I want to start my career in... Social Work

What will I do?
Social Workers provide assistance to improve the mental and emotional state of children and their families. The main goal of this work is to maximize the well-being of families and their children.

What are the important facts?

Job Growth
There will always be a need for Social Work in Silicon Valley. This is an important career because the services being provided help struggling children and their families get back on their feet.

In California, Social Work is expected to have 1,730 job openings between 2012 and 2022. This means there is a 17% employment increase in the state--this level of employment increase means there will be plenty of jobs available in this field.

Wage/Salary
Average hourly wage in San Jose is $41.66 with an annual salary of $86,660. In Silicon Valley the living wage for a single person is $16.00 an hour.

Required Training
Social Workers are required to have at least an Associate’s Degree in psychology, sociology or counseling. Once finished with an Associate’s Degree, individuals can transfer into the Social Work Bachelors program at any University offering Social Work.

The first step in pursuing a career in Social Work, is to attend a Community College that offers the above Associates Degree programs—psychology, sociology, and counseling.

What are typical tasks?

• Keep record of visits with clients.
• Assist Case Managers.
• Consult with supervisors concerning programs for individual families.
• Advise clients regarding food stamps, child care, and any necessary financial assistance.
• Help clients enroll in necessary government services.
• Assist with locating housing for homeless individuals or families.

What would make this career a great fit for me?
• You have a passion for working with vulnerable populations.
• Able to work on a team.
• Able to maintain calm in stressful situations.
• Have a passion for helping others struggling financially, physically, and emotionally.
• Able to pay attention to detail when recording client visits.

Where can I get the training I need?
• De Anza College
• Foothill College
• Gavilan College
• San Jose City College
• West Valley College

Salary.com: http://www1.salary.com/CA/San-Jose/Social-Worker-BSW-salary.htm
Google Images: https://www.flickr.com/photos/armymedicine/6197813207
I want to start my career in...

**Social Work**

**Step 1**
Learn the skills employers say you need. Begin your education.

**Education & Training: Social Work**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community College</th>
<th>Four-Year University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals starting out at the Community College level can receive their Associates Degree in psychology, sociology or counseling. These areas of study will help individuals get into the Bachelors of Social Work Programs at the University Level.</td>
<td>Bachelor's Degree in Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Anza College</td>
<td>San Jose State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foothill College</td>
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</table>

**Step 2**
Find a job that fits your level of education and training.

**Career Pathways for Social Workers**

**Entry-Level Positions:**

**Social Service Assistant**

Individuals need an Associate’s Degree in psychology, sociology or counseling.

**Employers:**
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Social Service Agencies
- Individual and Family Services

**Labor Market Information:**
- Average hourly wage in San Jose is $20, with an annual salary of $41,000.

**Mid-Level Positions:**

**Social Worker, Non Clinical**

1-2 years of work experience AND a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work is required to move up from an entry to mid-level position.

**Employers:**
- Nonprofit Organizations
- County and City Jobs
- Child Protective Services

**Labor Market Information:**
- Average hourly wage in San Jose is $41.66, with an annual salary of 86,660

In order to advance from Entry-Level to Mid-Level positions, it takes 2-3 years of work experience at an entry-level position AND higher education. These are not the exact career paths individuals have to follow. This is meant to be more of an example.
What are the Skills Employers Look for in Social Work?

Employers are looking for someone who:

- Has at least an Associate's Degree or Certificate of Completion in Psychology, Sociology, or Counseling.
- Has a passion for working with vulnerable populations.
- Who is passionate about helping to improve the lives of families and their children.
- Is capable of staying calm during stressful situations.
- Is able to stay organized.
- Is comfortable conducting home visits.
- Has a driver’s license.
- Feels comfortable talking to clients and helping them through rough situations.
- Has a basic understanding of available government services that clients can access.
- Is capable of working on a team.
- Is able to keep client information confidential.
- Is reliable and dependable.

Employers may also call me:

- Case Manager
- Counselor
- Social Service Worker

Moving up: Social Work

Below are a few examples of how you can eventually move up in your career. These career advancements are options for when you are ready to advance from entry-level to mid or advanced-level positions.

Example Career Ladder: