

## NASW-PA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONALS

- Ensure practice protection for clinical social workers, protecting the public by requiring competency in the delivery of clinical social work services.
- Pass legislation which adds “diagnosis” to the scope of practice for LCSWs, which 36 other states already have in place.
- Increase positive outcomes for vulnerable populations by promoting professional standards through the advertisement of licensed bachelor-level social workers.

### SOCIAL POLICY

- Enhance workforce standards in the delivery of publically funded clinical mental health services.
- Ensure a comprehensive continuum of services to elderly and disabled populations to ensure appropriate and high quality services within local communities.
- Work to elect more women and social workers to serve in the General Assembly.
- Maintain funding of public social services at sufficient levels to sustain those suffering as a result of the economic recession.
- Strengthen the quality, training, supervision, and retention of the public and private child welfare workforce by implementing policies that meet or exceed national standards and research-based best practices.

### FAST FACTS:

- The National Association of Social Workers, Pennsylvania Chapter (NASW-PA) is a chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the largest association for professional social workers serving over 140,000 members. In Pennsylvania, NASW-PA serves nearly 6,000 members and works to enhance the professional growth and development of social workers, to create and maintain professional social work standards, and to advance sound social policies.
- Social work is the professional activity of helping individuals, groups, or communities enhance or restore their capacity for social functioning and creating societal conditions favorable to this goal. Social workers provide services in a number of different settings. Professional social workers hold bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degrees in social work.
- Social workers are the largest provider of mental health services. In Pennsylvania, according to the Pennsylvania Department of State, there are over 6,600 LSWs and more than 4,300 LCSWs compared to approximately 5,500 psychologists. Social workers are a necessary component of the mental health service provision continuum.