Many Counties do not Have Enough Providers

- 166 counties in Texas (65%) have no clinical social workers (LCSWs) who accept Medicaid.
- Of the counties with LCSWs, only 23% accept Medicaid. Over half these counties do have an Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) to provide therapy.
- 94 counties in Texas (37%) do not have any LCSWs, LPCs, or LMFTs that accept Medicaid.

Contact: Bryan Mares, NASW-TX Government Relations Director
bmares.naswtx@socialworkers.org

512.474.1454 | 810 West 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701-2010 | www.naswtx.org
What does an LMSW Pursuing Clinical Licensure do?

To be considered a social worker in Texas, an individual with a social work degree must also earn licensure. Those with Master of Social Work degrees can become a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) after passing the licensing exam. To upgrade from an LMSW to a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), a LMSW must:

- Complete 3,000 hours of direct client practice—primarily psychotherapy and diagnose
- Complete 100 hours of clinical supervision
- Obtain 30 continuing education unit credits every two years
- Pass the clinical licensing exam

LMSWs pursuing a LCSW pay $3,000-$5,000 for supervision which must be completed within 24-60 months. This compounded with student loan debt further disincentivizes LMSWs from becoming Medicaid providers when they cannot bill for their services—generally they only accept cash.

- In the last three years, more than 700 LMSWs upgraded to a LCSW annually, with the number increasing every year
- Data from BHEC suggests that more than 1,500 LMSWs are under supervision for clinical licensure every year—all of whom would potentially be eligible

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment Type</th>
<th>Hourly Rate</th>
<th>Gross Receipts</th>
<th>Gross Pay</th>
<th>Paycheck</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100% Medicaid</td>
<td>$116</td>
<td>$139,200</td>
<td>$97,440</td>
<td>$68,208</td>
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<tr>
<td>(current rate for psychiatrists and psychologists)</td>
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<td>$47,745</td>
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<tr>
<td>(current rate for LCSWs, LPCs, LMFTs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average private pay for urban areas</td>
<td>$170</td>
<td>$204,000</td>
<td>$142,800</td>
<td>$99,960</td>
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<td>Average private pay for rural areas</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$180,00</td>
<td>$126,000</td>
<td>$88,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average pay for experienced provider or Ph.D</td>
<td>$225</td>
<td>$270,000</td>
<td>$189,000</td>
<td>$132,300</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\[(\text{No. of Sessions}) \times (\text{Collections Rate}) \times (\text{No. of Work Weeks}) = (\text{Gross Receipts}) - (\text{Expenses}) = (\text{Gross Pay}) - (\text{taxes & benefits}) = (\text{Paycheck})\]

Passing Legislation to Allow LMSWs to Bill Medicaid Would:

- Not change, impact, or interfere with the licensure or scope of any other mental health profession.
- Allow already trained and licensed master-level graduates and practitioners to bill Medicaid for counseling services.
- Reduce the need for inpatient services and psychotropic drugs by offering access to care on the front end.
- Increase the number of mental health providers in underserved rural areas of the state experiencing mass shortages.

BHEC, Open Records Request
Council on Social Work Education, 2020 Statistics on Social Work Education in the United States
DHS, Shortage Area Designations: https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-primary-care-office/t pca/health-professional-shortage-area-designations
HHSC, Open Records Request