



## Mission

The National Association of Social Workers - Massachusetts Chapter (NASW-MA) is committed to advancing professional social work practice and the profession and to promoting human rights, social and economic justice, and unimpeded access to services for everyone.

## 2018 at a Glance

- 6300** members across the Commonwealth
- 2350** people attended 43 NASW-MA Continuing Education Programs
- 25** NASW-MA PACE-endorsed candidates elected to public office
- 6** appointments to state commissions
- 6** bills from NASW-MA's legislative agenda passed into law

## Member Work Settings



Dear Friend,

This past year was one of growth for NASW-MA. We started the year by saying goodbye to our home of over 40 years and moving across the street to 11 Beacon St., Boston. **Our new office allows us to remain close to the State House in order to be effective and powerful in our advocacy for the social work profession and the clients and communities served by social workers.** In 2018, we were on the forefront of passing six important pieces of legislation. You can read more about our legislative wins on the reverse side of this report.

In addition to legislative wins that improve the lives of social workers themselves and the clients and communities served, we successfully advocated to halt harmful audit and clawbacks processes with insurance companies and were the first to inform you about and guide you through new licensing renewal requirements. We also became the Co-chair of the Mental Health Coalition.

As an organization, we began the year by implementing our new strategic plan, guiding our activities and prioritizing our commitment to advancing racial justice. This included the formation of our new Racial Justice Council. **In 2018, we also expanded our membership benefits and continuing education offerings.** In January, we launched our new member magazine, Social Work Voice, replacing FOCUS after 44 years of production. We ended the year by introducing our newest member benefit, a 12-month wall calendar. The calendar makes it easier for you to stay in-the-know about Chapter continuing education programs and events, member group meetings, and important holidays, all while seeing the friendly faces of your colleagues each month.

In addition to providing each of our members with a new written continuing education course booklet this summer, giving you the opportunity to earn up to 6.5 CEUs at your leisure, we held 43 in-person continuing education programs across the state. This program included Symposium 2018, the largest gathering of social workers in New England.

As we work to build on the foundation we laid in 2018 and capitalize on the momentum for political engagement and change, we look forward to the year ahead. **Our strength is our collective voice.** Together, we can elevate social work practice and advance social and economic justice. Thank you for your membership and support. The amazing NASW-MA staff and I look forward to continuing our work with you in 2019.



Onward,  
*Rebekah*  
Rebekah Gewirtz, MPA  
Executive Director

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# Highlights & Accomplishments

## Legislative Victories Successfully Passed 6 NASW-MA Priority Bills into Law

In 2018, **six of NASW-MA's priority bills were signed into law**, creating a more just and equitable Commonwealth for all. These bills included:

- An Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform
- An Act to Protect Access to Confidential Health Care (PATCH)
- An Act Establishing a Family and Medical Leave and Temporary Disability Insurance Program
- An Act to improve the Commonwealth's economy with a strong minimum wage and a strong tipped minimum wage

## Managed Care Advocacy Led the Charge to Halt Harmful Audit and Clawback Processes

Upon hearing about predatory audit and clawback processes performed by a for-profit insurance company, we took swift action. Utilizing the relationships we built with MassHealth, private insurance companies, legislators, partners, and members, **we successfully negotiated a freeze on these audits and an opportunity for social workers to resubmit paperwork in order to stop the clawbacks**, or retroactive claims denials, entirely. This was a huge victory for clinicians and MassHealth clients served.

## Symposium: On the Front Lines The Largest Gathering of Social Workers in New England

Symposium, NASW-MA's two-day, biennial continuing education event, brings together hundreds of social workers to learn and build community. **This year, nearly 1,000 social workers and allies attended the event**, making it the largest gathering of social workers in New England. We heard from keynote speaker and social worker Jackie Woodside as we explored "Calming the Chaos," empowering social workers with the tools and strategies necessary in order to persevere on the front lines.

## Health Care Transformation Keeping Social Workers at the Forefront of Health Care Innovation

In May 2018, NASW-MA hosted "Health Care Transformation and the Future of Social Work." More than 150 social workers attended and panelists ranged from clinical program directors, to policy experts, to researchers, to executive officials, **offering both the macro and clinical insights on health care and the role of social workers**. This meaningful conversation was prompted by MassHealth's recent change to Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and the uncertainty around how this impacts social workers.

## Racial Justice Council Initiation Integrating Racial Justice into all Internal and External Areas of Work

After conversations with stakeholders and our Board of Directors, NASW-MA solidified its commitment to advancing racial justice through its 2018-2020 strategic plan. A key component of this commitment was the creation of NASW-MA's Racial Justice Council. **This group is comprised of social workers and allies of all ages, practice areas, geographic locations, and races and ethnicities**. The group began its work in Fall 2018, strategizing how to integrate racial justice into all internal and external areas of NASW-MA's work.

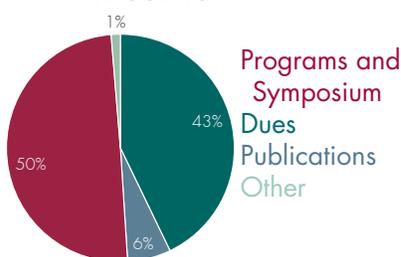
## Launch of Social Work Voice Updating and Expanding NASW-MA Membership Benefits

In January 2018, NASW-MA launched Social Work Voice (SWV), a magazine produced 7 times each year. Through SWV, members receive timely updates about our advocacy work, managed care, and continuing education programming, in addition to articles written by peers on a variety of clinical and macro topics.



## Financial Snapshot

### Income



### Expenses

