

Notes from the Navigator....

A Monthly Newsletter about Serving Customers with Disabilities in the One-Stop System

SUFFOLK COUNTY OFFICE OF HANDICAPPED SERVICES

The primary mission of the Suffolk County Office of Handicapped Services is to work for the benefit of Suffolk County's 283,000 people with disabilities. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: coordinating County services for individuals with disabilities; developing programs that assist individuals to become more self sufficient; providing advocacy when necessary; appropriate referrals; and provide access to specialized services that are not available through other County departments. Additionally, the Office ensures that the County government complies with the federal mandates under the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Rehabilitation Act.

The Civil Service Department is frequently contacted by individuals seeking information about civil service employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. This is referred to as the 55-a employment program. It refers to the section of NYS civil Service Law which allows Suffolk County and other local government entities to bypass the examination process when employing people with disabilities in competitive civil service jobs. Entry-level positions exist in technical, professional, administrative and clerical areas.

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