

Career Opportunities in Social Services

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania offers a wide range of opportunities for individuals in the social services field to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. New college graduates can find various entry-level jobs, while professionals with experience in such areas as social work, employment services, and counseling may pursue positions with greater levels of responsibility. Agencies that most frequently employ these positions include the Departments of Aging, Drug and Alcohol Programs, Health, Human Services, Labor and Industry, and Military and Veterans Affairs. Local government agencies also employ individuals in these program areas.



Some of the rewarding social services opportunities include:

Aging Services Specialists and Supervisors perform specialized professional technical or supervisory work in the development of services for the adult population.

Corrections Counselors counsel individuals in state correctional institutions; develop, implement, and coordinate treatment plans with other institutional activities; develop case records; and participate in parole planning.

Corrections Employment and Vocational Assistants review reports prepared by multi-disciplinary professional staff to evaluate the suitability of incarcerated individuals for job assignments, and maintain employment and training records.

County Caseworkers provide services to individuals, families, or groups (needy, aged, people with disabilities, institutionalized, or dependent adults and children) to help them attain a more satisfactory social, economic, mental, or physical adjustment to their environment.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialists and Supervisors treat the drug and/or alcohol dependence problems of state correctional institution inmates and residents of state mental hospitals, youth development centers and forestry camps, or secure treatment units.

Income Maintenance Caseworkers learn regulations and procedures to determine client eligibility for public assistance programs, help clients identify and remove barriers to financial self-sufficiency, and make referrals for appropriate services.

Licensed Psychologists Managers, Corrections supervise psychological services staff and may be responsible for coordinating a segment of a psychological services program within a state facility.

Psychological Services Specialists, Corrections select, administer, score, and interpret a wide range of psychological tests, interview and counsel, and prepare and implement behavioral plans for residents of state correctional institutions.

Social Workers and Supervisors interview clients, families, and others to gather information on client physical, mental, emotional, and social functioning; participate with staff to develop and implement individual care and treatment plans; and document client progress in meeting goals and objectives.



Therapeutic Recreational Services Workers and Supervisors develop, implement, and oversee therapeutic recreational segments of treatment plans to further the comprehensive treatment or habilitation of individuals with mental or developmental disabilities.

Veterans Employment Representatives provide job related information and outreach services to disabled and other military veterans. Work includes the development of relationships with employers, career training facilities, community organizations, and veteran organizations on behalf of securing employment and other services for veterans.

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors identify barriers to employment caused by disabilities; evaluate customers' strengths, interests, abilities, and aptitudes; and work with customers to develop and implement a plan resulting in suitable employment.

Volunteer Resources Coordinators plan and develop volunteer resources in a state mental health hospital, mental retardation center, or veterans' home.

Benefits:

As the second largest employer in Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth offers unparalleled opportunities for training, development, and career advancement statewide. Most permanent, full-time employees also enjoy benefits such as:

- Exceptional medical benefits (including vision, dental, and prescription drug benefits)
- Generous vacation, sick, personal, and holiday leave
- Outstanding retirement options
- Cost-effective optional benefits, such as: Pre-tax savings for dependent care, group life/auto/home insurance programs, State Employees Assistance Program for employees and family members, and membership in the Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union

For information on currently available positions, please visit the Commonwealth's employment website at www.employment.pa.gov. Visitors to the website may also subscribe to receive Job Alerts to be informed via email each time a new position is available. To subscribe, go to the Open Jobs page, click on "Subscribe to Job Alerts," and then select the Social Sciences category.

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