History of VA Social Work
Veterans Bureau General Order dated June 16, 1926, established the Social Work program in the Veterans Bureau, outlining its organization and functions. The first year staffing consisted of 36 social workers. Today, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) employs over 8000 Master’s prepared social workers.

Clinical Social Workers
Social workers utilize case management, individual, group work and other major treatment modalities in helping Veterans and their families/caregivers handle the social, emotional, environmental, cultural, and economic pressures influencing continuity of family/community life during periods of illness, stress and disability. The VA Social Worker participates with other professional disciplines in synthesizing and maximizing rehabilitation goals.

VA Social Workers
Program Involvement
★ Primary Care
★ Community Based Programs, including homeless programs, substance abuse services, psychosocial rehabilitation and residential care services
★ Geriatrics and Extended Care Programs
★ Inpatient Medical/Surgical
★ Mental Health and Behavioral Health
★ OEF/OIF Care Management
★ Polytrauma Programs
★ Spinal Cord Injury
★ Women Veterans Program
★ VA Liaisons for Health Care

Opportunities for Graduate Level Field Placements
The Department of Veterans Affairs is affiliated with over 180 Graduate Schools of Social Work and operates the largest and most comprehensive clinical training program for social work students – training over 900 students per year. The majority of students receive generous VA stipends.

How to Apply for a Social Work Position in the Department of Veterans Affairs:
Applicants can search the internet at: www.usajobs.opm.gov and www.vacareers.com

Contact numbers and facility locator can be found at www.va.gov. Click on “Locations” pop up on the right, “Hospitals and Clinics”.

Applicants may also contact the Social Work Chief or Executive and/or Human Resources at the facility where they desire employment for information about local opportunities and application procedures.

Revised 8/10 by the
National Social Work Public Relations Committee,
National Social Work Program,
Care Management and Social Work Service
Department of Veterans Affairs

Visit us on the web at: www.va.gov/socialwork
## Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Mission Statement

Honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being.

## Mission of VA Social Work

The mission of VA Social Work is to eliminate psychosocial complications as significant barriers to health care interventions for Veterans, their families, and caregivers.

## Values

VA social workers are committed to the psychosocial welfare of Veterans, their families, and caregivers. We offer social work staff as our greatest resource.

## Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Vision Statement

VHA will continue to be the benchmark of excellence and services that are both patient centered and evidence based.

This care will be delivered by engaged, collaborative teams in an integrated environment that supports learning, discovery, and continuous improvement.

## Employee Diversity and Inclusion

**Mission**

To foster a diverse and inclusive work environment that ensures equal opportunity through national policy development, workforce analysis, outreach, retention, and education to best serve our nation’s Veterans.

**Vision**

VA is a leader in creating and sustaining a high performing workforce by leveraging diversity and empowering all employees to achieve superior results in service to our Veterans.

Information can be found at: [www.diversity.hr.va.gov](http://www.diversity.hr.va.gov)

## Vision

In return for the investment of Veterans’ trust and institutional support, VA social workers will provide the foremost leadership in the psychosocial care of Veterans, their families, and caregivers.

### VA Social Worker Career Benefits

- Excellent salary with regular pay increases
- Exceptional advancement opportunities
- Generous vacations and sick leave with paid holidays
- Health, life and long term insurance plans
- Excellent retirement plan
- Mobility opportunities
- Continuing social work education opportunities
- Clinical supervision for state licensure

## Career Opportunities

- Clinical, Case Management, Administrative, and Executive Positions
- Research
- Social Work field instruction
- Relationships with local Schools of Social Work
- Partnerships with community agencies
- Partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies

## Succession Planning Opportunities

- Social Work and VA mentoring program
- Opportunities for membership on National Social Work committees
- Opportunities for career advancement nationwide
- Leadership training programs

## Additional Benefits from VA Employment

- Family friendly work place
- Employee health and wellness programs
- Employee associations
- On-site dining facilities and retail stores
- Child care services at some facilities
- Professional union at most facilities