

## 0185-Social Worker

### Career Description

The Department of Defense (DoD) offers social work services to military, beneficiaries, and their families at military treatment hospitals and clinics worldwide. Wounded warriors are suffering serious mental health disorders ranging from post-traumatic stress, anxiety, and depression any of which can lead to substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and suicide. Social workers require knowledge of the principles and practices of social work and provide direct services to individuals and families, including work with individuals in groups.

DoD employs both clinical and non-clinical social workers, however, the greatest need in DoD is for Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW). Non-clinical positions may include those concerned with teaching social work, doing research on social work problems, training of social work students, and providing consultation and advice to members of related professions and community on social work questions. Some social work positions may also require specialized knowledge and skill in specialty treatment programs such as child and adolescent services, marriage and family therapy, substance abuse, and family advocacy.

### Education and Licensure

Licensed social workers must fulfill all of the requirements for a Master's degree in social work in a school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Social Workers must possess an independent practice license in a U.S. state, territory or Washington, DC as required by the specific position. The licensure requirement must be approved by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). When required, for certain positions, they must have certification (e.g., substance abuse certification) acquired through passing a proctored exam from a state or nationally accredited certifying body.

Recently, several colleges and universities have added Master's level graduate programs in Military Social Work. Such programs are located at the University of Southern California, University of Maryland, University of South Florida-Tampa, University of Washington-Tacoma, and University of North Carolina (this list may not be all inclusive). This program prepares students to care for service members, veterans and their families, helping them cope with the stresses of military life. In addition, students learn how to help community-based agencies identify and serve military populations in their community.

### Salary and Benefits

DoD healthcare opportunities feature competitive starting salaries, and may include a higher special salary rate in certain locations, comprehensive health and life insurance benefits, transit subsidy, professional development and training opportunities and flexible hours designed to provide the ability to achieve and maintain a balanced lifestyle.

To find more information about current job openings for Social Workers in the Department of Defense go to [USAJOBS.gov](http://USAJOBS.gov) and the [ARMY](#), [AIR FORCE](#), [NAVY](#) websites.

**Source:** [USC Social work program](#).

U.S. Office of Personnel Management,  
**Source:** National Association of Social Workers