This analysis of the Human Services cluster in the Commonwealth highlights important information for each of its career pathways — Consumer Services; Counseling & Mental Health Services; Early Childhood Development & Services; Family & Community Services; and Personal Care Services.

What trends do we currently see? What trends may we anticipate?

- The Human Services cluster is expected to experience the highest percentage of job growth (27%) in Virginia among all career clusters through 2026. It will add nearly 36,000 new jobs between 2016 and 2026.
- The Personal Care Services pathway is the largest of all pathways in the cluster, consisting of an estimated 109,823 positions in 2016. It will have more than 2,000 annual job openings until 2026.
- Three occupations in this cluster are expected to have more than 30 percent job growth over the next decade — Personal Care Aides (65%), Marriage and Family Therapists (35%), and Mental Health Counselors (35%).
- The Consumer Services, Counseling & Mental Health Services, and Family & Community Services pathways have a predominant education level of a bachelor's degree or more.
Figure 1 shows the predominant level of education and training in each pathway. Education data was determined by Trailblazers based on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational education and training data. The percentages in the graph below reflect the number of occupations, not the number of workers. For example, the Family & Community Services pathway consists of eleven occupations: six of them require a bachelor's degree or more and training/certification/work experience (55%), and five of them require a bachelor's degree (45%).

![Figure 1: Predominant Education Level for Human Services, 2016-2026](image)

Figure 2 compares the estimated 2016 employment for each pathway to projected 2026 employment levels. Data are provided by the Virginia Employment Commission. Employment Projections for the Consumer Services pathway are not included due to the lack of occupational data.

![Figure 2: Employment in Virginia for the Human Services Cluster, 2016-2026](image)
Figure 3 presents the size and median wages of the occupations in each pathway with the highest projected percentage of growth. Wage data are provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics program.

Figure 3: Earning and Growth for Selected Occupations in Virginia, 2016-2026

The following Labor Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) will experience higher occupational growth rates in the Human Services Cluster.

- South Central
- West Piedmont
- Crater Area
- Southwest Virginia
- Bay Consortium

Nontraditional Occupations

Nontraditional Occupations for Males

- Childcare Workers
- Social and Human Service Assistants
- Massage Therapists
- Personal Care Aides