According to the National Institute of Health, more than 60 percent* of rural Americans live in areas with a shortage of mental health workers and only 20 percent of social workers nationwide are employed in rural areas.

**BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

Meeting a growing need in our region – and in rural communities in general – the Bachelor of Social Work degree at Kent State University is designed for the development of skilled and licensed social work, behavioral and mental health professionals to support underserved areas.

With courses offered in a hybrid format, the Bachelor of Social Work program is designed to offer students flexibility between online and in-person classes that fit your schedule. Students at any Kent State Regional Campus can enroll in the program, which is housed in the College of Applied and Technical Studies and offered at the Ashtabula, Salem and Tuscarawas campuses.

**TO LEARN MORE**

Scan the QR code or visit www.kent.edu/cats/BSW
Social work positions are currently in great demand. This was the case before the COVID-19 pandemic, but nearly all social service agencies are now struggling even more to find qualified employees. This trend is projected to continue for the foreseeable future. Other highlights include:

» Students who graduate from an accredited BSW program will be eligible to test and become Licensed Social Workers in the state of Ohio, which opens up even more job opportunities.

» Graduates from accredited BSW programs are also permitted to enter Master of Social Work programs in Advanced Standing status, which typically cuts the time to attain an MSW by one third to one half.

» Social work is an extremely broad-based and versatile profession.

» Social workers may work in mental health and substance use disorder settings, child welfare agencies, medical settings, general social service agencies, criminal justice entities, governmental agencies, advocacy or public policy roles, elder-serving organizations, and many other types of settings or roles.

» The BSW program at Kent State will have an emphasis on rural social work.

“Social work is an extremely broad-based and versatile profession. This is the perfect fit for those who want to make a difference in their communities and in people’s lives.”

– Program Director Matt Butler, MSSA, LISW-S, LICDC-CS

**USDA research** shows the poverty level to be **four percent higher** in rural areas than metropolitan ones, leading to higher cases of disparities in needed social services.

*2018 U.S. Department of Agriculture study*