

What Kinds of Jobs Do Social Workers Have?

Professional social workers are present in every facet of community life facilitating change with people confronting some of the most difficult individual and societal challenges. Social workers are active in schools, hospitals, mental health clinics, substance abuse treatment, in prevention and treatment programs for children, youth, elders, persons with disabilities and their families, child welfare (family preservation, foster care and adoption); juvenile and adult corrections, as elected leaders, in private practice, and in numerous other public and private agencies that serve individuals and families in need. There are more social workers in clinical settings that provide individual and family assistance than psychiatrists, psychologists, and psychiatric nurses combined. And, there are over 170 social workers working at the national, state and local elected levels representing their communities and advocating for social work values and social change.

There are currently three social workers in the Iowa legislature (two in the House and one in the Senate). They are Mark Smith, Marshalltown; Geri Huser, Altoona; and Becky Schmitz, Fairfield. The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that social work is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States. In fact, many job titles that are available do not have the words 'social worker' in them, but the skills of a social worker are needed in that position.

Aging

- Seniors Program Manager
- Service Provider
- Group Therapist
- Care Coordinator
- Rehabilitation Specialist
- Home Care Provider
- Geriatric Researcher
- Adult Outpatient Counselor

Mental Health

- Marriage and Family Counselor
- Psychotherapist
- Clinical Director
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Mental Health Specialist
- Executive Director
- Disability Services Provider

Medical

- HIV Prevention Specialist
- Emergency-Unit Social Worker
- Triage Intake Coordinator
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Mental Health Outreach Specialist
- Chemical Dependency Counselor
- Pediatric Social Worker
- Rehabilitation Counselor

Legal

- Alternative Sentencing Specialist
- Crime Victim Advocate
- Custody Evaluator
- Juvenile Justice Youth Officer
- Sex Crimes Case Manager
- Social Work Investigator
- Detention Youth Leader
- Governor
- Congressman
- Lobbyist
- Policy Advocate
- Mayor

Administration

- Policy Analyst Specialist
- Program Utilization Coordinator
- Evaluation Consultant
- Director of Development
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Special Event Coordinator
- Intake Coordinator
- Community Outreach Director
- Disability Services Director

Congregation/Church

- Pastor
- Community Ministry Coordinator
- Counselor
- Minister of Outreach and Administration

Education

- Teacher
- Professor
- School Social Worker
- Grant Writer
- Child Placement Specialist
- Program Manager
- Communities in Schools Counselor
- Youth Advocate
- Vocational Training Coordinator

Arts

- Teaching Artist for At-Risk Teen Program
- Art Therapist
- Play Therapist

Business

- Executive Director of Non-Profit
- Human Services Director
- Employee Assistance Plan Specialist

Child and Family

- Adoption Counselor
- Behavior Specialist
- Child Care Director
- Foster Care Supervisor
- Director, Child Abuse Prevention Program
- Family Preservation Worker
- Family Therapist
- Parent Educator
- In Home Outreach Counselor
- Domestic Violence Counselor

- Crisis Intervention Specialist

- Rape Victim Advocate

- Teen Parent Counselor & Educator