

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To: Adams, Chaney <ChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov>
Godfrey, Rob <RobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 10/21/2016 2:02:38 PM
Subject: FW: Questions about DSS personnel

This is Karen's proposed response to Jamie on their Sunday roundup story.

From: Wingo, Karen [mailto:Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 1:37 PM
To: Symmes, Brian
Subject: FW: Questions about DSS personnel

Brian,
Draft response below; will call you shortly to give you the background.

Jamie,
Consistent with our prior discussions and as background, there is no perfect way to capture the number of child welfare caseworkers because there are some individuals who carry child welfare cases that are not classified as caseworkers (e.g. supervisors) and I don't want to skew your data by limiting our search only those classified by title as caseworkers. Therefore, I recommend that you use the statistics that there are 938 individuals in the county offices who are carrying one or more child welfare cases as of October 17, 2016.

With respect to salary, the starting salary for a Child Welfare caseworker is \$34,733. The salary range for this classification of employee is \$26,988 to \$49,932. The possession of a bachelor's or master's degree in social work does not impact the salary range as the salary range is set by state OHR. However, the Department does take into consideration the experience and education of a candidate in determining the salary. For example, the possession of a master's degree in a related field could positively impact the compensation of a candidate.

Please let me know if you have any other questions take care of yourself and those babies!

All the best,
Karen

Karen Luchka Wingo
Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs
South Carolina Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 1520
1535 Confederate Avenue
Columbia, South Carolina 29202
Office Phone: (803) 898-8030
Email: karen.wingo@dss.sc.gov
www.dss.sc.gov



IMPORTANT: Please DO NOT use this e-mail address to report child or adult abuse or neglect. The abuse/neglect hotline number for your county is located on the SCDSS home web page at www.dss.sc.gov. For emergencies, please contact your local law enforcement office.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message and any attachments may contain information that is protected from disclosure by federal and/or state law, or is otherwise privileged or confidential.

This communication is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message is strictly prohibited and violations of applicable federal and/or state law may subject you to civil and/or criminal penalties.

If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail and delete this message and any attachments.

From: Self, Jamie [<mailto:jself@thestate.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2016 3:52 PM
To: Wingo, Karen <Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov>
Subject: Questions about DSS personnel

Hi Karen,

If figured you likely would be out on leave by now, but I thought I'd give you a try.

I'm trying to figure out what the salary range is for a child-welfare caseworker. From my early reporting, I know the starting salary is now \$34,733. But what does that position max out on?

Would having a bachelor's degree or masters in social work increase that range at all?

Also from my previous story, I know that 480 caseworkers is about half the child-welfare staff, but I can't find where I wrote down the total number of child-welfare staff. Do you have that on hand?

I hope you are well and hanging in there if the little one hasn't made her appearance yet.

Best,

Jamie

--

Jamie Self
Government reporter
The State, Columbia
Covering: Gov. Nikki Haley, S.C. GOP & K-12 education
@jamiemself
office: 803-771-8658