



# Partnership Policy Spotlight

## Community Action Recognizes Social Work Month



### SOCIAL WORK & COMMUNITY ACTION

Social work and Community Action share a strong connection and work hand-in-hand to make America a better place to live. They each empower all members of a community by providing people with the tools and resources they need to reach their fullest potential. Many Community Action leaders are also trained social workers, including Dr. Lanikque Howard and Charisse Johnson from the Office of Community Services, as well as our NCAP CEO Denise Harlow, and many others. Social work also prioritizes many of the values set out in the [Partnership's policy platform](#), including meaningful access to health services, a commitment to racial equity, and creating robust opportunities for civic engagement. **March is Social Work Month and we celebrate our social worker colleagues and partners!**

### SOCIAL WORK AWARENESS

Throughout the pandemic, social workers have continued to play a crucial role on the front lines by



helping individuals and families meet their needs and ensuring equitable access to human services, civil rights, and mental health care. Even before 2020, the demand for social workers was steadily increasing, and it continues to be one of the fastest growing professions in America.

But there are obstacles to meeting this demand, including stagnant compensation for social

workers in the field. The Partnership supports increased compensation for social workers in our communities, as well as programs like student loan forgiveness that will expand access to the field for students and young professionals. For more information about the field of social work visit the [National Association of Social Workers \(NASW\)](#) and check out [their policy/advocacy work!](#)

## GET ENGAGED!

Advocacy is a pillar of social work and is integrated into day-to-day work in the field. Social workers advocate for their customers on an individual basis, but they also advocate for them on the local, state, and federal level to affect policy change that will benefit customers across programs and services. Community Action can support this work not just by celebrating social worker colleagues and community partners, but also by getting engaged in direct advocacy at an organizational level.

Where do your elected officials stand on the social work bills NCAP is tracking in Congress (check out the box!)? Does your member of Congress support the [Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act](#)? We can lift up and emulate the advocacy intrinsic to social work by engaging on federal, state, and local policy change that will create more equitable communities with opportunities for all.



## Our Advocacy

### SOCIAL WORK BILLS WE'RE TRACKING IN CONGRESS

- **Social Work Reinvestment Act** (*not yet filed*): Creates a Social Work Reinvestment Commission and funds pilot programs for research, education, workplace improvements, and community-based best practices.
- **Improving Access to Mental Health Act** ([H.R. 2035](#) / [S. 870](#)): Increases the Medicare reimbursement rate for clinical social worker services.
- **Community Based Response Act** ([H.R. 3862](#) / [S. 2046](#)): Funds programs to help communities create emergency response models that do not require immediate law enforcement involvement.

### SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT SOCIAL WORK

For more ways to engage, celebrate, and spread the word about Social Work Month, check out [NASW's media outreach toolkit!](#)

