

# **Explaining the “Alphabet Soup” of Social Work Organizations**



## ***The National Association of Social Workers***

### **Our Mission**

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is a membership organization that works to enhance the professional growth and development of our members, to create and maintain professional standards for social workers, and to advance sound social policies.

### **Our Purpose**

- To promote the quality and effectiveness of social work practice in the United States.
- To improve conditions of life in our democratic society using social work knowledge and skills.
- To help maintain and promote high standards for social work practice and preparation for practice.

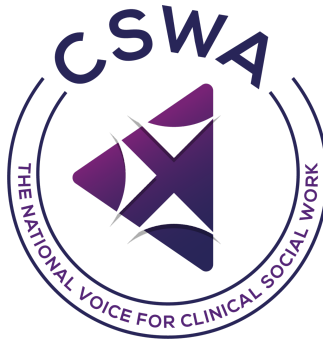
### **Our Work**

We support our members and advance the profession.

NASW is a membership organization that advocates for all social workers, nationally and locally, and works to shape public policy and advance the role of social work in effecting social change. NASW is “one organization” with a chapter in all 50 states and 5 territories (Metro D.C., New York City, Puerto Rico, Guam, & U.S. Virgin Islands). Membership in NASW includes access to both national and local (state/territorial) benefits and events.

All social workers in the U.S. benefit from NASW’s advocacy, but this work is made possible only through membership dues. So NASW must charge dues in order to provide products and services, education and advocacy for social workers.

**Website:** <https://www.socialworkers.org>



## ***The Clinical Social Work Association***

### **Mission Statement**

The Clinical Social Work Association represents, protects, and amplifies the voices of clinical social workers as we strive to create a just, healthy, and inclusive society. CSWA promotes the highest standards of professional practice through advocacy, supporting the effectiveness of state societies, and facilitating educational opportunities.

### **History**

CSWA is an outgrowth of the Clinical Social Work Federation, a national organization with a rich and successful history of advocacy on behalf of Clinical Social Workers beginning in 1974. As the Federation, the organization worked through its state societies for decades. In May 2006, its Board of Directors transformed the Federation into an individual membership association in order to provide more effective and efficient services. At that time, the Clinical Social Work Federation became the Clinical Social Work Association. CSWA's membership currently consists of licensed clinical social workers, new professionals (clinical social workers who have graduated within the last four years), emeritus members, students and affiliated state societies.

**Website:** <https://www.clinicalsocialworkassociation.org>



### ***The National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW)***

The National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc. (NABSW) comprised of people of African ancestry, is committed to enhancing the quality of life and empowering people of African ancestry through advocacy, human services delivery, and research.

Our mission is to work to create a world in which people of African ancestry will live free from racial domination, economic exploitation, and cultural oppression. In collaboration with national, international, and other appropriate groups, NABSW will continue to leverage its collective expertise to strategically develop the capacity of people of African ancestry to sustain and flourish.

**Website:** <https://www.nabsw.org>



COUNCIL ON  
SOCIAL WORK  
EDUCATION

## ***The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)***

### About CSWE

Founded in 1952, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is the national association representing social work education in the United States. Its members include more than 800 accredited baccalaureate and master's degree social work programs and their affiliated social work educators, students, and staff, as well as practitioners and agencies dedicated to advancing quality social work education. Through its many initiatives, activities, and centers, CSWE supports quality social work education and provides opportunities for leadership and professional development so that social workers are empowered to play a central role in achieving the profession's goals of social and economic justice. CSWE's Commission on Accreditation is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the United States and its territories.

### Vision

To ensure a well-educated social work profession equipped to promote health, well-being, and justice for all people in a diverse society.

### Mission

To advance excellence and innovation in social work education and research by providing leadership, ensuring quality in teaching and learning, and strengthening the capacity of our member institutions.

**Website:** <https://www.cswe.org>



## ***The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)***

### **About the Association of Social Work Boards**

ASWB is the nonprofit organization composed of the social work regulatory boards and colleges of all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and all 10 Canadian provinces.

We are the only nonprofit organization dedicated to social work regulation. Our mission is to provide support and services to the social work regulatory community to advance safe, competent, and ethical practices to strengthen public protection.

ASWB owns and maintains the social work licensing examinations that are used to test a social worker's competence to practice ethically and safely. The Examination Committee meets up to four times a year to review questions for the exams. Exams are administered throughout the year at secure test centers in North America and abroad.

Services to member boards include the Approved Continuing Education program; board services providing exam preapprovals, license application processing, and CE audits; the Public Protection Database, and Look Up a License.

### **Mission**

The mission of ASWB is to provide support and services to the social work regulatory community to advance safe, competent, and ethical practices to strengthen public protection.



## ***The National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work (NADD)***

The National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work (NADD) is a volunteer membership organization working to promote excellence in social work education. NADD achieves this by enhancing the leadership of social work education programs. Our membership is comprised of deans and directors of graduate social work programs that are accredited or advanced to candidacy. NADD supports deans and directors in their professional development and effectiveness as academic administrators.

NADD offers leadership support involving:

- Educational excellence
- Research infrastructure development
- Fundraising and development agendas
- Outreach and community capacity building
- Evidence based and culturally competent practice in social work
- Effective impacts on educational and practice policies
- The promotion of strong local and global partnerships

**Website:** <http://www.naddssw.org>



## ***The Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors (BPD)***

### About BPD

Founded in 1975, the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors is a voluntary, individual membership association representing the interests of undergraduate education and practice in social work. Nearly 800 strong, the Association's membership includes BSW program directors, baccalaureate faculty, field coordinators, social work educators, practitioners, and our most valuable commodity: our students. Together we focus on excellence in education and practice to help our communities thrive.

**Website:** <https://www.bswpdonline.org>



## ***Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA)***

The Colorado State Board of Social Work Examiners regulates licensed social workers and clinical social workers in the State of Colorado. Board activities include the review of licensure applications, complaints, and enforcement of disciplinary actions against violators of the Mental Health Practice Act or Board Rule. The Board is made up of seven members, three public and four professionals, who meet six times per year.

DORA is responsible for licensing social workers and all other mental health professionals in the state of Colorado, and for overseeing and regulating the practice of psychotherapy (as well as other social work practice activities covered under the Mental Health Practice Act).

**Website:** <https://dpo.colorado.gov/SocialWork>