

The New World of Continuing Education

As the opportunities to attend Continuing Education programs have dissolved before our eyes overnight and, at the same time, there is the pressure to satisfy our license requirements, do not despair! There are solutions ahead!

FIRST, DPH has suspended license renewals and payment of associated fees during this pandemic. Throughout the duration of the declared COVID-19 emergency, licensees do not have to renew and pay for their licenses. So, if are experiencing loss of income please know this is an option. However, be aware that when the emergency is over and the suspension is lifted, you will be required to pay these fees retroactively.

SECOND: While you can put off payment for your license renewal, to date there has been no waiving of continuing education requirements and no decision to allow all continuing ed credits to be obtained online. Therefore, here are some options:

Some of the programs previously approved for Continuing Ed and listed on our CEC Calendar on the website are converting to ONLINE programs—either Online Self Study or Online Live/Interactive. You can look to the Calendar as a resource.

Don't forget that an Online Live/Interactive training is **NOT** considered self-study but counts towards your face to face continuing ed requirement. So, the approved programs that you see being offered via GoToWebinar or ZOOM or some other LIVE platform will be fine to take if you are looking to satisfy the 9 in-person credits required.

Go to NASW's CE institute at <https://naswinstitute.inreachce.com/> for a large selection of approved ONLINE self-study and some ONLINE Live webinars. You can also access these programs from the NASW/CT web site at www.naswct.org and click on the tab Continuing Education and then the CE Institute.

There are **MANY** Online, WEB BASED trainings listed on our CE Calendar. Please note on our web site that you can click on the Calendar for Live Classes or Web Classes. We recommend that you take a look at this impressive and varied listing and that you not hesitate to fulfill your continuing ed requirements by signing up for an Online SELF STUDY class. DPH will be flexible and is not looking to penalize anyone. Getting your hours via SELF STUDY shows a good faith effort and DPH has not objected to our encouragement to obtain your necessary credits in this manner. For those of you anticipating offering continuing ed programs in the future we have updated our Program Application Forms to reflect the ONLINE Live/Interactive option. [Click HERE for the forms.](#)

On a final note, the CEC requirement is in CT state statute and is not under the control of NASW. We have heard from members who want to be able to either do all of the CE hours online or have the requirement waived. NASW/CT had been advocating to DPH to lift the limit on online/home study hours but instead, by the Governor's executive order, CE requirements have been suspended for 12 months. The Chapter is seeking clarification from DPH as to when the suspension will end and what CE hours will be required for those in the middle of their license year when the suspension is lifted. This suspension does not affect any private credential you may hold that requires continuing education hours. NASW/CT will continue to offer high quality, skills based CE to keep you up to date with the latest in practice knowledge. NASW/CT had legislation introduced that would have raised the home study limit from 6 to 10 hours annually. It would almost certainly have passed had the Legislature not adjourned. We plan to introduce it again in the 2021 legislative session.

[Click HERE for the forms.](#)