



# Careers in Social Work



## Social Workers:

If you want a career with meaning, action, diversity and satisfaction, then social work is for you! Social workers empower individuals, relieve suffering, and affect social change. They help meet the basic needs of all people and strengthen those who are vulnerable, oppressed, or living in poverty.

“Person-in-Environment” orientation:

Social workers see people within an environmental system that includes their personal and significant relationships, economic and social conditions, and physical and mental health issues. Social workers help people identify and manage the factors that have created or contributed to the problems they face. Social workers then help to find ways to provide relief or resolution.

### Values:

Social work was founded on a set of core values that still guide its’ purpose and perspective.

- Service
- Social Justice
- Dignity & Worth of the person
- Importance of Human Relationships
- Integrity
- Competence

Source: NASW (National Association of Social Work)

## Possible Job Settings and Careers

### Health Care Social Work:

- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Rehabilitation clinics
- Hospice care facilities
- HIV/AIDS networks
- Home health organizations
- Community health clinics
- Maternal & child clinics

### Mental Health and Clinical Social Work

- Community mental health centers
- Private practice
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Residential treatment centers
- Partial day treatment hospitals
- Managed mental health programs

### Child Welfare:

- Adoption agencies
- Child day care
- Child protection services (CPS)
- Foster care agencies
- Family preservation agencies
- Public & private child welfare agencies

### Aging and Gerontology:

- Hospitals & medical centers
- Banks/Insurance Companies
- Nursing homes
- Senior centers
- Area agencies on aging
- Senior volunteer programs

### Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

- Inpatient & outpatient treatment centers
- Residential treatment facilities

### Justice and Corrections

- Probation & Parole
- Youth services & diversion
- Prisons
- Victim services programs
- Rape crisis centers
- Domestic violence shelters/services

### Developmental Disabilities:

- Medical facilities
- Schools
- Employment & community services
- Social service agencies

### Occupational and EAP Social Work

- Corporations/Businesses
- EAP programs
- Labor unions

### Policy and Planning

- Local, state, & federal governments
- Welfare councils
- Trade associations
- Advocacy organizations

### Public Welfare

- Adult protective services
- Housing services
- Homeless shelters and advocacy groups
- Crisis centers

### School Social Work

- Elementary & secondary schools
- Head start centers
- Early intervention programs
- Special education placement offices

### Research

- Schools of social work
- Foundations
- Government agencies