

COMMUNITY BUILDER (FRENCH-CREOLE SPEAKING)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is primarily specialized technical and clerical work involving responsibility for performing a variety of activities related to housing programs. The work is distinguished from that of a Community Builder in that some of the duties performed in this position require the incumbent to possess speaking and reading ability in French-Creole at the fluency level indicated below in the Notes. The work is performed under the supervision of a higher-level administrator and in accordance with applicable government regulations. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Prepares documentation, reports, vouchers, etc. for various grants (e.g. National Development Council Community Development Block) in accordance with the requirements of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development;

Verifies payments and maintains a variety of records in accordance with Federal guidelines;

Maintains records and accounts for grants and other projects by posting ledgers, maintaining basic account balances, and processing vouchers;

Evaluates applicants' financial resources and makes recommendations concerning eligibility for assistance according to guidelines set forth by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and New York State Division of Housing;

Assists with the preparation of various Federal reports (e.g. Consolidated Action Plan, Consolidated Annual Report) and budget planning by gathering and organizing relevant information;

Reviews Federal guidelines and procedures in order to distribute information, review records, etc. needed to ensure compliance;

Develops and maintains filing systems, including computer-based information systems;

Performs general office clerical duties (e.g. maintaining records, filing);

May conduct housing unit inspections for compliance with quality standards;

May complete special projects and attend meetings, as assigned.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of office procedures, terminology and equipment; good knowledge of record keeping procedures, especially as they pertain to community development programs; good knowledge of business arithmetic; working knowledge of Federal laws, rules and regulations of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*; ability to maintain cooperative relationships with others; ability to maintain records in accordance with established procedures; ability to speak, read and understand colloquial French-Creole; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and writing.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- a. An Associate's degree or higher and two (2) years of experience in the preparation, processing, review and/or monitoring of reports, vouchers, documents, etc. relating to compliance with rules and regulations of specific programs (e.g. housing benefits, financial assistance, etc.) or,
- b. An Associate's degree or higher and three (3) years of office clerical or business experience.

(over)

NOTES:

1. Additional years of the experience described in (a.) or (b.) above may be substituted for the Associate's degree on a year-for-year basis, up to two (2) years.
2. Paid work experience in a community development, property management**, urban renewal, or comparable setting, may be substituted for the experience described in (a.) or (b.) above on the basis of one (1) year of community development, property management, urban renewal, etc., experience for two (2) years of experience in (a.) or (b.) above.
3. Incumbents are expected to possess a Level II proficiency in French-Creole (as defined by the Examinations Division of the State of New York Department of Civil Service) which requires that the incumbent: Be able to speak the language with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations on practical, social and professional topics not requiring specialized vocabulary (e.g. technical engineering, medicine, etc.); can discuss particular interests and special fields of competence in general terms with reasonable ease; possesses adequate comprehension to normal rate of speech; has good control of grammar and errors do not interfere with understanding; can read with understanding standard newspaper, correspondence and official documents.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a valid motor vehicle license or accessibility to transportation to meet field work requirements in a timely and efficient manner.

*To be demonstrated during the probationary period.

**Property management is defined as work experience in the administration and/or operation of commercial, industrial or residential real estate, performed on behalf of a landlord and/or tenant. Property managers may act as the liaison between a landlord or property management firm and a tenant. Duties of a property manager, or an employee involved in property management, may include activities such as renting property, rent collection, responding to and addressing maintenance issues, advertising vacancies for landlords, doing credit background checks on tenants, lease management, billing and fee collection, and some construction activities such as making arrangements for remodeling and repairs.