

Vacancy Announcement

Announcement #	438-09052	Position	Social Worker (HUD-VASH)		
PayPlan	GS	Series	0185		
TargetGrade	11	Target PD	Pay Range	\$52,912-\$68,787	
Dev Grade	09	Dev PD	Dev Pay Range	\$43,731-\$56,849	
1st Dev Grade		1st Dev PD	1st Dev Pay Range		
Opens	12/23/08	Closes	01/15/09	Openings	1
Tour of Duty, etc	Full-Time				
Special Comments	The procedures outlined in AFGE Master Agreement, Article 22, Section 8 will be followed.				
Service Section	Mental Health SL				
Area/Consideration	US Citizens				
Duty Site	Sioux Falls				
Major Duties	<p>The incumbent serves as the medical center's primary point of contact for the National HUD/VASH Program, Office of Mental Health Services, VACO. The incumbent is responsible for data collection, administrative record keeping, and monitoring patient or program clinical indicators, thresholds, and performance measurements. Additionally, the incumbent develops working relationships and agreements with other organizations and directly coordinates with the designated PHA regarding housing voucher application and award process for each veteran. The incumbent is responsible to review the agreements between Section 8 landlords, PHAs, and the VA to establish appropriate referral sites for placements.</p> <p>The incumbent establishes, implements, and maintains referral and screening procedures for potential HUD/VASH veteran participants that meet national policy as well as the needs of medical center mental health services and residential programs.</p>				

The incumbent evaluates the veteran's situation, abilities, and capabilities, and arrives at a reasoned conclusion including an assessment of vulnerability and prioritization for admission. The incumbent assesses at-risk factors and develops a preliminary plan, involving the veteran and family or significant others, and performs an insightful assessment of serious and complicated cases.

The incumbent develops psychosocial treatment plans, actively involving the veteran and their family or significant others, in coordination with interdisciplinary team members, based on the psychosocial assessments, including goals for clinical treatment. Using known resources, the incumbent makes initial and continuing decisions coordinating the veteran's care through linking and referral to VA medical facilities or Regional Offices and other VA and non-VA services and provides independent consultation and makes recommendation to the interdisciplinary team on course of action. The incumbent effectively provides case management services while utilizing professional skill, objectivity, insight, advanced clinical training, and experience to interpret data and to identify viable treatment options and recognizing potential high risk factors, acuity, and needs for services.

The incumbent provides direct mental health and substance abuse services for veterans and family members or significant others in support of the veteran's treatment. Gives advice, guidance, emotional support and other assistance and provides individual and group counseling services as well as crisis management services needed to maintain the veteran safely in their residence.

Receives and completes consults requesting services from interdisciplinary team members and from other mental health professional on complex, difficult cases, using advanced practice skills and expertise. Also provides consultation to interdisciplinary team members and is responsible for development and maintenance of professional standards of practice and educating others about them.

Time In Grade

Qualifications

Applicants must have demonstrated that they have a sufficient level of knowledge, skills and/or abilities listed in Duties and Responsibilities. Applicants must possess the required competencies to be rated eligible for consideration.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

(1) Applicants must have a Master's Degree in social work from a school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

(2) Be licensed or certified at the Master's level to independently practice social work.

Exception. VA may waive the licensure and/or certification requirement for persons who are otherwise qualified, pending completion of state prerequisites for examination. VA social workers who are not licensed at the time of appointment must be licensed or certified at the Master's level, within 3 years of their appointment as a social worker. Those who fail to obtain state licensure or certification within the required time frames must be removed from the General Schedule (GS)-185 social worker series. This may result in termination of employment.

GS-9: Must meet all basic requirements.

GS-11: In addition to meeting all basic requirements, 1 year of professional social work experience, equivalent to the next lower grade level, under qualified social work supervision. This experience must have been in a clinical setting and must have demonstrated the potential to perform advanced assignments independently.

OR

In addition to meeting basic requirements, a doctoral degree in social work from a school of social work. A doctoral degree in social work from a school of social work may be substituted for the required 1 year of professional social work experience in a clinical setting.

Specialized Experience: Experience that has equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. To be creditable, specialized experience must have been equivalent to at least the next lower grade level. Applicants who have the 1 year of appropriate specialized experience are not required by this standard to have general experience, education above the high school level, or any additional specialized experience to meet the minimum qualification requirements. The required experience must have included experience in planning or conducting a staff development program for graduate social workers and supervision or program management in a social work program.

Non-Qualifying Experience: Clinical social work experience obtained prior to completion of the requirements for a Master's Degree in Social Work does not satisfy this requirement. NOTE: A clinical setting is a medical center, clinic (medical or psychiatric), a residential treatment center, or any other type of facility where social work participates in collaborative treatment and is identified with the medical profession.

The complete VA Qualifications Standards defining the general and specialized experience as well as the provisions to substitute education for experience is available for review in the Human Resources Management Service

Rating Factors

KSAO #1: Knowledge of social work theory and practice.

KSAO #2: Knowledge of and/or ability to locate, develop and maintain cooperative working relationships with hospital referral and community assistance resources.

KSAO #3: Skill in case management, including intake, treatment planning implementation and evaluation, termination and follow-up.

KSAO #4: Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing with a wide variety of individuals.

KSAO #5: Knowledge of needs of homeless veterans.

Application Process

Applicants must submit an application package consisting of:

- VA Form 10-2850c "Application for Associated Health Occupations"
- OF 306, "Declaration for Federal Employment"
- A résumé may also be attached
- Copy of most recent evaluation/appraisal.
- Rating Factor (KSA) narrative.
- If a veteran: Veterans Preference eligible's, including VRA 30% disabled, must submit a copy of ALL DD-214's and a SF-15 (if 10 point preference is claimed) with current (dated within the last 12 months) proof of a service-connected disability.

These forms may be obtained through the Human Resources Office or from www.siouxfalls.va.gov. Application packages are to be submitted to and received in the VA Medical Center, Human Resources Office, 2501 W. 22nd St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105 not later than 01/15/2009. For additional information contact Patricia Hinzman, (605) 336-3230 x5916 or Patricia.Hinzman@va.gov.

APPLICANTS PLEASE NOTE: Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited towards qualifications (particularly positions with a positive education requirement). Therefore, applicants must report only attendance and/or degrees from schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Applicants can verify accreditation at the following website: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>. All education claimed by applicants will be verified by the appointing agency accordingly.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Position is subject to a pre-employment physical examination. Employment will be contingent upon the results of any required physical.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY: Appointees to direct patient care positions must be proficient in spoken and written English as required by 38 U.S.C. 7402(d) and 7407(d).

DRUG TESTING: All applicant(s) tentatively selected for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employment in a Testing Designated Position (TDP) are subject to urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use prior to appointment. Applicant(s) who refuse to be tested will be denied employment with VA.

VET PRO CREDENTIALING: Individuals selected for positions that have patient care responsibilities are subject to undergoing an electronic credentialing process called VetPro. As part of this process, it will be necessary for you to submit complete information concerning your professional education, training, experience, licensure and certifications using VetPro. The candidate selected will be provided with further information on how to use VetPro.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT: Applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, sex, religion, partisan political affiliation, national origin, age, physical or mental handicap. This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and/or hiring process, please notify the agency. A decision for granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

SECURITY: Appointments in the Federal Government are subject to a criminal background investigation.

CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT: Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer (DD/EFT) has been established for new civilian employees and employees competitively selected for promotions and reassignments. Employees meeting this definition must enroll in DD/EFT or request a waiver of enrollment. Information will be provided when the job offer is made and during in processing.