

The BSW Job Search

Think Outside the Box

Trying to find a job can be overwhelming. Do not get discouraged—there are resources that can help as you enter the job market and begin competition for employment. Keep in mind that your rigorous social work training qualifies you to work in a variety of settings and capacities.

As a BSW you enter the field with foundation knowledge in:

- Human behavior and development
- Policy
- Community organizing
- Cultural diversity
- Clinical skills
- As well as having gained professional experience through internships!

In addition to skills and experience, your degree is strengthened by qualifying its recipients to:

- Receive licensure
- Enter advanced standing MSW programs
- And is generally awarded from a CSWE accredited institution

BSWs have the support of National Association of Social Workers—which provides professional consultation, resources and practice guidance BSW practitioners can depend on and bring to their place of employment.

Good Practices

Build relationships: Professors, supervisors, and others—you WILL need them for references/networking.

Take advantage of Career Services: Through school or alumni association.

Attend resume & cover letter workshops: They are more than worth the effort. Keep in mind, employers really read your application materials closely! You want to make sure your materials are relevant, clear, and of course, grammatically correct.

Start your search early: Be patient, and do not get discouraged– it can take time.

Highlight relevant experience: Don't discount your experiences, they could help give you an edge over other applicants.

Follow up interviews with phone calls and thank you notes: It's a polite courtesy and highlights your genuine interest in the position.

Typical Job Titles

Extend yourself to search for positions that aren't explicitly titled "Social Worker."

Titles to search can include:

- Habilitation Specialist
- Mental Health Assistant
- Group Home Worker
- Anything including 'Counselor'
- Program Coordinator
- Activity Director
- Workshop Director
- Case Manager
- Community Organizer
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Intake Worker
- Family Services
- Child Welfare
- Public Health

Those agencies that utilize bachelor's level practitioners include, but are not limited to:

- Departments of Social Services, particularly in rural settings
- County health and home health agencies
- Group homes for those who are developmentally delayed or have emotional or mental illness
- Shelters
- Nursing homes

Take advantage of [NASW member benefits](#)! We have a job bank, resume assistance, as well as networking and other career development opportunities through Local Program Units and Practice Area Networks.

It is not too late to join at our discounted, student rate! www.naswnc.org