

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HOUSING

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 have an integral role in housing as case managers, counsellors, crisis interveners, community liaisons, and policy analysts. Through their practices, social workers in housing provide essential services by:

- Working with individuals and families to assess need and develop appropriate housing plans.
- Providing outreach services and crisis intervention.
- Ensuring individuals have the necessary supports to successfully reside in the community (e.g., home support services and special equipment) and to live independently.
- Participating in community partnership building to support community inclusion.
- Assisting individuals to secure emergency accommodations, transitional housing or longer-term placements as needed.
- Advocating on behalf of individuals (e.g., appropriate accommodations, rental subsidies) and informing social policy (e.g., poverty reduction).
- Facilitating education sessions for landlords and tenants, as well as educating individuals on eviction prevention strategies.
- Raising awareness on homelessness and the impacts of poverty.
- Screening, assessing, and training for interested caregivers.
- Auditing and licensing of personal care and nursing homes.
- Providing direction on housing policies, procedures, and provincial legislation.

Further information about the social work profession can be found at www.nlcsw.ca or by contacting:

Newfoundland & Labrador
College of Social Workers

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