

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The Commissioner of Social Services is charged with the responsibility for administering public assistance and care as defined in the Social Services Law. In discharging this responsibility the Commissioner must organize, direct and coordinate the work of all employees, both professional and non-professional, in the social services department to achieve the effective and efficient operation of the multiple programs undertaken by the department. The Commissioner has complete control, subject to financial limitations imposed by the local legislative body and the State Department of Social Services, over department operations and direction of personnel. Major objectives of the Commissioner and the department are to provide adequately for those unable to maintain themselves and to administer such care, treatment and service as may restore such persons to a condition of self-support. An additional objective is to give such service to those liable to become destitute as may prevent the necessity of their becoming public charges. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

- Is responsible for all phases of the public welfare program, including planning, organizing, directing, and coordinating the work of the various units of administration for efficient and effective operation;
- Has charge of financial planning, including preparation of budgets, maintenance of fiscal controls and submission of required reports to the local legislative body and State board;
- Determines personnel requirements, and is responsible for the appointment of staff in compliance with State law and local Civil Service Rules;
- Oversees the organization and administration of a comprehensive and effective staff development program, including in-service training and appropriate use of other educational resources as well as the State's educational leave program;
- Cooperates with representatives of the State Department of Social Services in the operation and development of the local social services district program, and directs the preparation and submission of required reports to the State Department;
- Is responsible for the public relations of the social services district, and for the interpretation of the public welfare program to the community;
- Cooperates with other agencies, public and private, officials and citizens in planning for community service;
- Has responsibility for the maintenance and operation of a home or homes for the aging, children's shelters, infirmaries and other institutions as dictated by the needs of the social services district.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

The Commissioner shall be appointed on the basis of his administrative experience and his qualifications for the duties of the office as prescribed by the Social Services Law and the rules and regulations made pursuant there to:

Section 679 of Social Services Department Regulations:

- A) Training:
Graduation from a recognized college or university with a Bachelor's degree for a four- year course of study and
- B) Experience:
- 1) Six years of satisfactory full-time paid experience in a health, education, or social agency, four years of which must have been in a satisfactory administrative or supervisory capacity or
 - 2) Six years of responsible full-time paid experience in an administrative or management position, where there is responsibility for planning, directing, and coordinating the work of a substantial staff working in several units or performing several separate functions.

NOTE:

- 1) Each year of experience as a chief executive officer of a public social services district, within six years immediately preceding the date on which he is appointed, shall be the equivalent of two years of the above prescribed experience.
- 2) Post-graduate training, at a recognized college or university in social work, public administration, hospital administration, educational administration or business administration, shall be the equivalent, on a year-for-year basis up to two years, of the above prescribed experience. However, no such post-graduate training shall be the equivalent of the administrative or supervisory experience prescribed in (B) (1) above.

SPECIAL NOTE: Incumbent is designated as an Emergency Operations Center staff member by the County Executive.

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Jurisdictional Classification: Non-Competitive