



# COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

STRENGTHENING THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK

*Leadership in Research, Career Advancement, and Education*

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The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), a national nonprofit association, advances social work education to ensure preparation for a professional practice that promotes individual, family, and community well-being as well as social and economic justice. CSWE pursues this mission by setting and maintaining national accreditation standards for baccalaureate and master's degree programs in social work, promoting faculty development, engaging in interprofessional collaborations, and by advocating for social work education and research.

## **The Role of Social Work in Interprofessional Education**

Social workers are vital to the future of the healthcare infrastructure in the United States. They are on the front lines, working with interdisciplinary teams in a variety of settings to improve healthcare outcomes and ensure that people are successful in their treatment and care, as well as in administrative and policy positions to support comprehensive health care. Social workers touch many Americans' lives through their work in veterans' hospitals, general and special service health care facilities, substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, and gerontological long-term care facilities in addition to public schools, child protective services, and family service settings. CSWE works to develop and promote curriculum to prepare for interprofessional collaborative practice, which leads to better outcomes for patients and supports cost containment.

As Congress considers legislation and appropriations on interprofessional education, the CSWE encourages policy makers to consider these principles and use CSWE as a resource to inform policy.

## **Social Workers Provide Support Through a Team-based Approach**

CSWE recognizes that interprofessional and collaborative efforts often provide the best care and result in the best outcomes.

- CSWE supports interprofessional approaches to serve individuals with mental and behavioral health needs as well as other populations with specialized issues such as geriatrics.
- CSWE supports interprofessional education programs focused on team-based approaches that incorporate care provided by social workers in conjunction with other health professions such as doctors, pharmacists, nurses, and others.

CSWE recognizes the need to increase the number of health professionals in the United States trained to work with mental and behavioral health needs.

- CSWE supports maintaining and/or expanding interprofessional health training initiatives funding through SAMHSA and HRSA.

## **Social Workers are Committed to Meeting the Needs of Persons in their Environment**

CSWE recognizes the necessity of addressing the full needs of an individual, including access, diagnosis, medication management, treatment, therapy, care transitions, support services, and culturally competent care.

- CSWE supports expanding opportunities for all professionals critical to ensuring the best care and outcomes for the individual.
- CSWE supports incorporating adequate requirements for professionals who provide services and ensure that peer-to-peer programs have the proper training, experience, and oversight.

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