

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

In each and every interview situation, there are common questions that will be asked. Don't wait until the interview to think about your responses to these questions! Be prepared and think through your answers before you arrive. It may even help to write down your answers and practice with someone. If at all possible, try to keep your answers brief, usually less than 2 minutes. Remember, **listening**, **confidence**, and **quality of presentation** are the keys to successful interviewing.

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. Tell me about yourself [see our handout all about how to tackle this question].
2. Why are you interested in this agency?
3. What are your experiences with the [target population]?
4. What kind of supervision do you expect?
5. How has your education / work experience prepared you for this position?
6. What do you hope to accomplish at this agency?
7. What would you like to learn here?
8. Have you done this type of work in the past?
9. What schedule will work for you?
10. What are your career goals for the next 5 years? The next 10 years?
11. What are some of your strengths? Some of your weaknesses?
12. How do you define success for yourself?
13. What is your work style?
14. How do you work with others?
15. Are you a leader or a follower?
16. Direct Practice Question: What is your practice framework? What is your clinical style?
17. Administration and Planning: What type of research skills / computer skills do you have? What specific policy issues are you interested in?
18. What is your ideal position and career path?
19. Is there anything you would like to say to close the interview?
20. Do you have any questions? (YES! You should always have questions!)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO ASK AN INTERVIEWER:

1. What do you like best about working at this agency?
2. How often, and by whom will I be supervised?
3. Are there opportunities for professional development within and beyond the agency itself?
4. What do you think would be the most challenging experiences for a social work intern in your agency?
5. What do you think would be the most rewarding experiences for a social work intern in your agency?
6. How are expectations for students different from those for agency staff?
7. What are the agency's service delivery strengths and weaknesses?
8. To what extent do students have opportunity to offer input into administration and planning?
9. What can I count on from the agency to assist me in my professional development?
10. What is the typical career path of social workers within this field/agency?