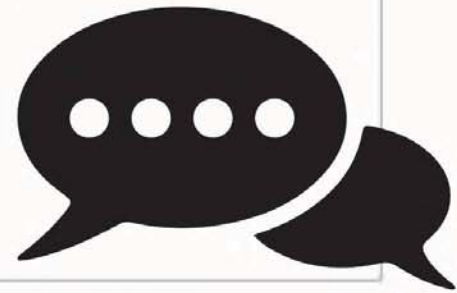




SOCIAL WORKER

JOB DESCRIPTION

For those committed to creating positive changes in people's lives, social work can be a rewarding career. Social workers provide help, support, and advice to vulnerable people in the community. They work closely with agencies, such as schools, hospitals, and probation services, to recommend ways in which struggling members of society can improve their lives.



SALARY

Bachelor's level social worker ★★★★★
Licensed clinical social worker ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Large number of employment opportunities • Growing demand for social workers due to an aging population • Majority of work in the public sector

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Sociology • Health and social service • Psychology • Child care and development • Helping and caring for people



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS A degree in social work or a related field is required. Some jobs require a master's degree and accreditation by a professional body.



LIFESTYLE Many full-time social workers have normal office hours, but others can have nontraditional schedules. Part-time jobs are available.



LOCATION Although social workers work mostly from one location, they regularly visit clients at home or in schools and other community settings.



THE REALITIES Working with disadvantaged groups and making decisions that will affect a person's future can be emotionally challenging.

RELATED CAREERS

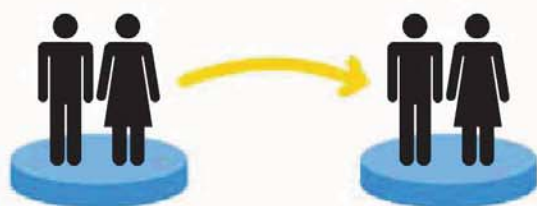
- ▶ **PSYCHOLOGIST** *see pp. 254–255*
- ▶ **COUNSELOR** *see pp. 256–257*
- ▶ **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST** *see pp. 292–293*
- ▶ **FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER** A type of social worker who offers practical and emotional support to people who are experiencing problems in their personal lives, such as families going through divorce, people with disabilities, and children whose parents are in prison.
- ▶ **SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR** Helps people overcome their dependence on alcohol and over-the-counter or illegal drugs, providing them with practical advice and referrals to specialty organizations to plan recovery and treatment programs.
- ▶ **YOUTH WORKER** A type of social worker who works with young people to promote personal, social, and educational development in their lives. Methods of support include counseling, mentoring, and arranging activities.

CAREER PATHS

Social workers choose to specialize in one of many areas, such as homelessness or education, or move into management and training. Some social workers research, develop, and implement programs to address social issues.

ASSISTANT SOCIAL WORKER A bachelor's degree lets you work as a residential counselor, mental health assistant, or program coordinator.

GRADUATE To become a licensed clinical social worker, a master's or doctorate degree in social work is required. Licensure is required for independent practice.



SOCIAL WORKER Once hired by an agency or company, you will be assigned a caseload while continuing your development. Later on you may choose an area to specialize in.



MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL WORKER Works alongside health professionals and social service agencies to provide therapy and community-based services for people with mental illness.



HEALTH CARE SOCIAL WORKER Helps patients adjust to long periods of time in a hospital. Also helps those who have been discharged after a long-term illness or who are coping with a disability.



SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER Supports families to ensure that children are attending school and reaching their full potential.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES SOCIAL WORKER Specializes in supporting children and families who are at risk or in trouble with the law. May work with adoptions or foster care.

SKILLS GUIDE



The ability to listen to, understand, and talk to clients in order to provide them with practical solutions.



Good team-working skills, and the ability to work with organizations such as the police and schools.



Empathy to understand a client's challenges in life and develop a good relationship with them.



Excellent organizational skills to maintain accurate records for multiple cases and clients.



The ability to solve problems efficiently to help people lead better and more fulfilling lives.



Tact and perseverance with clients who are reluctant to accept help.