

## Abilities by Social Work Credential Levels (BSW, MSW, LCSW)

Category	BSW (Bachelor of Social Work)	MSW (Master of Social Work)	LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker)
<b>Education Level</b>	Bachelor's degree in social work.	Master's degree in social work (advanced generalist or clinical focus).	MSW with additional clinical training and licensure.
<b>Primary Focus</b>	Entry-level social work: case management and basic support services.	Advanced social work practice in diverse settings: counseling, program development.	Clinical social work with a focus on diagnosis and treatment of mental health.
<b>Typical Clientele</b>	Individuals and families with basic needs (e.g., housing, resources).	Individuals, families, and groups with complex needs (e.g., mental health, trauma).	Clients with mental/emotional health conditions requiring clinical interventions.
<b>Assessment Abilities</b>	Conducts basic needs assessments and resource referrals.	Conducts psychosocial assessments and treatment planning.	Conducts clinical mental health assessments and diagnoses.
<b>Intervention Skills</b>	Provides case management, advocacy, and resource navigation.	Offers short-term counseling, crisis intervention, and program oversight.	Provides long-term psychotherapy and specialized mental health treatments.
<b>Crisis Management</b>	Assists with immediate crises by connecting clients to appropriate resources.	Provides direct crisis intervention and short-term stabilization support.	Addresses acute mental health crises, including suicidality and trauma recovery.
<b>Mental Health Diagnosis</b>	Not authorized to diagnose mental health conditions.	Not authorized to diagnose but can assist in treatment planning.	Licensed to diagnose mental health disorders (e.g., PTSD, anxiety, depression).
<b>Support Groups</b>	Facilitates community-based or basic peer support groups.	Organizes and leads structured groups for targeted needs (e.g., grief counseling).	Runs clinical therapy groups addressing specific mental health conditions.
<b>Collaboration</b>	Collaborates with community agencies and other professionals for resource referrals.	Works with multidisciplinary teams to develop comprehensive care plans.	Coordinates care with other healthcare professionals and community supports.
<b>Plan Development</b>	Implements case management plans, focusing on resource access.	Develops social work-focused plans for clients, including psychosocial interventions.	Creates clinical treatment plans with measurable goals for therapy and recovery.
<b>Billing</b>	Typically salaried by agencies or organizations; no direct billing for services.	Salaried or grant-funded roles; may indirectly support billing processes.	Bills insurance or clients directly for services rendered.