



March 20, 2020

The Association of Social Work Boards, the Council on Social Work Education, and the National Association of Social Workers are committed to collaborating on the range of issues affecting the social work profession and the people and communities we serve in this everchanging and unsettling environment created by the novel coronavirus.

ASWB, CSWE, and NASW encourage everyone to take the time necessary for self-care and to prioritize personal health, the health of our families, and the safety of our communities. We are all living in a very tumultuous time. Clear thinking is essential but can be made more difficult because of overwhelming emotions - our own and those around us. Many of the issues facing our particular aspects of social work are multisectoral; therefore, our organizations are carefully considering how changes in one sector (e.g., education) will affect the others (licensing/regulation and professional practice). To this end, we will meet weekly and issue a weekly communication about such issues.

Today, we issued a press release that called on employers, regulators, lawmakers, and others to identify and eliminate unnecessary barriers and to develop creative solutions to help social workers meet competency requirements.

- Accredited programs could exercise flexibility in the delivery of field education.
- State licensing bodies could be more flexible with time frames for acquiring and maintaining a social work license.
- Employers could consider allowing a grace period for license-eligible individuals to start employment with the understanding that they need to earn their license within a specified period.

As leaders of our organizations, we encourage you to discuss with your colleagues ways to respond expediently and implement changes that are possible in acknowledgment of the realities of the current public health crisis. CSWE's [SPARK](https://spark.cswe.org) offers a connected community for social workers, educators, students, and affiliated health professionals to discuss the challenges and solutions to the effects of the spread of COVID-19. We encourage you to gather there to hold these discussions. Follow these instructions to join:

1. Visit <https://spark.cswe.org/home> to log in and create a profile.
2. [Click this link](#) or search for "coronavirus" to join the coronavirus community.
3. Share information; talk about ways your programs are responding to the virus spread; or respond to posts.

Thank you for all that you are doing to respond to this unprecedented pandemic!

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