

School of Social Work

California State University, Chico

Social Work is an exciting and rapidly growing career option. People from all backgrounds and experience find their way to Social Work and enjoy a rich career of working with individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities. We require that students considering the Social Work major spend time in a human services organization to discover if a service profession is a good fit, to engage with different populations, and to gain valuable experiences that can enrich classroom discussion and learning.

GAINING RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN HUMAN SERVICES

Human service related experience might include a variety of paid and/or unpaid jobs, service corps, internships, or volunteer work. As a guide for students, we have provided some descriptions of what would count towards their social work experience. Social and human service work may be working with just one individual or a family, or may provide benefits for a community, such as education, medical care, and housing.

We define human service work as *any activity aimed to promote the welfare of others.*

Social Work Micro Practice Experience

Social service experience with individuals, families, small groups, and service delivery systems to promote maximum self-determination, functioning, and quality of life.

May include direct practice work with individuals, counseling, crisis lines, outreach, education work, etc.

Social Work Mezzo Practice Experience

Working with small to medium-sized groups or organizations such as schools, community service organizations, or businesses to promote cultural or institutional change.

May include community organizing work, facilitating support groups, organizational management, program evaluation, etc.

Social Work Macro Practice Experience

Working in organizations, communities, and the policy environment to advance social and economic justice, protect human rights, and/or enhance health, well-being and empowerment of disadvantaged communities.

May include conducting research, advocacy work, leadership roles in nonprofit or government agencies, building community capacity, etc.

In Human Service work you will find yourself supporting and advocating for anyone who is part of an under-represented and/or under-served community.

Examples of Human Service Populations:

- Women
- Families, children, youth
- Older Adults
- Homeless
- LGBTQ
- Immigrants/refugees/non-citizens
- Low-income communities
- Communities of Color
- Justice & corrections
- Individuals with mental or physical disabilities
- Populations impacted by education inequity, health disparities, environmental injustice, or poverty





LOCAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Northern California

Many of these organizations serve multiple Northern California counties.

- Butte Home Health & Hospice
- Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley
- CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Caring Choices
- CAVE - for current Chico State Students
- Girls Scouts / Boys Scouts
- Northern California Counties Time Bank
- Northern Valley Catholic Social Service (NVCSS)
- North State Food Bank
- PASSAGES
- Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- United Way
- Victor Community Support Services

Butte County

- Butte 2-1-1
- Esplanade House
- Caring Choices
- Catalyst Domestic Violence Services
- Chico Peace & Justice Center
- Chico Unified School District
- Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc.
- Esplanade House
- Home & Heart
- HOPE Center
- Jesus Center
- Reading Pals
- Torres Community Shelter
- Work Training Center

Glenn County

- Disaster Healthcare Volunteers
- Glenn 2-1-1
- Glenn Adult Literacy Program
- Harmony House
- Volunteer Medical Transportation Program

Shasta

- Dignity Health Connected Living's Senior Corp Program
- Good News Rescue Mission
- Help, Inc. Helpline
- MHSA Volunteer Program
- One SAFE Place
- Shasta 2-1-1
- Shasta County Foster Care
- Shasta Family YMCA Plus One Mentors Program
- Suicide Prevention Workgroup

Tehama County

- Bridgeway to Hope
- Empower Tehama
- P.A.T.H. Tehama County Coalition
- SERFF Program - Safe Education & Recreation for Rural Families
- Tehama 2-1-1
- Tehama County Gleaners, Inc.
- Victim Advocates

Yuba/Sutter County

- ACRC - Alta California Regional Center
- Casa de Esperanza
- Gleaners Food Bank Inc. Yuba-Sutter
- Feather River YMCA
- Freedom Home Health and Hospice Care Services Inc.
- Fremont Hospice
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hands of Hope
- Marysville Youth and Civic Center
- Trauma Intervention Program (TIP)
- Yuba City Senior Center

Additional Ideas

- Food bank / food pantry / meal kitchen / meal center
- Domestic violence shelters / homeless shelter
- Hospital
- Hotline / crisis line
- In-home care taking / senior living home
- Poll worker
- Tutoring - in person or online

NEED ADDITIONAL HELP IDENTIFYING A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?

Contact the School of Social Work at swrk@csuchico.edu

