# SOCIAL WORK

#### Impact

There are approximately 500,000 licensed social workers in the United States. Despite the high demand for social work services, licensees are limited to providing services within state borders. The Social Work Licensure Compact seeks to increase public access to social work services, provide licensees with opportunities for multistate practice, support relocating military families, enhance public protection abilities and allow for expanded use of telehealth technologies.

### **Benefits for Licensees**

- 1. Eases mobility for licensees.
- 2. Expands employment opportunities into new markets.
- 3. Allows for continuity of care for clients who are moving to a new jurisdiction or who frequently relocate.
- 4. Leverages technological innovations like telehealth.
- 5. Supports relocating military spouses and families.

## **Benefits for Licensing Authorities**

- 1. Creates shared data system which:
  - a. Reduces administrative burdens.
  - b. Provides rapid access to information on licensees, investigations and discipline.
- 2. Reduces application processing time
- 3. Expands cooperation among member states on investigations and disputes.
- 4. Enhances public safety.

### **Benefits for States**

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

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