

Licensed Social Worker

Social workers help individuals and groups with mental disorders, family difficulties, addictions, community issues, and more. New York licenses two types of social workers: **Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSWs)** and **Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs)**. The LMSW is the initial master's level degree for the profession and is required to provide clinical social work services under supervision. LCSWs can perform the functions of a LMSW, diagnose patients, and perform other clinical services without supervision. Examples of activities:

- assess clients, develop treatment plans, and evaluate progress
- identify resources and advocate for clients
- provide direct services such as counseling and case management
- engage in research, analysis and community organization

Education

LMSW: master's degree in social work, acceptable to the Department. **LCSW:** MSW degree, acceptable to the Department with at least 12 credits of clinical coursework. Visit the [Office of the Professions](#) for a listing of all options and requirements.

Experience

LMSW: no post-MSW experience required. **LCSW:** 36 months and 2,000 client contact hours of supervised experience in post-LMSW diagnosis, psychotherapy, and assessment-based treatment planning.

Examination

LMSW: "Masters" examination administered by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). **LCSW:** ASWB "Clinical" examination.

Video



Salary and Projected Growth

- Salary range: \$37,490-\$77,590
- Projected growth: average to faster than average

Where Could I Work?

- Social assistance agencies and charitable organizations
- Health settings: hospitals, mental health and residential facilities, homes
- Health program administration
- Education, research, and government

Your Interests and Abilities

- Human development/behavior
- Cultural competency
- Knowledge of mental health issues and treatments
- Case management

Professional Skills

- Concern for others
- Critical thinking
- Adaptability
- Communication

What Interests You?

Match your interests and personality to career options!

Explore a free career tool at mynextmove.org/explore/ip

Tip: try searching for mentoring programs—talk to a licensed social worker about what they do and how they got started!