NASW-Indiana Chapter has a long history of participating in advocacy efforts in the state to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources and opportunities that allow them to meet their basic needs.

**NASW Indiana - 2023 Legislative Areas of Focus**

Areas of focus include, but are not limited to:

- Recognizing that there is a shortage of mental health professionals in Indiana and across the country, we will continue championing policy changes that support social workers by advocating for increased reimbursement rates and increased access to scholarships and loan forgiveness to support the workforce. We will also be working to ensure that any changes in licensing support the profession and the clients served.
- Advocating on behalf of social workers and the clients we serve in Indiana by providing proactive solutions to human service issues.
- Supporting policies that strengthen children, families, and individuals in urban, rural and suburban communities.
- Promoting access to affordable education for all residents.
- Advocating for accessible, high-quality, affordable healthcare, mental health services, substance use and addictions treatment, and other related services.
- Encouraging and supporting civil rights for all.
- Encouraging, honoring, and supporting racial, cultural, and ethnic diversity while striving to end discrimination and disproportionality in all areas.
- Advocating for and influencing administrative rules, policies, and legislation that promote the ethical professional practice of Social Work.
- Promoting a fair and equitable criminal justice system.
- Advocate for gun safety and the prevention of gun violence.

The NASW Indiana Legislative Agenda and advocacy work is supported by **NASW Code of Ethics**

6.01 Social Welfare “Social workers should promote the general welfare of society, from local to global levels, and the development of people, their communities, and their environments. Social workers should advocate for living conditions conducive to the fulfillment of basic human needs and should promote social, economic, political, and cultural values and institutions that are compatible with the realization of social justice.”

6.04 Social and Political Action “(a) Social Workers should engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, employment, services, and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully. Social workers should be aware of the impact of the political arena on practice and should advocate for changes in policy and legislation to improve social conditions to meet basic human needs and promote social justice.”

*The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards for social workers, and to advance sound social policies.*
For further information visit www.naswin.org or www.socialworkers.org