

Health Social Workers

WHAT THEY DO

Counsels and aids individuals and families with problems during or following the recovery from physical or mental illness. Provides supportive services designed to help the persons understand, accept, and follow medical recommendations. Belongs to the Human Services cluster; and Counseling and Mental Health Services pathway and Family and Community Services pathway.



IS THIS FOR YOU?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model) by people who tend to succeed in this career:

- **Social** – You are a "helper". You like being around people and helping them with problems. Socializing is fun for you.
- **Investigative**—You are a “thinker”. When you have a problem, you like to analyze it and look at different ways to solve it. You like to work by yourself, and you don't like explaining your ideas to other people.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

- **Achievement** – It's very important to you that your work allows you to use your best abilities. You want to see the results of your work and get a feeling of accomplishment.
- **Independence**—It's very important to you that your work allows you to make decisions on your own. You want to try out your own ideas and work with little supervision.
- **Recognition**—It's very important to you that your work satisfies your need for prestige and leadership opportunities, as well as opportunities for advancement.
- **Support**—It's very important to you to know the company stands behind its workers and has competent, considerate and fair management.
- **Working Conditions**—It's very important to you that your work satisfies your needs in areas like salary, job security and your working style preferences, such as working alone, staying busy all the time or having variety in your work tasks.
- **Relationships** – It's very important to you that you have friendly co-workers. You would like to be of service to others without compromising your sense of right and wrong.

Aptitudes reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in the career:

- **General Learning Ability**
- **Verbal Aptitude**

Source: <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

SKILLS YOU NEED

Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Writing
- Speaking
- Science
- Critical Thinking
- Active Learning
- Learning Strategies
- Monitoring

Transferable (applicable in other careers):

- Counseling and advising people
- Operating computers to record and analyze social science data
- Planning and giving information and help
- Preparing case reports
- Providing social services

Workplace Skills:

High level

- Social Perceptiveness

Medium level

- Complex Problem Solving
- Coordination
- Instructing
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Management of Personnel Resources
- Negotiation
- Operations Analysis
- Persuasion
- Service Orientation
- Systems Analysis
- Systems Evaluation
- Time Management

Additional skills for this occupation may be found at <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/career-exploration-resources>

ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2012 Estimated Employment	2022 Projected Employment	2012-22 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total, All Occupations	1,758,205	1,955,480	197,275	1.1	61,665
Community & Social Service Occupations	25,495	30,165	4,670	1.8	1,050
Healthcare Social Workers	1,565	1,895	330	2.1	65

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

2015 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Average Wage	Average Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Experienced Wage	Experienced Salary
Total, All Occupations	19.77	41,122	9.55	19,858	24.88	51,755
Community & Social Service Occupations	19.62	40,811	11.44	23,792	23.71	49,320
Healthcare Social Workers	23.33	48,531	17.22	35,810	26.39	54,891

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education	Work Experience	Job Training
Master's Degree	None	None

A master's degree in social work (MSW) is typically required for positions in health settings and is required for clinical work as well. Some jobs in public and private agencies also may require an advanced degree, such as a master's degree in social services policy or administration. Supervisory, administrative, and staff training positions usually require an advanced degree. The Iowa Board of Social Work Examiners website at

http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom_state_data/iowa_licensed_occupations/21-10212.htm

provides specific licensure and support information for the state of Iowa. Source:

<http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0> and <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	n.a.
Locating Information	n.a.
Reading for Information	n.a.

This ACT-developed credential demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6).

Source: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/analysis/occup.html>

PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

(Where are Health Social Workers Employed?)

Hospitals
Ambulatory Health Care Services
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities
State Government
Local Government

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

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