

## CAREER CORNER

## Social Services Careers

### Child Welfare Worker

Child welfare workers help children whose health and well-being are in jeopardy because the child's parents or guardians are not able to take care of them. If a parent or guardian abuses alcohol or other drugs, or abuses a child, a child welfare worker may remove a child from the family and work with the parents to solve their problems.

To help prepare for this career, you can take psychology, sociology, and communications courses in high school. To become a child welfare worker, a bachelor's or master's degree in social work and a license or certificate from your state may be required.



### Family Counselor

Family counselors help families find ways to work out their problems and communicate more openly and honestly. They work with family members to overcome issues such as depression, marital problems, and parent-child conflicts. Counselors can help individuals build stronger relationships with their families.

To learn more about becoming a family counselor, take psychology and communications courses in high school. Family counselors are required to have a master's degree in counseling and a license in marriage and family therapy.



### Social and Human Services Assistant

A social and human services assistant works under the direction of a social worker, nurse, psychiatrist, psychologist, or a physical therapist. They provide support by assessing a patient's needs and helping that person learn to solve problems.

Social and human services assistants need good communication skills and should demonstrate empathy and understanding. To learn more about this field, take communications, psychology, and sociology classes in high school. A college degree usually is not required, but having a background in the social services field is helpful. In some states, social and human services assistants earn a certificate or an associate's degree.



## CAREER SPOTLIGHT

### Health Educator

**Elizabeth Jenkins** decided to become a health educator when she was in high school. During a teen parenting course, she thought “I could teach this, and teach it better.” After completing an internship, she was hired by a high school pregnancy prevention program.

**Q. What training do you have?**

**A.** I completed a Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention program. Then I became a certified nurse assistant so that I could work with school nurses. I earned an associate’s degree and am finishing up my bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and business administration.

**Q. What are your health goals for the teens you teach?**

**A.** My main goal is that the teen moms graduate from high school. I encourage these young women to



go to college. I expect all the teens in my school to further their education.

**Q. Are you making an impact?**

**A.** I have teen mothers who have gone to college on scholarships. I know a teen who, after listening to me, left an abusive relationship. I also helped a teen rebuild a relationship with her mother.

### Activity

## Beyond the Classroom

**Writing** Social Services Careers.

Visit your school counselor or someone else in the social services field. Ask that person to tell you about his or her career and other related occupations. Invite the person to describe how individuals with these careers help people. Learn what education requirements there are for these jobs. Find out what high school classes you could take now to help prepare for these careers.

Based on what you learn, create a brochure describing two or three social services careers. Include information about how teens can prepare for these careers. Share the brochure with your classmates.



For more information, use this code to access the Career Corner link at [glencoe.com](http://glencoe.com).