



Healthcare Social Worker

STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CODE 21-1022.00

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 – Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- Social Perceptiveness – Being aware of others’ reactions and understanding why they react as they do.
- Speaking - Talking to others to convey information effectively.
- Critical Thinking – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
- Coordination – Adjusting actions in relation to other’s actions.

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

2016 Workers	2026 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Demand for Workers	Average Annual Wage
580	640	60	11%	70	\$40,730

Activities: what you might do in a day

- Collaborate with other professionals to assess client needs or plan treatments
- Intervene in crisis situation to assist clients
- Refer individuals to educational or work programs
- Refer clients to community or social services programs
- Investigate legal issues
- Counsel clients or patients with substance abuse issues
- Maintain client records
- Monitor clients to evaluate treatment progress
- Modify treatment plans to accommodate client needs.

Additional References

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetcenter.org