Social work is the helping profession. 
Raise People’s Suffering 
Fight for Social Justice 
Improve Lives and Communities

PROFESSIONAL OUTLOOK

715,000 social workers in the U.S.

89,000 jobs projected increase through 2030

On average, in 2021 social workers earned 
$24+ per hour or 
$50,390 per year

8 KEY PRACTICE AREAS

Social workers offer essential services in a variety of settings. Choose your area of interest.

Aging Services 
Child Welfare 
Behavioral Health 
Mental Health

School Social Work 
Political Social Work 
Clinical Social Work 
Health Care Social Work

3 EDUCATIONAL DEGREE OPTIONS

Choose your level of education based on your career goals. Be sure to enroll in a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Bachelor’s in Social Work (BSW)
Required for entry-level non-clinical positions
Includes supervised fieldwork or internship

Master’s in Social Work (MSW)
Typically required for clinical positions
1-2 years to complete
Includes supervised practicum or internship

Doctorate in Social Work (DSW)
Often required for teaching at university level, high-level programs and systems management positions
Includes advanced training in research, supervision and policy analysis

State Licenses
Required for clinical positions (and non-clinical positions in some states)
Need MSW and hours of supervised clinical work post-graduation
Must pass licensure exam

NASW CAREER RESOURCES
Take advantage of NASW’s support throughout your career.
Continuing Education
Advanced Credentials
Career Center – Job Listings
Specialty Practice Sections
Networking and Events
Discounted Student Memberships
Learn more about the social work profession.
socialworkers.org/Careers