



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

STRENGTHENING THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK

Leadership in Research, Career Advancement, and Education

1701 Duke Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314

TEL 703.683.8080

FAX 703.683.8099

www.cswe.org

The Impact of Social Work Research ***Principles for Public Policy***

Our nation faces a wide variety of existing and emerging societal needs, including escalating health-care costs and disparities in access to services. Congressional and federal policymakers respond to these needs by creating legislation and programs to improve human conditions. In order to develop and revise social service policies and programs, legislators and implementers evaluate care and service models of existing programs and adapt them based on evolving trends. The evaluation process of social service programs considers the effectiveness of interventions intended to address specific societal challenges, scale effective successful models, and broaden access to larger populations.

Social workers in academia and in practice conduct research to develop an evidence base for effective social service programs to address the complex needs of a diverse population. In partnership with the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), CSWE advocates for such research to inform policy and program development to guarantee and enhance the quality of individual, family, and community well-being. In preparation for the profession, social work students are taught to apply, evaluate, and investigate various models of care for diverse populations in order to support the best outcome achievable. This grounding in evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence is the foundation for continuous improvement in policies and services. Through federal advocacy, CSWE shares social work research with policy makers to ultimately improve the development, delivery, access, and evaluation of federal social service programs.

As Congress and federal agencies adopt and implement policies and invest in social and behavioral science research, CSWE will abide by the following principles in determining its support. CSWE encourages congressional and federal policy makers to consider these principles as they draft legislation and implement policies and programs. CSWE is a willing and able resource to aid the federal social and behavioral science research agenda.

- CSWE supports federal investment in social and behavioral science research that coordinates basic and applied research to scale successful models of social services and support the full diversity of our nation's populations.
- CSWE supports federal policies and programs that recognize and have the ability to adapt to evolving societal needs, ensuring the social work workforce is prepared for population changes.
- CSWE recognizes the federal need to invest in research to study social determinants of health and supports investments in methods to identify and meet the needs of unique and underserved populations.
- CSWE supports incorporating evidence-based approaches in social service policies and programs.
- CSWE supports integrating social and behavioral science research with education and training programs, ensuring interprofessional care providers are well-prepared to develop and execute coordinated, individualized care plans.
- CSWE is committed to ensuring social workers have a voice in policy based on their research and that they continue to be a part of the discussions and eligibility regarding research, services, and programs.

Contact:

Darla Spence Coffey, CSWE President, DCoffey@cswe.org

Laura Uttley, CSWE Government Relations, laura@lewis-burke.com