

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves assisting veterans, National Guard, active and reserve service members, and their dependents and survivors by performing counseling duties and aiding clients in obtaining benefits to which they are entitled under Federal, State and local laws. The incumbent is also responsible for assisting veterans in the preparation and processing of claims, as well as maintaining liaison with public and private agencies which provide benefits for veterans. The work is performed under the general direction of the Director of Veterans Services. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Interviews veterans or dependents through personal interviews, telephone conversations and correspondence to obtain a comprehensive case history in order that benefit eligibility can be determined;

Advises veterans, veteran survivors and their dependents of their rights under military service benefits acts and other relevant legislation;

Prepares and processes claims, applications, and appeals for pensions, compensation, medical treatment and other service benefits;

Procures documentation required for validation of claims, and follows up on claims to assure prompt action;

Maintains case files for veterans and their dependents.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of Federal, State and local laws governing veterans benefits and services;

Good knowledge of basic interviewing and counseling techniques;

Working knowledge of forms, methods and procedures necessary for the processing of veterans benefit claims;

Working knowledge of programs and activities of other agencies rendering services to veterans;

Ability to interpret regulations and other information related to veterans benefits;

Ability to operate a personal computer and knowledge of basic computer skills and programs;

Ability to tactfully conduct interviews of a personal nature;

Ability to prepare a variety of claim forms;

Ability to analyze the merits of complex claims;

Ability to prepare and maintain a variety of reports;

Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing;

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Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others;
Ability to understand and empathize with the needs and concerns of others;
Sensitivity,
Resourcefulness;
Tact.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A) Possession of an Associate's Degree and two years of experience* in human services, counseling, or psychology and one year of experience involving one-on-one counseling, or assisting individuals in completion or resolving of issues with financial, employment, benefit, or Veteran claims or records, or maintenance of Veteran records; OR
- B) Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diplomas and three years' of experience* involving one-on-one counseling, assisting individuals in completion or resolving of issues with financial, employment, benefit, or Veteran claims or records, or maintenance of Veteran records.

*Qualifying experience does not include clerical, secretarial, or receptionist duties.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Candidates must be honorably discharged from the Armed Services of the United States of America. Military service must have been served in full-active duty. A copy of your DD214 is required; AND
- 2) Possession of a valid New York State driver's license at time of appointment. License must remain valid throughout appointment in this title; AND
- 3) Employees must become accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs as a Veteran's Service Officer within the first year of employment and maintain re-accreditation each subsequent year; AND

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4) Employees are required to become a member of an American Legion within the first year of employment and maintain membership each subsequent year.

NOTE: Your degree must have been awarded by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secretary of education. If your degree was awarded by an educational institution outside of the United States and its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency. A list of acceptable companies who provide this service can be found on the internet at <http://www/cs/ny/gov/jobseeker/degrees.cfm>. You must pay the required evaluation fee.

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Class: Competitive