In contemporary life, where issues of social, racial, gender and economic justice shape the challenges encountered by diverse and underserved communities, there continues to be a need for competent and compassionate professionals. Human Services is a newly emerging discipline, and efforts to ensure that individuals and communities receive competent care will require the professionalizing of this field.

Human Services careers include clusters of occupations within the category of "community and social service employment." Occupations within this category are expected to be "very favorable" as the number of human services workers is projected to grow “faster than average” for all occupations through 2024 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2015). This anticipated job growth is attributed to the mounting need for services to help address problems related to mental illness, poverty, developmental disabilities, substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, and a host of other psycho-social-economic issues. The escalating need for childcare, elder home care, and senior citizen services will further bolster the overall projected job growth in the Human Services field. In addition, there is a documented trend of deinstitutionalization, leaving many who are chronically ill to their own devices and in desperate need of community support services. Sentencing guidelines have also become increasingly flexible, favoring alternatives to prison time. This shift has increased the need for community-based social service treatment programs and human service professionals trained to provide support for these targeted populations.

**HSCJ Occupations**
- Behavioral Management Aid
- Case Manager/Worker
- Clinical/Counseling Psychologist*
- Community Organizer/Advocate
- Correction Treatment Counselor
- Family and Child Advocate
- Family Therapist*
- Juvenile and Domestic Violence Counselor
- Juvenile Court Liaison
- Mental Health Counselor*
- Parole Officer
- Pre-Trial Service Officer
- Rehabilitation Case Worker
- Social and Community Service Manager
- Child Welfare Specialist
- Public Policy Advocate
- Social Work Assistant
- Social Worker*

*With Advanced Educational Training

**Areas of Employment**
- Services Organizations
- Public and Private Child Welfare Agencies
- Probation and Parole Offices
- Mental Health Clinics
- Correctional Facilities
- Community Health Centers
- Substance Abuse Clinics
- Health Centers
- Educational Facilities
- Criminal Justice Agencies
- Social Services Agencies
- Business and Industry
- Halfway Houses
- Hospital and Medical Facilities
- Residential Treatment Centers
- Courts
- Senior Centers
- Adoption Centers
- Day Care Facilities
- Group Homes
As a Human Services and Community Justice major, you will work with...

**Communities.** Social and human service assistants foster a rich appreciation for diverse human systems, community-based approaches to justice, advocacy, leadership, policy making, and administration.

**Children and families.** Social and human service assistants ensure that the children live in safe homes. They help parents advocate for needed resources for their children, such as food stamps or childcare.

**The elderly.** These workers help clients stay in their own homes and live under their own care whenever possible. Social and human service assistants may coordinate meal deliveries, locate and provide a range of services with the clients' day-to-day needs, or look for residential care facilities, such as nursing homes.

**People with disabilities.** Social and human service assistants help find rehabilitation services that aid their clients. They may work with employers to make a job more accessible to people with disabilities, or they may find personal care services to help clients with daily living activities, such as bathing and making meals.

**People with addictions.** Human service assistants find rehabilitation centers that meet their clients' needs. They also may find support groups for people who are dependent on alcohol, drugs, gambling, or other substances or behaviors.

**Veterans.** Assistants help people who have been discharged from the military adjust to civilian life. They help with practical needs, such as locating housing and finding ways to apply skills gained in the military to civilian jobs. They may also help their clients navigate the services available to veterans.

**People with mental illnesses.** Social and human service assistants find resources to help clients cope with their illness. They find self-help and support groups to provide their clients with an assistance network, and they may find personal care services or group housing for those with more severe mental illnesses.

**Immigrants.** Workers help clients adjust to living in a new country. They help the clients locate jobs and housing. They may also help them find programs that teach English, or they may find legal assistance to help immigrants get administrative paperwork in order.

**Former prison inmates.** Human service assistants find job training or placement programs to help clients reenter society. Human service assistants help former inmates find housing and connect with programs that help them start a new life for themselves.

**Homeless people.** Assistants help clients meet their basic needs. They find temporary or permanent housing for their clients and locate places, such as soup kitchens, that provide meals. Assistants also help homeless people find resources to address other problems they may have, such as joblessness.
HSCJ Career Information

Top ten reasons to major in Human Services and Community Justice:

1. Work towards a career where employment is in steadily increasing.
2. Make a difference in the lives of others and in your community.
3. Find immeasurable joy and satisfaction that comes from this meaningful work.
4. Advocate for society’s most vulnerable and underrepresented.
5. Engage in work that celebrates diversity and difference.
6. Take classes with knowledgeable and supportive faculty.
7. Gain valuable work experience through required internships.
8. Address issues of injustice in prisons and the criminal justice system.
9. Prepare for advanced degrees in social work, counseling, and community service.
10. Transform society toward greater gender, racial, ethnic, and economic equality.

Helpful Links:

- National Organization for Human Services
- Human Services Today Magazine
- Ethical Standards for Human Services Professionals
- Council for Standards in Human Service Education
- Human Services Council
- Bureau of Labor Statistics

For more information about career opportunities related to the HSCJ major, talk to your major advisor or stop into John Jay’s Center for Career and Professional Development.