

My name is Evony Cooper. I am 30 years old. I am a licensed clinical social worker, and my annual salary is \$48,000. So I work at the Mental Health Center of Denver. I'm located specifically at the El Centro Clinic, which is a Spanish-speaking clinic that works primarily with the Hispanic population, so I'm a bilingual therapist there. I see from age 6 to end of life.

Working with children, that's different than working with adults because I feel like you have to tailor the service to their level, to their level of understanding, so you might incorporate games in therapeutic intervention. While with adults you can be pretty straightforward and present the tools and techniques in a different way.

My main responsibilities, other than doing therapy, are things like paperwork, also case management. So I work closely with schools, parents, different agencies in the community to make sure that the needs are met for the people that we serve. Part of the paperwork that I have to do is summarizing what was worked on, whatever treatment plan goal was the focus of the session, and a lot of times in writing those notes we summarize the service provided, and we have the ability to reflect on the work that was done. So we can tell at that time maybe I should have done a little more investigative work around this or explored more around that.

So I make \$48,000 a year. And nobody really goes into this for the money, so it really is a passion of mine to do this work. When I started, I actually wasn't making that. I think I was making around \$34,000, but that was in a different state. So I've been told that Denver actually is one of the more educated cities in the United States, and so I've heard that they pay pretty competitively here. And so making \$48,000 I do have a language differential that's been added to my salary for being able to speak Spanish and provide services in Spanish.

My position specifically is a union-based position, so we do have a labor union that works on our behalf to make sure that we keep the pay competitive. That means raises, so they do negotiate every year to discuss what sort of raise is going to be appropriate.