



Health Careers In Alaska

www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info

Social Worker

Social workers work with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities to improve the quality of life for all people. They use their knowledge of behavioral health to deal with the emotional and social problems of individuals, families, and communities.

Social workers are trained in multiple roles, such as counselor, advocate, broker, trainer, and policy analyst. Each particular role provides a different set of skills that can be used to assist individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

A social worker who works with individuals may work in

the following areas: as a counselor in a school, hospital, or mental health setting; as a child advocate; as a probation officer; or as a street youth outreach coordinator. Social workers who assist families may teach parenting skills, help reunite families, advocate for families in distress, and mediate in challenging situations. They may also assist families with: communication skills; finding housing, food, or medical resources; or achieving educational goals. Social workers can serve as leaders in promoting and designing more effective humane policies, organizations, and communities.

Social Worker Facts:

Where do social workers work in Alaska?

Social workers in Alaska may work in child welfare, mental health, services for the elderly, family agencies, youth programs, health services, Native corporations, hospitals and other social agencies.

Educational Requirements

Professional social workers can have a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree or a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. To become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), students must have a master's or doctoral degree in social work and two years of fulltime postgraduate clinical work. Educational steps include:

- Graduation from high school with a college preparatory background.
- Completion of a four year bachelor's degree with a social work major.
- Completion of a master's degree in social work. A bachelor's degree in social work is not required to pursue the master's degree.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$11.00-\$36.28 (Mean \$23.34)

**based on Alaska DOL data*

Years in School:

4 or more years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

School of Social Work

University of Alaska Anchorage

Phone:(907) 786-6900

Web site: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/socialwork/>

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Department of Social Work

Phone: (907) 474-7240

Web site: <http://www.uaf.edu/socwork/>

State Contacts:

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

Alaska Chapter

Phone: (907) 332-6279

Toll free: (800) 478-6279

Web site: <http://www.naswak.org>

National Contacts:

National Association of Social Workers

Phone: (202) 408-8600

Toll free: (800) 742-4089

Web site: <http://www.naswdc.org>

