



Compact Development Process

The Department of Defense has sought to support the development of interstate compacts as a mechanism for ensuring the professional licenses of military spouses are easily portable. In September 2020, the Department of Defense entered into a cooperative agreement with The Council of State Governments to fund the creation of new interstate compacts designed to strengthen occupational licensing portability. In collaboration with the Department of Defense, CSG developed and administered a competitive application process to select the professions for initial compact development in late 2020 and early 2021. Eligible applicants included professional associations, associations or federations of state licensing boards and national credentialing bodies for professions licensed in at least 30 states.

In March 2021, the Department of Defense and CSG announced the selection of social work as one of the first-round professions and partnered with the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) with support from the Clinical Social Work Association (CSWA) and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) for the development process. CSG and ASWB convened a Technical Assistance Group that included a state legislator who is a licensed social worker, industry-leading practitioners, licensure board members, staff and administrators of state licensing boards, representatives of professional associations and social work educators. The group met regularly over the course of several months to determine the mobility needs of the profession, analyze current licensure requirements in the states, identify the preferred compact license model and the develop policy recommendations for the initial draft of the compact.

A smaller Document Team of legislative drafting experts, licensure board attorneys and social work practice specialists took the recommendations from the Technical Assistance Group and created an initial draft of the Social Work Licensure Compact model legislation.

To gather public comment on the draft legislation, CSG facilitated a stakeholder review process throughout the summer and fall of 2022. This included holding virtual presentations open to the public at which CSG staff led attendees through the draft legislation and addressed questions and concerns. CSG and development team leaders also attended conferences and meetings to present the compact to interested stakeholder groups. After gathering feedback, CSG reconvened the Technical



Assistance Group with the Document Team to review the feedback and make changes, leading to a final draft.

Groups who participated in the development of the Social Work Licensure Compact are listed below. Please note that this does not signify an endorsement of the compact:

- Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners
- Clinical Social Work Association (CSWA)
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- Idaho Board of Social Work Examiners
- Iowa Board of Social Work
- NASW – Alabama
- NASW – Connecticut
- NASW – Minnesota
- NASW – Oklahoma
- New Hampshire Office of Professional Licensing and Certification
- North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board
- Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers
- South Carolina Board of Social Work Examiners
- Tennessee Department of Health
- Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council
- Vermont Social Work Advisory Board
- Virginia Boards of Counseling, Psychology, and Social Work