

**Request for Applications to**

**Develop New Interstate Compacts**

**for Occupational Licensure**

Request for Applications: January 31, 2024

For questions or requests for assistance regarding the Request for Application instructions, application criteria and deadlines, please contact [matthew.shafer@csg.org](mailto:matthew.shafer@csg.org) or [csims@csg.org](mailto:csims@csg.org).

Responses to questions sent before the submission deadline will be posted on the project website: <https://compacts.csg.org/>

**Purpose**

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) is providing funding to The Council of State Governments (CSG) to assist professions in the development of new interstate compacts for occupational licensure portability. The scope of this assistance includes the drafting of model interstate compact legislation, developing a legislative resource kit and convening a meeting of state policymakers to introduce the compact.

**Objective**

The objective of the project is the drafting of interstate compact model legislation addressing issues impacting military spouses and other professionals in state licensed occupations when they transition from state-to-state. This work is in response to the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act which amends Section 575 10 USC 1784(h)(1) to state:

*“[t]he Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Council of State Governments to assist with the funding of the development of interstate compacts on licensed occupations in order to alleviate the burden associated with relicensing in such an occupation by spouse of members of the armed forces in connection with a permanent change of duty station of members to another State.”*

These compacts create reciprocity across participating states, allowing professionals in licensed occupations to continue to practice seamlessly when they cross state boundaries. The intent of the Cooperative Agreement is to establish a series of occupational licensure interstate compacts to support military spouses and other professionals in state licensed occupations. The goals of these compacts are to:

* Support spouses of relocating active-duty military personnel;
* Create streamlined pathways for interstate practice;
* Increase public access to health care;
* Enhance the states’ ability to protect the public’s health and safety;
* Encourage the cooperation of compact member states in regulating multistate practice;
* Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative and disciplinary information by means of compact commission databases; and
* Encompass professions not currently utilizing an interstate occupational licensure compact.

**Licensure Compacts**

* There are fifteen active interstate compacts for occupational licensure
* 293 pieces of compact legislation have been passed since 2016
* 50 states and territories have adopted at least one licensure compact
* 41 states and territories have adopted at least three licensure compacts

Funding

* DoD is providing CSG funding to facilitate the development model legislation for each new interstate compact.
* CSG will fund all elements of model legislation development for new interstate compacts including staff personnel, convenings, materials, and technical assistance. All funding will flow from DoD to CSG. CSG will fund all compact development activities on behalf of the chosen profession. Successful applicants will not receive direct funding from CSG or DoD.
* If your organization is selected to participate in the development of an interstate compact, receipt of any assistance will be contingent on entering into and complying with the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CSG.

Potential Applicants

CSG is seeking applications for interstate compact development from associations or federations of state licensing boards, national professional associations or national credentialing bodies for professions that are licensed *in at least 30 states*.

To Apply

Those interested in this opportunity should complete this form with all required elements. All applications should be submitted via email to [compacts@csg.org](mailto:compacts@csg.org) with the subject line, “Application for Interstate Compact Assistance”. To be considered for review, applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. ET on January 31, 2024.

Technical Assistance

CSG will provide pre-award technical assistance to interested applicants through virtual meetings and email correspondence to aid in the application development process and assist with any additional questions that arise during application development. We strongly encourage all applications to contact CSG to discuss the feasibility of an interstate compact for your profession. To request technical assistance, please email compacts@csg.org.

Informational Webinar

CSG will host informational webinars for interested applicants to explain the application process, project scope and the interstate licensure compact development process. Topics included: Interstate Compacts 101, a project overview and application instructions. To access a recording of these webinars, click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOfEo5hsKWA).

Compact Development Process

See appendix A for a detailed description of the compact development process and details regarding activities covered under this cooperative agreement.

Contact Information - Primary staff contact for this application.

*Contact Name*

First Name Last Name

*Contact Title*

*Organization Name*

*Phone Number*

Area Code Phone Number

*Email*

[example@example.com](mailto:example@example.com)

Questionnaire

Please answer the following questions as they relate to your profession, focusing on the need for and feasibility of an interstate compact. Applicants can submit supplemental documentation to support answers as necessary

1. Please provide a brief description of the organization or groups of organizations you represent.

(500-word limit)

1. Please list any additional organizations you have secured to support this effort [[1]](#footnote-2).

(500-word limit)

1. Please note approximately how many active licensed practitioners are employed in your profession? If known, how many of these practitioners are military spouses?

(500-word limit)

1. Please describe how this profession is currently licensed by the states. Please note the areas of uniformity in licensing requirements across states.

