

The Social Work Workforce: *Shifting the Context*

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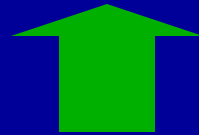


Social Work Projected to Grow

- BLS projected that social work would grow “faster than average” from 2008-2018
- Current behavioral healthcare workforce is inadequate to provide services to those who currently need them
- Demand for social work expected to increase in various sectors

Support from Foundations

Benchmark Study of Social Work Labor Force



- The Atlantic Philanthropies
- The John A. Hartford Foundation
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Study Findings

- Impending Shortage of Social Workers
 - Replacing retiring workers
 - Retaining the current workforce
 - Recruiting the next generation
 - Student loan debt
 - Low salaries

Workforce Shortages Predicted

- Nursing
- Dentistry
- Pharmacy
- Medicine
- Social Work
- Public Health
- Teachers
- Corrections
- Long-Term Care
- Child Welfare
- Allied Health

Not All Shortages Created Equally

“... approximately 110,000 professional social workers will be needed in long-term care settings by 2050.”

*“... social workers in long-term care settings perform tasks. . . **that may also be performed by other disciplines.**”*

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2006)

The Good News

*Best Careers 2011: Medical and Public
Health Social Worker*

US News.com Dec 2010

*Top Recession-Proof Jobs:
#4 Counseling and Social Work*

Forbes.com November 2008



The Bad News

Money Guru Suze Orman Offers Social Workers Advice, “Live Below Your Means.”

Socialworkersspeak.org March 2011

Survey Finds Behavioral Health Workers Earn Less Than Fast Food Workers

National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, 2011



More Bad News

*Stressful Jobs That Pay Badly:
#1 Social Work*

CNNMoney.com

*Worst Paying College Degrees:
#1 Social Work*

HuffingtonPost, May 2010



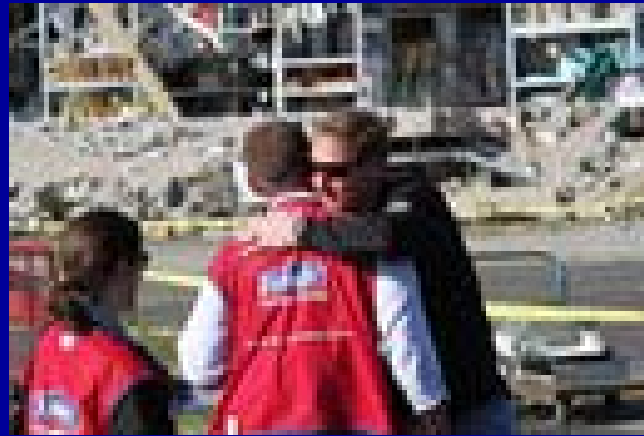
The “Take-Away”

You will have a job—
you will be underpaid.

Who Benefits From Social Work?



Who Benefits From Social Work?



“Please Don’t Feed Our Bums”



Anti-Homelessness Laws

- Prohibitions against
 - “Camping” in particular public places in the city
 - Loitering in particular public areas
 - Begging in particular public places
 - “Aggressive” panhandling
 - Food sharing in public places

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (2009)



Social Work: Safety Net for the Civil Society

- Keeping members of society connected
- Protects the standards of a civil society
- Establishes the “floor”
- A mandate to invest in the social work workforce

NASW Center for Workforce Studies

<http://workforce.socialworkers.org>

