



Exploratory Tasks:

Where will your journey take you?

HUMAN SERVICES

Do you like working with people? Are you concerned about their health and welfare? If so, you may want to consider a career in human services. These professionals work to meet a wide range of family and individual needs in areas such as personal care, counseling and mental health, and family, community and consumer services.



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES PATHWAY

People with careers in this pathway nurture and teach children. They provide services in child care centers, nursery schools, preschools, public schools, private households, family child care homes, and before- and after-school programs.

EXPLORATORY TASK: Research *developmental characteristics of 3- to 4-year-old children*. Use that information to create a 10-minute lesson plan for preschool students. Include these in your plan:

- Learning target or what students will learn from the lesson
- Essential question or strategy to engage students in the lesson
- Lesson activities, e.g., modeling, guided or independent practice
- Resources or materials

EXTENSION: Practice your presentation skills by presenting the lesson to a small group of peers or work with an adult to arrange a tutoring session with an individual or small group of students.

COUNSELING & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PATHWAY

Counseling and mental health professionals help people manage personal, family and mental health issues. They also provide guidance related to education and career decisions. These services may be provided in hospitals, clinics, schools or private settings.

EXPLORATORY TASK: Vaping use by middle school students has been increasing. Research the *health effects of e-cigarettes* to create a fact or fiction pamphlet to share with others. Choose 5-10 statements about e-cigarettes for the reader to decide if it is fact or fiction. Follow up each statement with an explanation. Example:

Fact or Fiction: Vaping is easier to hide from adults.

Fact. The vaping devices don't give off as much smoke as traditional cigarettes and may be easier to hide.

EXTENSION: Use the information you gathered to create a Google survey to discover what others know about vaping. Be sure to follow the survey with the facts, either online or by sharing your pamphlet.

What Is a Career Cluster?

Career Clusters are a way to organize career options. There are **16 Career Clusters** in the National Career Cluster Framework. They are further divided into specific pathways that can lead you to a successful future.

What Are Career Pathways?

Each of the 16 Career Clusters are divided into approximately 80 Career Pathways. The pathways are further divided into specific careers that share similar skills.

A Career Pathway offers a range of entry options, from entry-level positions that require a high school diploma or industry certificate to those that require a professional degree.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES PATHWAY

Individuals with careers in this pathway help the homeless and those confined to their home due to illness. They counsel and care for emotionally disturbed individuals and those with physical and mental disabilities. Others help the needy obtain financial assistance and seek contributions for various social services organizations.

EXPLORATORY TASK: What are the needs in your community? What can you do to help? Create a **community service project plan** to meet that need. In your plan, include:

- Identified need and project goal
- Timeline
- Required permissions and resources

EXTENSION: Put your plan into action. Share the results by writing an article for the local newspaper to inspire others to get involved.

PERSONAL CARE SERVICES PATHWAY

Specialists in this pathway assist individuals with personal care, hair, skin and makeup needs, massage therapy and fitness training. Also included are funeral directors and attendants who provide services for grieving families.

EXPLORATORY TASK: People rely on cosmetologists for advice on hair styles or color. Create a pamphlet to address common client issues such as:

- Hairstyles and/or color
- Skin care
- Make-up tips

EXTENSION: Funeral directors work with individuals who have suffered the loss of a loved one. People also grieve the loss of a marriage, job or friendship. Create a support guide that describes **healthy ways to manage grief**.

CONSUMER SERVICES PATHWAY

Specialists in consumer services assist individuals with decisions and problems relating to finance, real estate, insurance and consumer goods.

EXPLORATORY TASK: The guidance counselor at your school is retiring after 30 years of service. The principal has asked you to serve on a planning committee to honor your counselor. Your task is to gather suggestions and costs for a retirement gift. Compile these into a comparison report for the planning committee.

EXTENSION: How do you honor an individual's service? The principal wants to honor your counselor during a 30-minute student assembly and has asked the planning committee to plan an agenda for the program. Consider:

- Guest speakers, honored guests
- Music/pictures/videos

How Can I use Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are planning tools to help you prepare for your future career goal. They provide a map of required courses at both the high school and college level.

A pathway also lists opportunities to earn college credit, industry certificates or gain real-world experience while in high school.

What Is an Industry Certificate?

Industry certifications are credentials recognized by business and industry that demonstrate mastery of necessary knowledge and/or skills.

Discover More

Choose a career in one of the pathways to discover:

- Demand for this career
- Location of jobs
- Starting wage
- Education requirements
- High school pathway
 - Classes
 - Dual/articulated credit
 - Industry certificates
 - Work-based learning
- Related careers