

November 2019

# HEALTHCARE HIGHLIGHTS

The Rural AHEC Student Newsletter



November's Healthcare Career Focus:

## Social Worker - Licensed Master (LMSW)

Social workers are trained to provide a variety of services to help families, individuals, or groups successfully participate in a community. Services range from therapy to the administration of health and wellness programs. Social workers focus on human development and behavior as they relate to the social, economic, and cultural norms common within a community.

### What might I do as a Social Worker?

Conduct client interviews and counseling sessions to establish a treatment plan/strategy for overcoming obstacles to good mental and social health.

Determine what factors may be impacting the well-being of a client and their ability to successfully function in a given setting, such as physical impairments, drug or alcohol misuse/dependence, psychological/emotional/physical abuse, or traumatic head injuries.

Talk with other medical professionals engaged in providing care to the client and examine patient records such as case notes, lab results, diagnostic testing, medications, and past treatments.

Develop the treatment plan including client goals and treatment options such as counseling, art therapy, behavior therapy, and other treatment tools.

Provide referrals to appropriate agencies and resources as needed while preserving client confidentiality.

Keep current in the field to identify new treatment options that address client needs.



### How do I become a Social Worker?

- Obtain a bachelor's degree
- Graduate from an accredited master's program in social work
- Complete at least 900 hours of a supervised internship
- Take and pass licensing exams in the state in which you would like to work

**Average Salary:**  
Child, Family, or School Social Worker - \$57,970

**Average Salary:**  
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Worker - \$56,430

**Average Salary:**  
Medical and Public Health Social Worker - \$60,060

## ***What is it really like to be a Social Worker?***

Social work is a profession in which you work directly with clients to help them successfully navigate their way in the communities in which they live. It requires strength of character and resiliency to tackle as a career, because social workers face the some of the most challenging situations in the human experience. A social worker must be able to organize and prioritize their work. Maintaining confidentiality and engaging in lifelong learning regarding resources and best practices are important aspects of social work.



[\(http://confessionsofabanshee.com/what-it-really-means-to-be-a-social-worker/\)](http://confessionsofabanshee.com/what-it-really-means-to-be-a-social-worker/)

Meet several social workers in this video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_xqSY3nODbg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xqSY3nODbg)

Meet a high school social worker in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjptGJgtw0s>



***“There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone’s life...”***

Mary Rose McGready

***“Social Work is the Art of Listening and the Science of Hope...”***

unknown

***“At this very moment, there are people only you can reach and differences only you can make...”***

Mike Dooley

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*Please contact us if you have questions about healthcare career opportunities or educational pathways to healthcare careers!*

Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center (R-AHEC) is one of nine centers in the New York State Area Health Education Center (NYSAHEC) organization. Our mission is to improve health and healthcare through education.

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