

CONTINUING EDUCATION REGULATIONS FOR LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS

This fact sheet is geared toward individual LMSWs and LCSW's and covers the requirements for the continuing education credits for LMSWs and LCSW's. Providers of continuing education who would like to know more about the requirements of providers should contact the NASW/CT office.

Those Required To Attain Continuing Education Credits (CEC): All LMSW's and LCSW's licensed in Connecticut, after their initial renewal of the license, are required to attain 15 hours of continuing education annually (which is defined as your license year). Newly licensed LMSW's and LCSW's do not have to get CEC's until they renew their license for the first time. At the point of that initial renewal the clock begins ticking and the CEC's become required during the following twelve months leading up to the next renewal of your license. Thereafter you must get the annual 15 hours of CEC's for continued renewal of the license.

At least one hour of the 15 must be in cultural competence. Starting January 1, 2016 all LMSW's and LCSW's will need to attain within every six years two hours of training on veterans and/or veterans families. If you are renewing your license for the first time you must get the two hours on veterans within that first license renew year.

School Social Workers: Certified school social workers in CT who hold the professional educator certificate can use their Department of Education approved CEU's toward the LMS and LCSW CEC requirement.

The Kinds of Continuing Education Programs Qualifying for CEC's:

1. The most common way to receive some or all of your qualifying CEC's is by in person attendance at workshops, conferences, in-house staff training, institutes, teleconferences and symposiums that have content related to social work practice. Such programs allow the LMSW and LCSW to receive one credit hour for each hour of the program, to a maximum of eight credit hours in any one-day's participation in a continuing education program. See programs accepted below.

2. Home study including online education is another means to meet the continuing education requirement. A home study program is defined as continuing education activities, clearly related to maintaining skills necessary for safe and competent practice of clinical social work that require successful completion of a proficiency examination. Home study programs may include distance learning and internet-based educational programs. Up to six hours of continuing education per annual

renewal period may be attained through home study. The content must be related to social work practice. See programs accepted below.

3. Courses at either the undergraduate or graduate level offered by schools of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education will be accepted based on one credit hour for each hour of attendance. Audited courses will be allowed with documentation of attendance. This will only apply to courses taken once the social worker has attained their LMSW or LCSW.
4. A fourth way to receive CEC's is to present for the first time an original paper, essay, or lecture on clinical social work to a recognized group of fellow professionals. Such a presentation counts for five CEC hours.

Licensure Year: Only those CEC hours attained during a given license year can be applied to that license year. For example, if your license year is October 1 – September 30 all of your CEC hours must have been attained in that time period. CEC hours from a prior license year cannot be applied to the current license year.

Continuing Education Programs Accepted By the State for the CEC Requirement: There are two criteria, BOTH THAT MUST BE MET, in order to qualify for CEC hours, these being:

1. The program been approved by one of the following organizational bodies: NASW (national or any state chapter), Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), or a graduate school of social work or undergraduate social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. If the program is NOT approved by one of these organizations it will not be accepted for the LMSW or LCSW renewal.
2. The program must have content related to social work practice. This is an important point as it is unlikely but possible that a program may be approved by one of the authorized organizations listed above but still not qualify due to content that does not qualify for CEC's in Connecticut. **If a program is approved by NASW/CT you know that it meets all of the requirements for Connecticut.**

If a continuing education program has not been approved by one of the organizations listed in number 1 above NASW/CT will review the program on an individual basis for eligibility as an approved program. There is a member and non-member fee attached to the review. Applications for individual CEC review are available at <http://naswct.org/continuing-education/individual-reviews-continuing-education-credit/>

Proving Fulfillment of the Requirement: When you renew your license the renewal form will have a check-off box where you attest to having received the required CEC's. You are required to keep for three years the written certificates issued by the provider of

education that document that you completed the continuing education activity and states the number of CEC hours attained. The Department of Public Health has the right to inspect these records and may request that you submit them to the Department. The Department can take disciplinary action against an individual who has not met the CEC requirement.

Two Kinds of Waivers of the Continuing Education Requirement:

1. A waiver of the CEC requirement may be extended to individuals who are not engaged in clinical social work during a given continuing education registration period provided that the individual submits a request for waiver prior to the expiration date of the continuing education registration period. Such a waiver must be applied for on a form provided by the Department of Public Health and must be notarized prior to submission. The application for waiver must be approved by the Department of Public Health in order to be applied by the individual applicant. This waiver requires that the licensee not engage in active practice of clinical social work until the licensee satisfactorily demonstrates to the Department of Public Health that they have completed the requirements for continuing education.
2. In individual cases involving a medical disability or illness, a waiver of part or all of the continuing education hours may be granted or an extension of time within which to complete the requirements may be granted by DPH. Verification from a licensed physician is required. The waiver may be for a period of up to one year and if the need for a medical waiver or extension of time continues past one year the licensee can apply for an additional waiver or extension of time by filing a new waiver request with DPH.

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only. Final determination on the Regulations Concerning Continuing Education for Clinical Social Workers is the responsibility of the Department of Public Health, State of Connecticut.