

Human Service Workers and Assistants is a generic term for people with various job titles, including **Social Service Assistant, Case Management Aide, Social Work Assistant, Community Support Worker, Alcohol or Drug Abuse Counselor, Mental Health Aide, Outreach worker, Life Skills Counselor,** and **Gerontology Aide**. They usually work under the direction of professionals from a variety of fields, such as nursing, psychiatry, psychology, rehabilitative or physical therapy, or social work. The amount of responsibility and supervision they are given varies a great deal. Some have little direct supervision; others work under close direction.

Human service workers and assistants play a variety of roles in a community. They may organize and lead group activities, assist clients in need of counseling or crisis intervention, or administer a food bank or emergency fuel program. In **halfway houses, group homes,** and **government-supported housing programs,** they assist adults who need supervision with personal hygiene and daily living skills. They review clients' records, ensure that they take correct doses of medication, talk with family members, and confer with medical personnel and other care givers to gain better insight into clients' backgrounds and needs.

Human service workers also provide emotional support and help clients become involved in their own well being, in community recreation programs, and in other activities.

In **psychiatric hospitals, rehabilitation programs,** and **outpatient clinics,** human service workers work with professional care providers, such as psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers to help clients master everyday living skills, to teach them how to communicate more effectively, and to get along better with others. They support the client's participation in a treatment plan, such as individual or group counseling or occupational therapy.

Salary Information:

- Human Services, Associate in Applied Science
\$22,520 Median Salary (Follow-up Study, Monroe Community College Graduates, 2008)
- Social and Human Service Assistants
\$29,170 Median Salary (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008)
- **Social and Human Service Assistants for the Rochester, New York area:**
\$27,300 Median Salary Range (Career One Stop, 2008)

[*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location]

Additional Information:

- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:** <http://www.hhs.gov/>

