

## **CAREERS IN HUMAN SERVICES FOR FAMILIES**

From Careers Serving Families and Consumers,

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& Family Science: Professional Development and Career Opportunities,

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*\*Please note that some of these careers require Master's Degrees, Doctoral Degrees, special licensing or special education.*

### **Child Development**

A career in child development can include many different specializations dealing with the health, education, and welfare of children of all ages. The goal of all occupations in this field is to improve children's physical, emotional, and educational well-being.

#### ***Career Opportunities***

##### **Early Childhood Education**

- Day Care Centers
- Head Start Programs
- Montessori Schools, Child Development Consultant

##### **Government & Public Policy**

- Departments of Child & Family Services

As these titles indicate, there are opportunities in schools, social service agencies, camps, religious organizations, community organizations, the YMCA and YWCA, the Boy Scouts, and the Girl Scouts.

### **Adolescent Services**

Growing up today is more difficult than ever before. Perhaps you remember all the challenges of your adolescent years: succeeding at your school education, forming a positive self-image, making friends, avoiding the temptations of drugs and alcohol, learning to deal with sexual relations, discovering the adult world, taking greater responsibility for your life, and making decisions for yourself. Such are the makings of many problems in present-day adolescent life, but fortunately, there are many professional services to help teenagers and young adults solve their problems.

#### ***Career Opportunities***

##### **Community- Based Social Services**

- Youth Development Programs
- Teen Pregnancy Counselor

##### **Education**

- Public School Teaching in Family Consumer Sciences (Certification)
- Sexuality Education

##### **Faith-Based Organizations**

- Youth Worker

Programs specializing in the problems of adolescence exist in government service agencies, hospitals, and counseling agencies such as adolescent care centers, pregnancy centers, Planned Parenthood center, and halfway houses. There are also programs for adolescent problems such as juvenile delinquency, alcoholism, and drug abuse.

## **Marriage and Family Therapy**

Professional counseling and therapy in marriage, family life, and child development have become important helping professions in our society. Marriage and family counselors and therapists are professionally trained in understanding, explaining, and resolving personal problems, social problems, marital problems, family violence, and educational development. Some may concentrate on economic and financial matters, as explained in the following Career Profile, "Financial Planning and Counseling". The goal of family counseling is to increase the quality of family life and the stability of the family unit. Many counselors also specialize in leading individuals and families into more productive lifestyles, thereby avoiding problems before they occur.

### ***Career Opportunities***

#### **Family Intervention**

- Family therapist
- Individual & Family therapy
- Case Manager for Family Treatment Plans
- Crisis & Hotline Services
- Court-Mandated Parent Education Programs
- Divorce Mediation
- Abuse Protection Services
- Drug & Alcohol Prevention Counselors
- Residential Treatment Programs
- Victim/Witness Support Services

#### **Faith-Based Organizations**

- Family Mentor

Many of these jobs are found in government, hospitals, social services agencies, health maintenance organizations (HMO), counseling agencies, and private therapy businesses.

## **Financial Planning and Counseling**

A new and growing field for careers is the general area of family financial services. Two principal careers in this field are family financial planning and family financial counseling. Those who find this field to be of interest should also consider the related field of consumer affairs.

### ***Career Opportunities***

#### **Business, Consumer & Family Resource Services**

- Consumer protection Agencies
- Family Financial Counseling & Planning
- Family Resource Management
- Research on Work and Families
- Family Business Consultant

## **Social Welfare**

*Social welfare* is a generic term for a remarkable range of careers in the social services devoted to helping people with special needs. These services include the specialized professions of child development, adolescent services, and family counseling described earlier, and many others as well, such as those related to aid to families with dependent children, employment counseling, unemployment compensation, displaced homemakers, senior citizens, child abuse, family violence, meal services for the needy or disabled, community recreation, and community charity. All offer career prospects for the socially concerned professional.

### *Career Opportunities*

#### **Business, Consumer & Family Resource Services**

- Food Assistance Programs

#### **Community- Based Social Services**

- Adoption Agencies
- Foster Care Programs
- Family preservation Worker
- Welfare Assistance for Low-Income Families
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Job Training
- Adult Day Care Providers
- Gerontology Programs

### **Rehabilitation**

Rehabilitation is a specialized subarea of social welfare. Professionals in rehabilitation carry out a wide range of specialized activities to help people who are disabled or disadvantaged lead as normal a life as possible. Professionals work with the physically and mentally challenged, with low-income groups, and with other client populations that require special help. Their activities include counseling, physical therapy, and the design of special clothing to fit the needs of people with physical limitations or disabilities.

### *Career Opportunities*

#### **Health Care & Family Wellness**

- Public Health Programs & Services
- Hospital Family Support Professionals
- Nutrition Education & Counseling
- Prenatal and Maternity Services
- Holistic Health Centers
- Long-Term Care Administrator
- Hospice Programs

### **International Development**

There are opportunities for human service professionals to work in international development throughout the world. There is a great need for human services and human welfare on all continents, but particularly in the developing nations. The same human services that are needed in the United States are needed in other countries as well and often, more desperately. The settings in which international development specialists work can be far different from those in the United States, and approaches to the solution of human problems can also be different, given cultural and language differences. These differences should not be considered drawbacks; a job in international development is a chance to expand one's awareness of the world while helping others.

### *Career Opportunities*

#### **International Education & Development**

- International Family Policy Analyst
- Peace Corps and NGO Leadership
- Global Family Planning Programs
- Community & Sustainable Development
- International Human Rights Advocacy
- Immigration & Migrant Families Services