

# Social Worker

Everyone has problems. It's a guaranteed part of life. In many cases, people sort things out and move on. Sometimes the problems are so big that people need help. Social workers help people find solutions when they are struggling with big problems like homelessness, drug addiction, serious illnesses, and abuse. This career is all about serving people in need.



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*(Feel free to use the back of this sheet for longer answers)*

## What Do Social Workers Do?

Wherever people with big problems are found, you are likely to find social workers. They work at mental health clinics, drug rehabilitation centers, child welfare agencies, and hospitals. Some social workers specialize in providing counseling and therapy services. Others help link people with services and care that they need. For instance, a social worker specializing in family services might be involved in removing children from an abusive situation and placing them in foster care. Some social workers are patient advocates who help patients get proper medical treatment.

All social workers must earn a master's degree in social work. This type of work can be difficult and, at times, heartbreaking. Even so, it is rewarding and there is no doubt that social workers make a difference in people's lives.

## CHALLENGE #1: *If you had this career...*

What kind of training would you need?

Where could you find a job?

How much money could you earn?

Who would you help and how would you make a difference?

Why would (or wouldn't) you like doing a job like this?

## CHALLENGE #2: *Think Tank*



Moving from one school to another is never easy. Finding your way around, trying to fit in, and making new friends are tough challenges for anyone. Just imagine how much more difficult it would be if you were, not only moving schools, but moving from one country to another. Your clothes are different. The food you bring for lunch is different. You don't even speak the same language!

Your job as social worker for your school is to help immigrant students adjust to their new situations. Come up with a list of ideas to help them cope with the changes they face. Be specific about things like figuring out their class schedules, learning to speak English, and making friends.