



Social Work 2025 Initiative

Utah needs 11,000 more mental health providers by 2030

Funding is needed to enroll, train, and graduate additional MSWs to address Utah's workforce shortage



77,419 (72%) adults and youth in need of mental health treatment did not receive needed services in 2016.



Suicide is the leading cause of death for Utahns age 10-17  
2nd for Utahns age 18-24  
5th for Utahns age 45-64



Opioid overdose deaths in Utah in 2017

Problem

Every county in Utah is a designated Mental Health Provider Shortage Area, and Utah's mental health rates are higher than the national average.

There is a critical shortage of social workers in the state. Nationally there are between 140-200 licensed social workers (LCSW) per 100,000. However, in Utah there are only 98 LCSWs per 100,000. Further, approximately 18% of the Utah workforce is over 65, possibly increasing the shortage with looming retirement and hour reductions.

If we don't address the workforce shortage:

- Increased Wait Times - the average wait time in Utah for a new patient to see a mental health provider was 9 days. But in settings such as colleges and universities, public hospitals, and primary care facilities, patients typically wait 3-4 weeks. Wait times will continue to increase.
- Decreased access to services - in 2016 the public healthcare system was only able to meet a fraction of the need for mental health (28%) and substance abuse treatment (9.9%). Access will continue to decrease.
- Increased workload for existing social workers - Overworking existing social workers to try and meet the need in the public and private sector causes individuals burn out and leave the field.
- Increased Economic Burden for employers - untreated Mental health issues increase absenteeism and presenteeism is costing businesses an estimated 4 billion per year national wide.
- Increased burden for the state and Utah families - mental health is a contributing factor to lost wages, school absenteeism, homelessness, suicide, substance abuse, intimate partner violence and more.

With support the College of Social Work can train an additional 100 MSW students by 2025

Needed Funding

\$1,516,500

## University of Utah College of Social Work funding request

<b>Proposed budget</b>	
<b>Personnel (salaries and benefits)</b>	
Academic director and administrative support	\$106,500
Assistant professor (lecturer) (1.25 FTE)	\$159,750
Field Education (1.5 FTE)	\$138,450
Academic Advising (.75 FTE)	\$58,500
Contract Instructors	\$32,800
Total Recurring Personnel	\$496,000
<b>Non-Personnel</b>	
Operational supplies	\$7,000
Recruitment & marketing	\$13,500
Total recurring non-personnel	\$20,500
Student tuition offset (100 x \$10,000)	\$1,000,000
<b>Total ongoing funding request</b>	<b>\$1,516,500</b>

### Other source of state funds

The College of Social Work at the University of Utah receives state funding through the University of Utah budget appropriated by the state legislature.