

# 300 Jobs Open Now at Willowbrook

## By VICTORIA FLANDERS

To fill the more than 300 vacancies in unskilled jobs at Willowbrook State School, the New York State Civil Service Department will hold a second Staten Island recruitment session early next month for its career development program for the institution.

Fifty-one Staten Island residents are completing a month-long work preparation program at Willowbrook which is preparing them for various jobs at that state institution.

For many residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods, few job opportunities on the Island exist in the wake of declining demands for unskilled, uneducated workers. Occupations which utilize unskilled workers are rapidly decreasing.

The recruits will fill such jobs as psychiatric attendant, clerical worker, food service aide, laundry worker, mail and supply helper and hospital attendant.

During the training the recruits are paid at the Civil Service Grade I level of \$64 per week. Most will enter jobs at Willowbrook in the grade 2 to grade 6 category paying from \$3,460 to \$4,225 annually.

Almost all of these jobs have minimal requirements which put them within reach of the unskilled. On-the-job training will be given by Willowbrook in some cases after the recruits finish the month of orientation at the school.

The classroom training consists of lectures on the Civil Service program; job conduct and role playing; New York State government; banking, budgeting, credit and consumer protection.

Class participation is encouraged in the program which also includes guest lecturers in specialized subjects as police and courts. Visual aids are also

used in the training.

The recruits at Willowbrook are mostly women, ranging in age from their early 20s to their mid-40s.

"I like it very much, commented Mrs. Doris Welcome of New Brighton. "I like it because it gives me a new point of view," she added of the orientation program.

The program, which has just come to Staten Island, is

designed to help people in areas where cultural and economic barriers keep them from getting job training and job skills.

The pre-employment orientation phase is geared to provide a basic introduction and pertinent information relating to permanent employment in state government as well as to motivate the recruits to pursue a plan of self-improvement and

career development. It also aims at matching the interests, skills and motivations of individual recruits with the specific manpower needs of the state.

For John Lamb of South Beach, the training is a great opportunity. "You never get laid off because you're working repeatedly. She registered for Civil Service," he explained. Lamb is a former laborer who is in training to become a psychiatric attendant.

"I think this is wonderful. I'm learning to prepare myself for work here at Willowbrook. All this training about budgets and things sort of helps me at home, too," a West Brighton woman commented.

She had worked in private hospitals, but had been laid off repeatedly. She registered for any kind of work at the New York State Employment Service Office in St. George and was readily accepted into the career development program.

The requirements for the training are that the worker is 18 years of age, speaks English and is a U.S. citizen.

"This program should have been started long ago," she added enthusiastically.

Another two-day recruitment session for the Career Development Program will be held by the State Employment Service Office at 25 Hyatt St.

The requirements for the training are that the worker is 18 years of age, speaks English and is a U.S. citizen.