What is the Social Work Licensure Compact?

The Social Work Licensure Compact is an interstate occupational licensure compact. Interstate compacts are constitutionally authorized, legislatively enacted, legally binding agreements among states. This compact will enable regulated social workers with bachelor’s, master’s and clinical licenses to serve clients in every state that joins the compact, rather than going through the licensure process in every state where they want to practice. Like the compact for a driver’s license, each Social Work Licensure Compact member state agrees to mutually recognize the licenses issued by every other member state.

How does the Social Work Licensure Compact work?

1. **SOCIAL WORKER**
   - A social worker in their home state wants to practice in other compact member states.

2. **APPLY FOR MULTISTATE LICENSE**
   - The social worker must hold or be eligible for an active, unencumbered license in the home state.

3. **SOCIAL WORKER APPLIES FOR LICENSE**
   - Social worker applies for a multistate license.

4. **ELIGIBILITY VERIFIED**
   - Home state verifies that the social worker meets the compact's requirements based on license category.

5. **MULTISTATE LICENSE ISSUED**
   - A multistate license is issued authorizing social work practice corresponding to each category of licensure regulated in the member state.

   License categories include Bachelor’s, Master’s and Clinical.

   The social worker can now practice in any other member state.
Who can use the **Social Work Licensure Compact**?

To qualify for a multistate license, a social worker who lives in a compact member state must hold or be eligible for an active, unencumbered license in their home state.

Social workers must also satisfy the requirements associated with their category of license. Bachelor’s social workers, master’s social workers, and clinical social workers have access to the compact.

A social worker using the Social Work Licensure Compact to practice in another compact member state must abide by that state’s laws and regulations related to the practice of social work.

**BENEFITS OF THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT FOR LICENSEES**

- Eases mobility for licensees
- Expands employment opportunities into new markets
- Allows social workers to continue caring for clients who are moving to a new jurisdiction or who frequently relocate
- Leverages technological innovations like telehealth
- Supports relocating military spouses and families

**BENEFITS OF THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT FOR REGULATORS**

- Reduces application processing time
- Provides access to investigative and disciplinary information about licensees
- Expands cooperation among state licensure boards on investigations and disputes
- Enhances public safety

**BENEFITS OF THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT FOR STATES**

- Provides a tool for addressing workforce shortages and strengthening labor markets
- Expands consumer access to highly qualified social workers
- Preserves state sovereignty

**What’s Next?**

The Council of State Governments (CSG) has facilitated the development of the Social Work Licensure Compact model legislation. This legislation has been finalized for introduction.

Each state must enact the model legislation to join the compact. Supporters of the compact can contact the state chapter or national office of their professional membership association and state legislature to advocate for the interstate compact.

To get involved or learn about advocating for the interstate compact, please visit [swcompact.org](http://swcompact.org).