Healthcare Social Worker

What They Do
Provide individuals, families, and groups with the psychosocial support needed to cope with chronic, acute, or terminal illnesses. Services include advising family care givers, providing patient education and counseling, and making referrals for other services. May also provide care and case management or interventions designed to promote health, prevent disease, and address barriers to access to healthcare.

Is This For You?
Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland’s Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

Social – involve working with, communicating with, and teaching people. Involve helping or providing service to others.

Investigative – involve working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking. Involve searching for facts and figuring out problems mentally.

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

Relationships – allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment.

Achievement – allow employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.

Independence – allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.

Abilities reflect a person’s aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career:

- Oral Comprehension
- Oral Expression
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning
- Problem Sensitivity
Skills You Need

- Active Listening
- Social Perceptiveness
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Coordination

Requirements for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Median Skill Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Mathematics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading for Information</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locating Information</td>
<td>5</td>
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Education & Training

Healthcare social workers require a master’s degree in social work, psychology, sociology, or a related program.

Where They Work

The South Dakota Industries which employ the largest number of healthcare social workers are:

- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Nursing Care Facilities
- Residential Mental Health Facilities
- Offices of Physicians
- Local Government

SD Employment & Wages

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 Workers</th>
<th>2024 Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Average Annual Demand for Workers</th>
<th>Median Annual Wage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>$38,090</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional References

- Labor Market Information Center
  www.dlr.gov/mic
- Career OneStop
  www.careeronestop.org
- O*Net Online
  www.onetcenter.org
- mySkills myFuture
  www.myskillsmyfuture.org

Provided By

Labor Market Information Center
South Dakota Dept. of Labor Regulation
605.626.2314

Visit www.dlr.gov/mic and choose Career Exploration & Planning from the left-hand menu, then Hot Careers to obtain most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in the work interests, work values, abilities and skills sections of this occupational profile.

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