests for changes in provided services by listening to the consumer, gathering information from all relevant sources and negotiating or mediating an outcome which is in the best interest of both the consumer and the providers;

Contributes to the annual/long range mental health plan;

Participates in the formulation of the mental health plan;

Presents to the Planning Committee information received throughout the course of the year concerning provider and consumer needs and concerns;

Initiates surveys;

Works closely with recipients, the Planning Committee, the Community Services Board (CSB), and the Mental Health Subcommittee to assist with an appropriate annual plan;

Makes available to consumers, providers, family, and the general public a copy of the annual plan upon request;

Identifies the need for additional support groups which should be offered in Seneca County;

Develops and initiates needed support groups in conjunction with providers;

Identifies appropriate support groups in surrounding areas which could be accessed by consumers in our county;

Assists consumers in making and keeping appointments and filling out necessary paperwork and applications needed in order to access services from various agencies (Social Services, Social Security, etc.);

Provides assistance to consumers in meeting basic needs (shopping for food, getting prescriptions filled, obtaining housing, maintaining utility services, etc.).

FULL KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES & PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Working knowledge of mental health recipients rights, ability to help clients access services in the community; ability to negotiate and mediate for recipients rights; ability to understand the Mental Hygiene Law and access to entitlements and local resources; ability to build close personal relationships; ability to understand the needs of consumers of mental health services; ability to work cooperatively and effectively with professional colleagues and other professional groups; good judgment in dealing with people; neat appearance; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

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