

Florida Social Work Consortium

Purpose:

To explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership with state agencies and community organizations to increase the utilization of social work workforce, education, and research in Florida.

Workforce for Professional Social Work in Florida:

A professional social worker is defined by Florida statutes as a person with a bachelor's degree (BSW), a master degree (MSW), or PhD degree from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). There are fourteen CSWE accredited programs in Florida, enrolling 4,800 students and graduating 1,600 annually. Florida statutes provide licensing for an MSW with a clinical social work education known as Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). In 2012, there were 7,869 LCSWs and 2,849 under supervision for licensure, for a total of 10,718. There are approximately 6,000 non-clinical BSWs and MSWs working in Florida. The total workforce for professional social workers in Florida is approximately 20,000.

Consortium Benefits and Value:

- 1) To offer to state agencies and community-based organizations easier access to the workforce of professionally-educated social workers through a career center network;
- 2) To assist state and community agencies by identifying how to best use professional social worker's skills, knowledge, education, experience, and ethical competence in meeting the needs of Florida families;
- 3) To consult and create training for state and community agencies on relevant topics such as: trauma informed care, veteran resources, mental health and substance abuse issues, staff supervision, and case management skill development and certification;
- 4) To provide linkages between the state agencies, community organizations, and social work programs with faculty research and student internships;
- 5) To create opportunities for joint advocacy for client resources;
- 6) To provide state and community agencies opportunities to meet their aspirations for a professionally-educated and highly-qualified workforce, at the entry and advanced levels.
- 7) To encourage the sharing of resources and networking opportunities.
- 8) To promote positive media coverage on the work of the state and community agencies and the social work profession.

Invited Consortium Membership:

- 1) State agencies: including but not limited to the Departments of Children and Families, Education, Juvenile Justice, Health, Corrections, Elder Affairs, and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Representatives from the agencies may include managers from program development, training, or research.
- 2) Community organizations: Including but not limited to community-based care agencies, hospices, hospitals, and others.
- 3) Social work organizations in Florida including those representing Haitians, Latinos, African Americans, School, Health Care, and Oncology.
- 4) Colleges, Schools, and Departments of Social Work, including representatives from each of the fourteen accredited programs in Florida:
 - Barry University;
 - Florida A&M University;
 - Florida Atlantic University;
 - Florida Gulf Coast University;
 - Florida International University;
 - Florida Memorial University;
 - Florida State University;
 - Saint Leo University;
 - Southeastern University;
 - University of Central Florida;
 - University of North Florida;
 - University of South Florida;
 - University of West Florida;
 - Warner University