

Center for Diversity and Social and Economic Justice

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

MISSION AND CHARGE

The Center for Diversity and Social & Economic Justice is a Center of the Council on Social Work Education established to advance the quality of social work education for a professional practice that promotes individual, family, and community well-being, and social and economic justice. The Center will pursue this mission by promoting, developing, and sustaining social work leadership, teaching, research, curricula, knowledge-building, and institutional arrangements that foster the achievement of diversity and social and economic justice. It will support the commitment of social work education to provide social workers with the intellectual and practical skills needed to address issues of social inequality and injustice. (Sources: *Center Concept Paper*, 2006; *Proposal*, 2014)

Carry out targeted projects on diversity and social and economic justice within the CSWE functional areas:

<p style="text-align: center;">CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT</p> <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p><i>Create and disseminate innovative curricula:</i> Compile bibliographies, syllabi, other resources. Assemble experts to consult with social work programs. Serve as a clearinghouse for social work educators.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FACULTY DEVELOPMENT</p> <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p><i>Develop capacity of faculty to integrate content in teaching, research and field education:</i> Develop events (forums, workshops, webinars). Bring together leading scholars in a variety of venues, including the APM.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESEARCH</p> <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p><i>Create a unique focus for research in social work education:</i> Develop sources of funding. Create special issue in <i>Journal of Social Work Education</i>. Create peer-reviewed journal and a Working Paper series.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS</p> <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p><i>Facilitate partnerships with national, state, and local stakeholder organizations, and across disciplines:</i> Consult with the Commission on Accreditation on content in social work programs Develop media campaigns</p>
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Provide social work education with the opportunity and means to advance:

Vision	Voice	Visibility	Collaborative action
Underscore CSWE's commitment to social work education that prepares students to engage in diversity and difference in practice and advances human rights and social and economic justice.	Stimulate the development of teaching, research, leadership and curricula that identifies structural barriers to social and economic justice and encourages dialogue among diverse groups.	Raise the national profile of social work education on diversity and social and economic justice (practice education, faculty capacity-building, collaboration, and media education on the role of social work education).	Collaborate with other CSWE governance bodies and social work programs/affiliated centers to develop curricula, research, and educational innovation that advances diversity and social and economic justice.

Translate CSWE’s Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards into practical curriculum materials.

Social work competencies (EPAS, 2015)

Social work competence is the ability to integrate and apply social work knowledge, values, and skills to practice situations in a *purposeful, intentional, and professional manner to promote human and community well-being*. Two competencies explicitly address aspects of well-being related to diversity and social and economic justice:

- Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice: apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels; engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences; and manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.
- Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice: advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels; and engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.

Competence in these two areas requires expression across all social work competencies. Social injustice – take for example, the mass incarceration of people of color – is rooted in unjust policies and societal structures that result in inequality. But it manifests itself in multiple aspects of life (there are pipelines, domino effects, cycles) and needs to be addressed on multiple fronts. Consequently, work to advance social justice and diversity calls for competent professional practice in ethical behavior, research, policy, engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation across the spectrum: with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities – and the broader society. Taken together these practice behaviors, as stated in the original Center proposal (2006, p. 5), “inform the overall goal of undoing disparities and promoting justice.” Thus content on diversity and social and economic justice needs to be applied in practical curriculum materials across all competency areas.

Figure 1. Integration of social work competencies