(500-word limit)

1. Describe any national licensure standards required by states that exist for this profession – (education/training, exam, certification, etc.).

(500-word limit)

1. Describe any current or past efforts to enhance licensure portability and reciprocity for your profession.

(500-word limit)

1. Describe any efforts this profession has made to ease licensure obstacles for military spouses.

(500-word limit)

1. Please provide a statement of need explaining why financial and technical support from CSG is necessary for your profession to develop an interstate occupational licensure compact.

(500-word limit)

1. As noted above, the Department of Defense is providing funding to CSG for the development of new interstate compacts for occupational licensure portability. CSG will provide successful applicants with an array of support to create the interstate compact model legislation, including CSG personnel and legal counsel, convenings, materials and other technical assistance CSG deems necessary. Neither CSG nor DoD will provide direct funding to successful applicants.

Applicants will be responsible for supporting any other activities needed to complete the process of creating a successful interstate occupational licensure compact, including aiding the effort to enact the compact in the states, assisting the member states with the formation of the interstate commission to administer the compact and supporting the creation of a compact data system.[[2]](#footnote-3)

Please describe the financial and other resources your organization and supporting organizations will commit to sustaining this effort as described above.

(500-word limit)

1. Please state why the profession you represent is a good candidate for an interstate licensure compact.

(500-word limit)

**Appendix A: Interstate Compact Development Process**

Below is a description of the interstate compact development process including services included in this funding opportunity.

**Conduct Project Research** – DoD Coop Agreement

CSG will conduct research, analysis, and support to the project organization(s) in

understanding the scope of the proposed interstate compact including a detailed examination of strengths, barriers, benefits, impacts, historical data, timelines, and other extraordinary or specialized data identified by the project organization(s).

**Develop and Convene an Advisory Group to Study Impacts – DoD Coop Agreement**

CSG, in partnership with the project organization(s), will form an Advisory Group to review the project research, examine the issues and current policy spectrum, explore best practices and alternative structures, and develop recommendations for the draft interstate compact. The Advisory Group is composed of approximately 20 subject matter experts, project organization(s), partner organizations, policy makers, elected officials, and other stakeholders whose presence the project organization(s) consider necessary.

**Develop and Convene a Drafting Team – DoD Coop Agreement**

In consultation with the project organizations, CSG will form a Drafting Team to write the interstate compact. The Drafting Team is composed of approximately 8 individuals and supported by CSG attorneys and staff. The Drafting Team will craft an interstate compact that conforms to standard and accepted interstate compact language and structures based on the policy provisions recommended by the Advisory Group.

**Stakeholder Review – DoD Coop Agreement**

CSG will conduct an extensive and transparent stakeholder review process for the draft interstate compact. The stakeholder review process is open to the public and all responses will be accepted. CSG will also solicit feedback on the proposed draft compact from identified stakeholders and interested parties. CSG will organize the comments and reconvene the Drafting Team to analyze the feedback and decide if the issues raised warrant changes to the draft document.

**Finalizing Compact Language – DoD Coop Agreement**

After the Drafting Team completes its analysis of the comments from the stakeholder review process it will complete a final draft interstate compact. CSG will reconvene the Advisory Group to review the proposed final draft of the compact, the stakeholder review feedback, its recommendations to the Drafting Team, as well as the project scope materials and research to complete the process and finalize the compact.

**Plan and Convene a Legislative Briefing – DoD Coop Agreement**

CSG, in partnership with the project organization(s), will plan and convene a legislative briefing for legislators, legislative staff, executive branch officials, and relevant stakeholder groups to provide an overview of the project, the new interstate compact, and address policy and operational questions regarding the compact such as constitutionality, impacts to state sovereignty, rulemaking provisions, and potential financial implications of enactment.

**Legislative Resource Kit – DoD Coop Agreement**

The CSG, in partnership with the project organization(s), will create a legislative resource kit that will serve as informational resource hub for the new interstate compact. The resource kit components will include:

• Project background and development process

• Text of the compact model legislation

• Frequently asked questions

• Talking points for stakeholders to share with legislators and policy makers

• Advisory Group and Drafting Team members

• Letters of Support, endorsements, press and other news media clips, Resolutions, etc.

• Informational documents, fact sheets and educational materials

• Primers on compact legal issues, constitutional issues and/or sovereignty issues

• Key contacts

• Talking Points

1. Please provide a letter from any support organizations as documentation. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Under the scope of the cooperative agreement between DoD and CSG, there is additional funding available to develop a compact data system. There will be a separate request for applications to aid in funding compact data systems. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)