

Social Worker (BSW)

Career Comparisons

	Certified Community Health Worker (CHW)	Social Worker (BSW)
Position Summary	A Certified CHW is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. [1]	Educator, advocate, counselor, case manager, and researcher. [4] Juvenile Court Liaison, probation officer, and human services specialist. [5]
Training and Prerequisites	- Completion of an approved training program for CHW Certification in South Dakota (200 hours of training and 40 hours of shadowing). - Obtain Certification as a Community Health Worker or Community Health Representative in South Dakota. [2]	- Pass designated ASWB exam. [4] - Complete at least Bachelor of Social Work (BSW). - High school diploma or GED before BSW. [5]
Certificate/Licensure	CHWs and CHRs are certified through the Community Health Worker Collaborative of South Dakota (CHWSD) on behalf of the South Dakota Department of Health and South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Medical Services. [2]	- Obtain one of four licenses: - Social Work Associate (SWA) - Social Worker (SW) - Certified Social Worker (CSW) - Certified Social Worker in Private or Independent Practice (CSW-PIP) - Board of Social Work Examiners. [4]
Typical Supervisors	CHWs are primarily supervised by a clinic manager, nursing manager, or other organizational manager.	Supervised by MSW. [7]
Median Hourly Wage (National) [3], [6]		
	Certified Community Health Worker (CHW) – \$24.54	Social Worker (BSW) – \$29.49

Sources:

- [1] American Public Health Association. *Community Health Workers*. 2026. [Link](#)
[2] Community Health Worker Collaborative of South Dakota. *CHW and CHR Certification*. 2026. [Link](#)
[3] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Community Health Workers*. August 2025. [Link](#)
[4] Council on Social Work Education. *Directory of Accredited Programs*. 2026. [Link](#)
[5] HumanServicesEdu.org. *Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)*. May 5, 2026. [Link](#)
[6] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Social Workers*. August 2025. [Link](#)
[7] National Association of Social Workers. *Nursing Home Social Work Practice Standards*. July 2014. [Link](#)