



Human Services Worker

Human service worker is a generic term for people who hold professional and paraprofessional jobs in such diverse settings as group homes and halfway houses; correctional centers; community mental health and development disability centers; elder, family, child, and youth service agencies; and programs concerned with drug abuse, alcoholism, family violence, and aging. Depending on the employment setting and the kinds of clients served there, job titles and duties vary a great deal.

The primary purpose of the human service worker is to assist individuals and communities to function as effectively as possible in the major domains of living. Some examples

of occupational titles of human service workers include: Case Worker, Family Support Worker, Life Skills Instructor, Probation Officer, Group Home Worker, Mental Health Worker, Community Outreach Worker, Residential Manager, Care Coordinator.

A strong desire to help others is an important consideration for a job as a human services worker. Individuals who show patience, understanding, and caring in their dealings with others are highly valued by employers. Other important personal traits include effective interpersonal communication skills, a strong sense of responsibility, and the ability to manage time effectively.

Human Services Worker Facts:

Where do human services workers work in Alaska?

Human Service Workers are found in diverse settings such as group homes, correctional facilities, community mental health centers, and a wide variety of other social service programs. In rural Alaska, employment opportunities include regional health corporations and federal, state, and local governmental agencies.

Educational Requirements

The human service worker may be a paraprofessional with a two-year associate degree or a professional with a four-year bachelor's degree.

- Graduation from high school or completion of a GED.
- Completion of a two-year associate of applied science degree in human services, or
- Completion of a four-year baccalaureate degree in human services.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$11.22-\$32.26 (Mean \$22.76)
*based on Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 to 4 years
(after high school graduation)

Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage, Human Services Dept
Web site: <http://hums.uaa.alaska.edu/>

College of Rural & Community Development Health Programs

Web site: <http://ruralhealth.uaf.edu/>
Web site: <https://sites.google.com/a/alaska.edu/human-services-aas-distance-degree/>

University of Alaska Fairbanks, CTC
Web site: www.ctc.uaf.edu/programs/HUMS/index.html

Alaska Pacific University
Web site: www.alaskapacific.edu/academics/Departments/psych/Pages/Default.aspx

National Contact:

National Organization for Human Services
Phone: (770) 924-8899
Web site: www.nationalhumanservices.org/

Mental Health America
Phone: (703) 684-7722
Toll free: (800) 969-6642
Web site: www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/about-us

