



National Center for Interstate Compacts
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

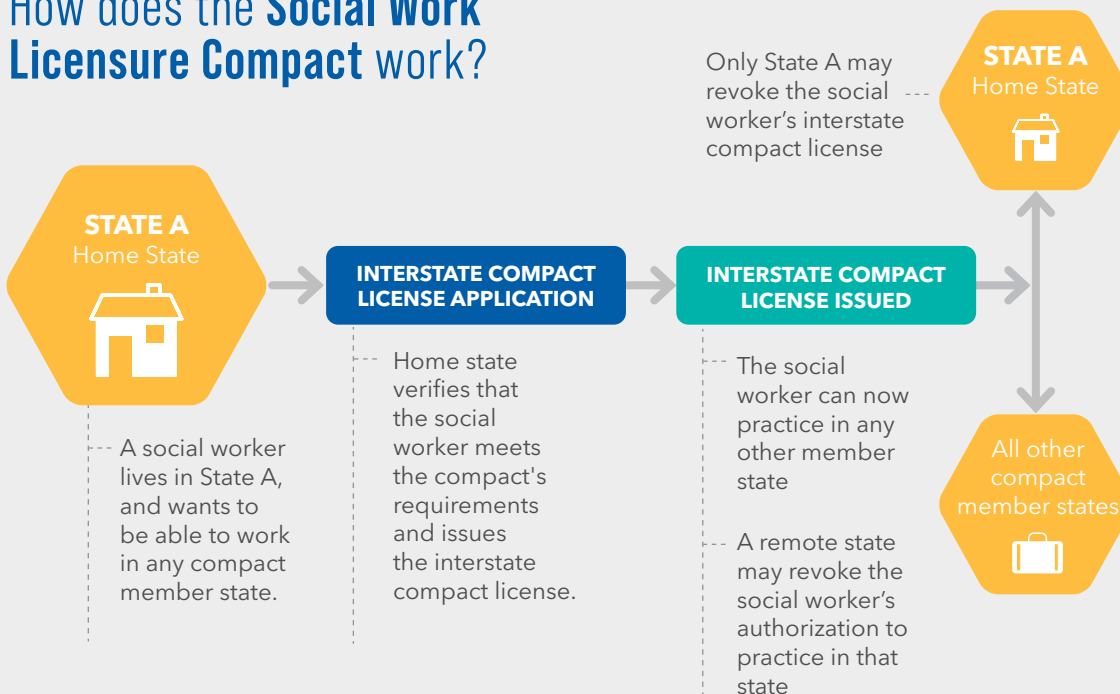
Social Work Licensure Compact Fact Sheet

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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?



What other professions have an interstate compact?

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC)

Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) and Advanced Practice Nurse Compact (APRN Compact)

Emergency Medical Service Officials Licensure Compact (EMS Compact)

Physical Therapists Licensure Compact (PT Compact)

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)

Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC)

Occupational Therapy Interstate Licensure Compact (OT Compact)

Counseling Interstate Licensure Compact

Who can use the Social Work Licensure Compact?

To qualify for an Interstate Compact License, a social worker who lives in a compact member state must hold an active, unencumbered license in their home state and satisfy the following requirements for one of the categories below:

CATEGORY	EDUCATION	EXAM	SUPERVISION
Bachelor's Social Worker	Bachelor of Social Work or higher from an accredited program	Bachelors-category national licensure exam	N/A
Master's Social Worker	Master of Social Work or higher from an accredited program	Masters-category national licensure exam	N/A
Clinical Social Worker	Master of Social Work or higher from an accredited program	Clinical-category national licensure exam	3,000 hours or two years of full-time, post-graduate supervised clinical practice

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?

Interstate compacts take time to develop and implement because they enhance the mobility of social workers, preserve state sovereignty and facilitate the ability of state regulatory boards to coordinate and cooperate to protect the public.

Each state must enact the Social Work Licensure Compact model legislation to join the compact. The Council of State Governments (CSG) will facilitate a stakeholder review process to receive input and feedback on the model legislation. The goal is for this legislation to be finalized for introduction during 2023 state legislative sessions.

To get involved in the stakeholder review process or learn more about advocating for the interstate compact, please visit <https://compacts.csg.org/compact-updates/social-work/>.