

# SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HOMELESS EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Social work is a regulated health profession in Newfoundland and Labrador. There are over 1700 social workers registered to practice social work throughout the province. Social workers adhere to a Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice in providing essential, competent, and high-quality services.

Registered Social Workers provide essential services and supports for individuals experiencing homelessness. Through their practices in emergency housing shelters, social workers:

- Help individuals find suitable shelter accommodations.
- Assist individuals with completing applications for funding and personal documents (e.g., MCP, SIN, I.D).
- Advocate for funding.
- Provide intake, assessment, and counselling services.
- Help individuals navigate government systems.
- Assist individuals with employment search.
- Teach life skills such as basic hygiene, laundry, dishes, using the bus system.
- Assist individuals in their housing search and viewing bed sitters and apartments.
- Provide basic necessities to individuals such as food, clothing, and personal hygiene items.
- Interact with families of homeless individuals.
- Accompany individuals to court, assist them with finding a lawyer through legal aid, and help them to become familiar with the justice system.
- Connect individuals with community resources.
- Inform social policy change.

Further information about the social work profession can be found at [www.nlcsw.ca](http://www.nlcsw.ca) or by contacting:

Newfoundland & Labrador  
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