



Social Worker

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Job Description:

Social workers help people solve social, financial, and health problems.

Gross Monthly Income:

\$3,200

Wages:

Average median yearly pay is about \$39,000 a year in Utah.

Schedule: Generally have a set schedule each week, during business hours. (8-5)



Advancement:

Experienced social workers can advance to working as program managers or assistant directors. They usually need a master's degree for these positions. Experienced social workers can also teach or consult. Some social workers go into private practice.

Education & Experience:

- ◆ Completed High School
- ◆ Bachelor's degree in Social Work
- ◆ Master's Degree in Social Work

High

School Courses:

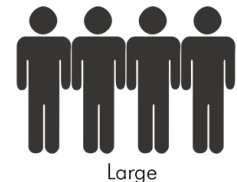
- ◆ Anthropology
- ◆ Computer Applications
- ◆ Ethnic & Gender Studies
- ◆ Psychology
- ◆ Sociology

Work Conditions:

- ◆ High level of social contact. Work with clients, families, and other social workers.
- ◆ Often placed in conflict situations with clients or their family members.
- ◆ Must be very exact in their work. Errors or omissions could endanger the health and safety of clients or others.
- ◆ Mostly work indoors in offices, but sometimes work outdoors when visiting clients.

Travel: May drive across town or farther to visit clients

Job Outlook:



Hours a Week:

40

Leisure Time:

High

Knowledge:

- ◆ Therapy & Counseling
- ◆ Psychology
- ◆ Customer & Personal Service
- ◆ Sociology & Anthropology
- ◆ Law, Government, & Jurisprudence
- ◆ English Language
- ◆ Philosophy & Theology

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Overview

According to the National Association of Social Workers, most people believe that social workers do a very important job, yet don't believe they'll ever need the services of a social worker.

However, statistics show that this isn't the case. Social workers work in a variety of settings, from schools to hospitals to clinics, all places where people regularly go.

Social workers often specialize in treating certain types of clients. Regardless of their specialty, social workers have common tasks. When they get new clients, social workers ask them questions to identify their problems, concerns, and needs. They collect any other information, such as employment or medical records, they will need. For some clients, social workers arrange for medical or psychiatric tests. Once they have enough information, social workers create plans for helping clients. They monitor clients' progress towards solving their problems and revise plans as needed.

In hospitals, medical and psychiatric social workers coordinate plans for the care and rehabilitation of patients. They help seriously ill patients and their families locate the help they will need when they leave the hospital. Social workers also lead support groups to help families and patients deal with illnesses such as AIDS or cancer. In addition, they manage substance abuse and mental health programs.

Child welfare social workers work to ensure the safety and health of children. They make sure low-income children and pregnant mothers receive enough food. They check out reports of child abuse. Sometimes they place children in foster care. Social workers also evaluate the quality of foster and adoptive homes. They may determine whether clients are eligible for assistance, funds, and services. Social workers provide information to clients about how to apply for assistance. They also ensure clients make proper use of the services available to them.

Clinical social workers provide counseling. They work for public agencies and clinics and in private practice. Social workers lead support groups or counseling sessions to provide support for problems such as depression, stress, or drug dependency.

Some social workers provide help to older people and their families. Elderly people need more assistance doing things they normally would do for themselves. Social workers not only help them get the services they need, but also help families and individuals adjust to changes in their lives.

In schools, social workers identify students' problems and work to find help for them. Problems may include misbehavior in class, too many absences, or teen pregnancy. They confer with teachers, parents, and other counselors to determine the causes of problems. School social workers help students with disabilities fit into the general student population.

Social workers work closely with other health care and social service providers. They supervise social and human service assistants. In addition, social workers keep detailed records of test results, conversations with clients, and treatment plans. They prepare reports for schools, courts, and other agencies.

Pathway:
**Family & Consumer
Science**