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 social justice. Founded in 1955, NASW advocates for the nation’s 680,000 social workers.

our members

NASW members include not only social workers who interact directly with clients, but also supervisors and managers, administrators and planners, policy advocates and community organizers, educators, researchers, and students. They represent every social work practice specialty, including mental health, health, aging, family and child services.
NASW is the largest and most recognized association of professional social workers in the United States. Our goal is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of social work practice to support the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

- We fight for access to social and health services.
- We fight against oppression and discrimination.
- We fight for social worker recognition and support.

we elevate
social work
NASW enhances social work careers from the classroom through retirement. We provide volunteer leadership positions, award programs, publications, networking events, quality professional education and respected industry standards. The Association has developed multiple generations of social work leaders.

- **NASW Social Work Pioneers Program®** celebrates the lives and legacies of extraordinary social work leaders. New Pioneers are nominated and inducted each year.

- **Professional Education and Career Development.** NASW offers more than 100 online courses, practice conferences, clinician tools, a career center and leadership training.
we advocate justice

NASW guides the profession’s advocacy on dozens of critical social issues. We participate in amicus briefs, think tank commissions, media interviews and legislative briefings to advance social work principles in society.

- **NASW Code of Ethics** sets the standard for ethical social work practice worldwide.

- **NASW Standards for Social Work Practice** describe effective social work services that employers should provide and clients should expect.

- **Social Work Speaks** explains NASW’s positions on more than 60 public policy topics.
we collaborate for social impact

NASW and its chapters work with many different groups to improve social well-being and to advance the profession.

We value our partnerships with 50+ sister social work organizations, more than 500 schools of social work, state and federal government agencies, allied professional societies and hundreds of issue-based nonprofits.
NASW Members Serve Your Community

NASW has more than 100,000 members in 55 chapters.

socialworkers.org/About/Chapters