POSITION PROFILE

National Ataxia Foundation



SOCIAL WORKER

Part Time - Contracted



ABOUT NAF

Ataxia is a rare neurological disease affecting tens of thousands of people in the US and many thousands more around the world. It is progressive, affecting a person's ability to walk, talk, and use fine motor skills.

The National Ataxia Foundation (NAF) was established in 1957 to help persons with Ataxia and their families. Our mission is to accelerate the development of treatments and a cure while working to improve the lives of those living with Ataxia. NAF's vision of a world without Ataxia will be accomplished through our primary programs of funding Ataxia research, providing vital programs and services for Ataxia families, and partnering with pharmaceutical companies in the search for treatments and a cure. We work closely with the world's leading Ataxia researchers and clinicians, promoting exchanges of ideas and innovation in Ataxia discovery.

Company Profile

Location	Size	FY 2025 Revenue
Minneapolis, MN	22 staff members	$13.2 million



VISION

A world without Ataxia.

MISSION

To accelerate the development of treatments and a cure while working to improve the lives of those living with Ataxia.

ENSURING THAT NO ONE EXPERIENCES ATAXIA ALONE, UNTIL NO ONE EXPERIENCES ATAXIA, PERIOD.

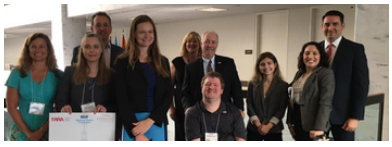
Core Values

NAF's values are grounded in our passion and empathy for the Ataxia community.

- **Caring –** We respect one another and those living with Ataxia.
- **Motivated –** We use our passion to inspire our community to act NOW!
- **Collaborative –** We evolve together and support each other to achieve our mission.
- **Impactful –** We listen to our members to build creative, meaningful programs.
- **Accountable –** We are transparent in our words, actions, and results.











FISCAL YEAR 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- **$3.3M+** spent on research and drug development initiatives
- **$1.2M+** spent on education and support programs
- **80%** of our expenses **directly support** the programs we offer
- **18 Ataxia research grants** awarded
- **674 local support group meetings** hosted
- **99 advocacy meetings** with members of Congress
- **41 clinicians trained** at NAF's Ataxia Clinical Training
- **43 NAF Ataxia Centers of Excellence** around the world

WAYS WE FULFILL OUR MISSION





POSITION DETAILS

National Ataxia Foundation

Social Worker

Reports to Community Services Manager
Part Time, Contracted

Compensation
$60 per hour

Location
Hershey, PA

Position Summary
The National Ataxia Foundation seeks a compassionate, experienced, and licensed clinical professional to serve as Contracted Social Worker (CSW). This role will provide direct support to the Ataxia community. The CSW will ensure delivery of high-quality services that empower individuals and families to navigate complex medical, mental health, and daily living challenges.

Schedule Details
~3 hours required, optional additional 2 hours per month

- **In-Person Meetings:** 3rd Saturday of Jan., April, July, Oct. 11am-1pm
- **Virtual Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday 7:30pm @ months without in-person

Position Specific Preferences
Prefer SW in the Hershey area

Qualifications

Required

- Master's degree in Social Work (MSW).
- Current social work license in good standing
- Demonstrated experience serving individuals with complex medical conditions and with resource navigation.

Preferred

- Current LCSW or equivalent state clinical license in good standing.
- Experience in rare disease, neurology, or chronic illness communities.
- Trauma-informed care training.

Core Competencies

To be successful in this role, candidates should possess the following skills:

- **Empathy and Compassion** – Passionate about enhancing the quality of life for individuals and families impacted by Ataxia. Exhibits a keen ability to empathize with others, approaching all interactions with kindness and a deep concern for the well-being of the Ataxia community.
- **Communication** – Must possess outstanding oral, written, and group communication skills. Should be adept at listening effectively and tailoring communications to the needs of the individual.
- **Interpersonal** – Has the ability to engage professionally and effectively with both colleagues and members of the Ataxia community, fostering positive interactions.
- **Cultural** – Demonstrates a deep respect for diversity in all its forms, including race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age, physical ability or disability, and religious or political beliefs.
- **Organization** – Exceptional organizational and analytical skills are crucial, with a proven ability to multitask and meet tight deadlines.
- **Critical Thinking** – Skilled at evaluating complex situations thoughtfully and developing innovative solutions that align with the mission of NAF.
- **Technical** – Proficiency with Microsoft Office 365 applications and online meeting platforms is essential.

Key Responsibilities

- Attend in-person or virtual group once per month as scheduled.
- Facilitate support group meeting or portions of meetings
- Connect support group members with local resources such as mental health services and other daily living resources in their local communities during or immediately after the meeting (no additional on-call consultations).
- Provide information during support group meetings from time to time about a topic of the group's choice such as stress management, difficult conversations, etc.
- Report back to NAF each month (invoice for time and document time/content).

We're committed to building a diverse and inclusive team and welcome applicants of all backgrounds, experiences, and identities. If you meet most of the qualifications, we encourage you to apply—even if you don't meet every requirement.

How to Apply

To apply, email your cover letter and resume to **Barbara Cox** at barbara@ataxia.org. Please note "Contracted Social Worker" in the subject line.

EEOC Statement
NAF is committed to equal employment opportunity. We do not discriminate in recruitment, hiring, or any other employment practices for reasons of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, marital or veteran status, disability, or any other legally protected status.