



Tennessee Social Work Task Force To Address Exam Pass Rate Disparities

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work, University of Memphis School of Social Work, Coalition of Black Social Workers, and NASW, Tennessee Chapter have joined together to lead a task force to review disparities in licensure exam pass rate data shared in August by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). The Task Force will also identify avenues to ensure our profession welcomes and promotes diverse qualified professionals.

The ASWB report (<https://www.aswb.org/exam/contributing-to-the-conversation/>) released in August revealed glaring disparities in pass rates among racial groups, particularly for Black test takers. It also raised concerns about disparities in pass rates for other demographic groups including social workers who are older adults. As social work professionals, educators, and associations, we are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion and anti-racist practice. We are very concerned that the current exam, which is required for licensure in Tennessee as a baccalaureate, masters or clinical social worker, disproportionately limits the number of licensed Black and older social workers in our state.

Our organizations are committed to working closely with Task Force partners to develop a coordinated and timely response to this recently released report and to propose innovative solutions that reduce harm and increase diverse representation at all levels of social work practice in the state of Tennessee.

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