

Job Title

Forensic Mental Health Specialist II (HELPS Program)

Department

Mental Health

Division/Work Unit

Adult Mental Health Services

Bargaining Unit

CSEA

Salary

Job Group 12

Starting salary for external candidates: \$70,314. (Non-Negotiable)

Employment Type

Full-Time

Appointment Type

Permanent Probation

Probationary Period Notice

Permanent appointments are subject to a probationary period. The probationary period provides an opportunity for the employee to demonstrate their ability to perform the duties of the position satisfactorily. During this time, performance and conduct will be evaluated to determine whether permanent status should be granted at the end of the probationary term. The probationary period typically ranges from eight (8) to twenty-six (26) weeks.

Shift

Day Shift, Monday through Friday

Location

120 W Eagle St. Buffalo, NY 14202

Distinguishing Features of the Class

This is advanced professional forensic mental health work which involves responsibility for supervising and performing mental health services and treatment activities at a penal facility in Erie County, and for providing case consultation regarding client assessment and treatment planning to the Courts and mental health agencies. The work allows considerable leeway for independent judgment and action. Work is performed under the general supervision of an administrative employee of higher rank, and exercises supervision over a small staff of Forensic Mental Health Specialists I, and clerical staff. The work differs from

Forensic Mental Health Specialists I in the greater complexity of the cases personally handled, and in the type of supervision exercised. Does related work as required.

Typical Work Activities

- Supervises mental health services and treatment activities to persons with mental health conditions at a penal facility, including supervision of staff and review and approval of assessment and treatment determinations;
- Assess the need for psychiatric examination and treatment determinations;
- Renders direct treatment, including crisis intervention, consultations, linkages to community-based services and reports to referring entities;
- Provides consultation to legal-penal staff, attorneys, district attorneys, the courts, and mental hygiene facilities on assessments, as in preliminary Court-ordered examinations and treatment planning;

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Master's Degree in Social Work, Psychology, Psychiatric Nursing, Rehabilitation Counseling, Education or closely related field and three (3) years of experience providing services to persons with mental health conditions.

Special Requirements

New York State Department of Education licensure as a Social Worker or Mental Health Counselor at time of appointment.

Criminal Background Check

In accordance with New York State law, a criminal background check may be conducted after a conditional offer of employment has been made. A prior conviction will not automatically disqualify a candidate from employment, unless required by law or directly related to the duties of the position. Certain positions may be subject to additional background screening based on statutory or regulatory requirements.

Diversity Statement

Erie County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other legally protected status.

Visa Sponsorship

Erie County does not sponsor employment-based visa status for any position. All applicants must be legally authorized to work in the United States at the time of application and throughout the duration of employment, without the need for current or future visa sponsorship.

This Notice Will be posted for the period: Through and Including

February 12, 2026 – February 26, 2026

PLEASE REPLY IN WRITING (RESUME/TRANSCRIPT) TO: Christine Pearl, 95 Franklin St. Room 604
Buffalo, NY 14202 OR EMAIL Christine.Pearl@erie.gov