

# What You Need to Know About Continuing Education

NASW views professional development as an essential activity for ensuring quality social work services. Professional development is a self-directed process, which requires social workers to assume responsibility for the growth of their own professional knowledge base. Regardless of career stage, social workers are ethically and legally obligated to keep informed of current research, theory, and techniques that guide social work practice to better serve clients and constituents.

## What is continuing education (CEs)?

Continuing education is additional training and education that is required to ensure that social workers remain up-to-date in the profession and are being trained in 21st century social work best practices.

## Who needs to get CE hours?

All fully licensed LMSWs and LBSWs are required to obtain continuing education hours. Limited licensees and Registered Social Service Technicians (RSSTs) are not required to obtain continuing education.

## What is required in Michigan?

Every fully licensed Michigan social worker is required to obtain 45 continuing education contact hours every three years in order to maintain an active license. Out of those 45 hours:

- five (5) hours must be approved **ethics** courses
- two (2) hour must be an approved **pain/pain symptom management** course
- up to half of the required hours (22.5) may be earned from alternative learning methods

## How will I know if a CE course is approved in Michigan?

Not all courses advertised as social work courses are acceptable for your continuing education hours. Only courses approved by one of the following organizations are recognized as "approved" courses for Michigan social workers:

- ✓ **Michigan Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative**  
([www.socialworkcec.com](http://www.socialworkcec.com))
- ✓ **Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB or ACE)** ([www.aswb.org](http://www.aswb.org))
- ✓ **Other states' Board of Social Work** (not NASW)

If you take a course that is not approved by one of the organizations listed above then those hours will *not* count toward your required 45 CE hours.

## When can I start accumulating my continuing education hours?

You may start accumulating hours based on the renewal date of your license. For example: If you renewed your license on April 30, 2015, you could count the approved CE hours accumulated from May 1, 2012. If you accrue more than 45 hours in your three year period, extra hours do not count toward your next renewal cycle.

# Continuing Education Resources



NASW is committed to helping social workers meet their professional development needs. This strong dedication has led to the creation of multiple professional development programs and products such as credentials, education and training courses, newsletters, employment information, resources, and publications.

NASW members receive both free CEs and CEs at discounted rates to fill their licensing or credentialing requirements when they participate in our professional development programs.

## Get your event approved for CEs!

Are you hosting a workshop, training, or conference that would be perfect for social workers? Visit the Michigan Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative (the approving body for the Michigan Board of Social Work) website at [www.socialworkkec.com](http://www.socialworkkec.com) or call Robin Simpson at 517-487-1548, ex 17 for information and questions.

## What if I get audited?

Want to make sure all of your CEs will count towards your license? NASW-Michigan offers a CE Tracking Service to all licensed social workers. The CE Tracking Service will prepare social workers to swiftly and confidently respond to a State audit, if one is issued, and is designed to prevent unnecessary license suspension. The service will help determine if you have completed the required CE course hours for licensure renewal. At any time during your three-year cycle, this web-based service will allow you to login and verify how many approved credits you have completed and how many you have left to complete. Call 517-487-1548 today to get signed up. \$25 for NASW members, \$40 for non-members per year.

## Where can I receive free or discounted CEs?

### NASW-Michigan Chapter Upcoming Workshops & Networking Events

- Michigan event calendar – [www.nasw-michigan.org/events](http://www.nasw-michigan.org/events)
- Annual Conference – [www.nasw-michigan.org/?conference](http://www.nasw-michigan.org/?conference)
- Legislative Education & Advocacy Day – [nasw-michigan.org/?LEAD](http://nasw-michigan.org/?LEAD)

**National NASW Professional Development Center** (you may complete any current or archived workshop)

- Professional Education & Training Center – [www.naswproed.org](http://www.naswproed.org)
- Lunchtime Series – <http://bit.ly/1EA0e7f>
- Specialty Practice Sections - [www.socialworkers.org/sections/](http://www.socialworkers.org/sections/)
- NASW Web Ed – [www.naswwebed.org](http://www.naswwebed.org)
- NASW Assurance Services (Liability Insurance) – [www.naswassurance.org](http://www.naswassurance.org)

Join NASW today at  
[www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)



National Association of Social Workers - Michigan Chapter