

Expanding Social Work Licensure to Strengthen the Homelessness Service Workforce

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National Alliance to End Homelessness

Social Work History

- Roots in religious institutions, philanthropy from those with wealth and free time, or mutual aid
- Professionalization through education requirements and standards
- Parts of professionalization are important for client standard of care
- Space to grow

Licensure Requirements

- Nationwide shortage of licensed social workers
- Licensure exam concerns
- Other impacts of structural racism

First-time Pass Rates of ASWB Exams by Race/Ethnicity

	Clinical Exam Pass Rates	Masters Exam Pass Rate	Bachelors Exam Pass Rate
Asian	79.7%	75.5%	64.2%
Black	57.0%	51.9%	38.3%
Hispanic/Latino	76.6%	71.2%	58.5%
Multiracial	86.6%	85.1%	78.4%
Native American/ Indigenous Peoples	73.5%	72.2%	70.9%
White	90.7%	90.8%	81.6%

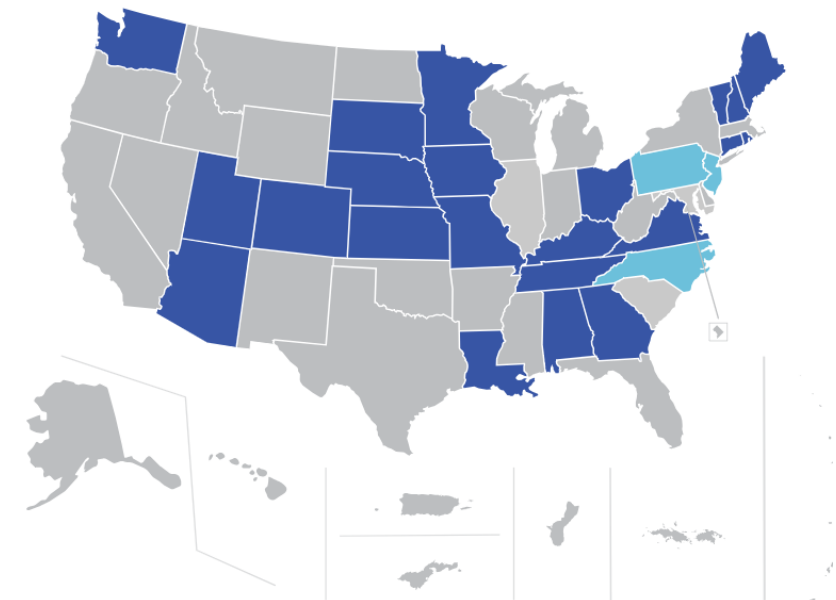
Percentages are pulled from the ASWB Exam Pass Rate Analysis and includes data from 2018-2021.

Removing Exam Requirements

- Data caused states to reconsider the usefulness of the exam in determining competency
- Still required education and supervision, but skipped the \$400 test
- Impact in Illinois
- DC is considering necessary legislation
- Maryland and Utah waivers

Social Work Compact

- DOD and Council of State Governments
- Portable license rather than seeking re-licensure every time an individual moves
- Required 7 states to pass model legislation with no significant changes
- Currently in implementation phase for 27 states



Social Work Licensure Requirements (Based on Compact)

Clinical Social Workers	Masters Social Workers	Bachelors Social Workers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Pass Qualifying National Exam•Accredited MSW degree or higher•3,000 hours or 2-years post graduate supervised clinical practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Pass Qualifying National Exam•Accredited MSW degree or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Pass Qualifying National Exam•Accredited BSW degree or higher

Licensed Social Work Associate

- Model from Massachusetts
- Replaces higher education requirement with 4 years of work experience with supervision
- Requires 1,000 hours of education in social work theory and methods in courses or programs provided by field supervision, approved by the Massachusetts Licensure Board
- Expands access for those who do not have access to higher education

Impact on the Field

- Appropriate funding, access to necessary resources and housing stock, and experienced staff
- Clear path for professional development, increased access to funding streams for salary increases and additional benefits, and a more diverse cohort of caseworkers that reflects the population of individuals experiencing homelessness

Questions?

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