Methods of Evaluation in Social Work
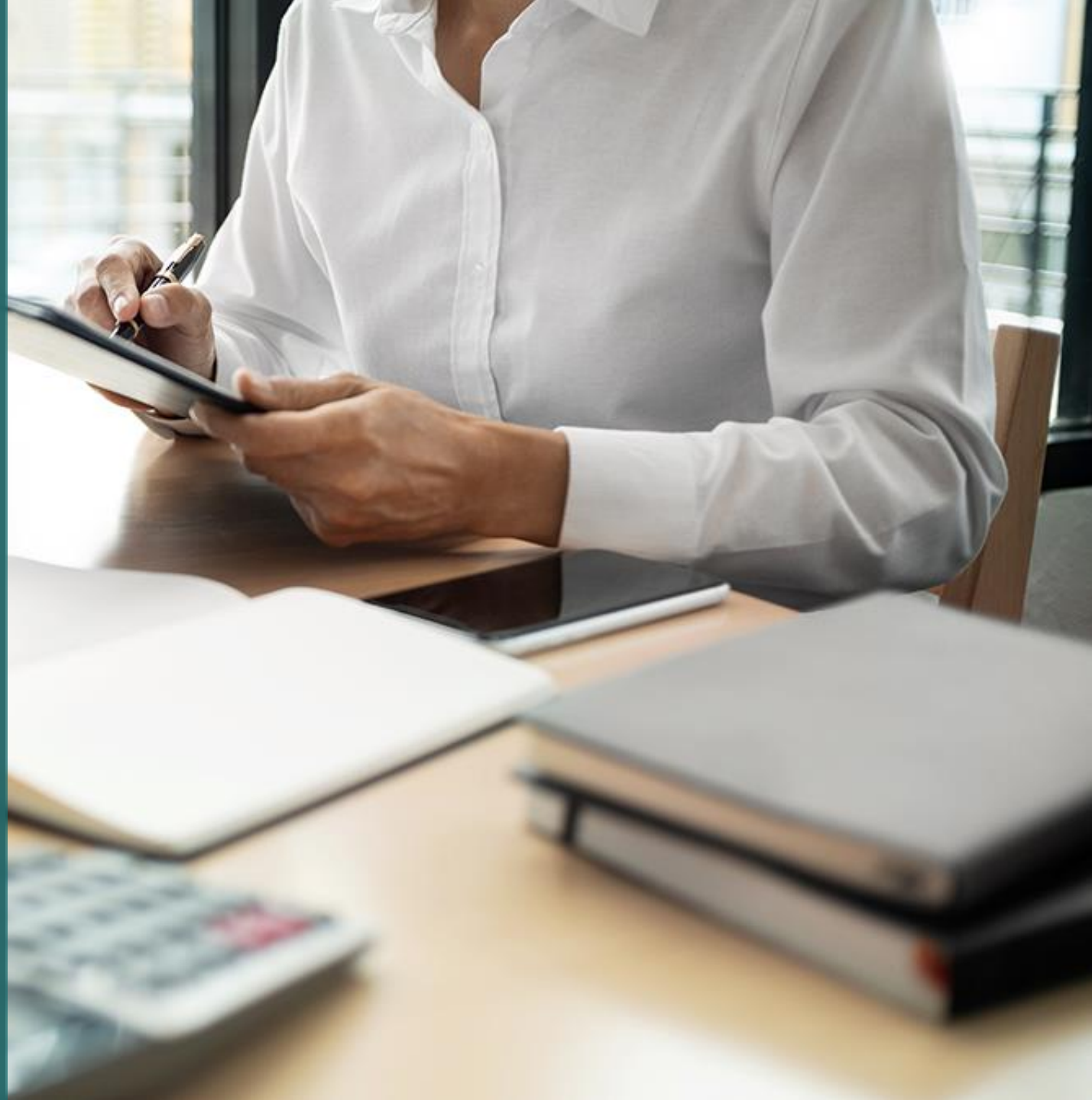
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Social Work Portal

Levels & Methods of Social Work Evaluation

Social work evaluation is important for improving social work care plans and programs to optimize outcomes.

Client Evaluation

- Psychosocial Evaluation
- Client Self-Evaluation

Social Work Program Evaluation

- Formative Evaluation
- Process/Implementation Evaluation
- Outcome/Effectiveness Evaluation
- Impact Evaluation
- Summative Evaluation

Social Worker Practice Evaluation

- Client Feedback
- Outcome Evaluation
- Goal Attainment Scaling

Goal Attainment Scaling

Goal attainment scaling (GAS) can be used for both social worker and client evaluations, just depending upon the types of goals that are set. GAS was first developed by Thomas Kiresuk and Robert Sherman to help standardize evaluation models surrounding mental illness and treatment.

This is one of the social work evaluation tools that can seem complicated to use at first, but it's basically putting goals into a numerical scoring format that can help you compare progress over time.

The format to use for this evaluation process in social work is as follows:

- Create a list of goals
- Use a 5-point scoring system for each goal:
  - (+2) – Much more than expected
  - (+1) – Somewhat more than expected
  - (0) – Achieved goal at expected level
  - (-1) – Somewhat less than expected
  - (-2) – Much less than expected
- The overall score is calculated by adding up each goal's score
- Social workers can adjust the numbers higher for more impactful goals

Goal Attainment Scaling Social Worker Example

In goal attainment scaling you create trackable metrics for goals.

Goals	Much More Than Expected (+2)	Somewhat More Than Expected (+1)	Exactly as Expected (0)	Somewhat Less Than Expected (-1)	Much Less Than Expected (-2)	Total
Follow Ups with Clients		1				1
Seek Out New Resources				-1		-1
Evaluate Client Outcomes	2					2
TOTAL						**2**

Goal Attainment Scaling Social Worker Example

You can chart scores over time to see progress towards reaching & maintaining goals.