

## SOCIAL WORKER

**Licensing Authority** Paulette Lappe  
Board of Social Work Examiners  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Lucas State Office Bldg 5<sup>th</sup> Fl  
321 E 12<sup>th</sup> St  
Des Moines IA 50319-0075  
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**Legal Authority** Code of Iowa, Chapter 154C; Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 280

**Job Description** Social workers enhance or restore people's capacity for social functioning. They utilize analytic and intervention skills to apply psychosocial theory methods to individuals, couples, families, groups, and communities. This occupation does not include psychologists or psychiatrists. Social workers deal with individuals and/or groups of people concerned with bringing about changes in their lives; try to secure the appropriate resources, services, education, information, job training or method to meet the client's needs; and, help individuals understand themselves and how to work within the existing system.

Clinical social workers also diagnose and treat individuals and families for emotional disabilities. They plan and conduct programs for children, teenagers, adults, older persons, and groups with similar situations.

Social workers, with input from their clients, record goals and plans of action for their clients and then maintain detailed reports of their clients' progress. They may be licensed at three levels of practice: the bachelor, master's, or independent level. The title social worker includes: **case worker, probation and parole officer, community worker, and correctional treatment specialist.**

**Education & Experience Required** A licensed social worker must have the appropriate level of education and experience according to the level at which they choose to practice:  
**Bachelor Social Work:** *Must* possess a bachelor's degree in Social Work and pass the basic level of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) exam.  
**Master Social Work:** *Must* possess a master's degree in Social Work and pass the intermediate level of the ASWB exam.  
**Independent Social Work:** *Must* possess a master's degree in Social Work, practice social work for two years as a full-time employee or complete 4,000 hours employment under the supervision of a licensed, independent social worker after receiving a master's or doctoral degree in Social Work and passing the clinical level of the ASWB exam.

A license may be upgraded if the applicant obtains additional education or experience. Out-of-state applicants must meet Iowa requirements.

**Continuing Education** Twenty-seven hours of continuing education are required biennially for license renewal. Three of these hours must be in ethics.

**Examination** Bachelor Social Work – must pass the basic level of the ASWB exam  
Master Social Work – must pass the intermediate level of the ASWB exam  
Independent Social Work – must pass the clinical level of the ASWB exam

For information on examination dates, please contact the ASWB above or visit the following site on the Web: <http://www.aswb.org>.

**Fees** Application: \$100  
Duration: Two Years (expires Dec. 31 of each even-numbered year)  
Renewal: \$60 – Bachelor level  
\$100 – Master's level  
\$120 – Independent level  
Exam: Arrangements made by applicant, fee paid to exam service

**SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage** 21-1021 – Child, Family, and School Social Workers (\$16.29)

**Number of Licenses Issued** Total number of licenses active as of December 31, 2001: 5,305

**For Additional Information** Iowa Department of Public Health Web site: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>  
National Association of Social Workers  
IC-Career Information  
750 First St NE Ste 700  
Washington DC 20002-4241

National Network for Social Work Managers Inc  
1316 New Hampshire Ave NW Ste 602  
Washington DC 20036

Council on Social Work Education  
1600 Duke St Ste 300  
Alexandria VA 22314-3421  
<http://www.cswe.org>

Association of Social Work Boards  
400 South Ridge Pky Ste B  
Culpepper VA 22701  
<http://www.aswb.org>