

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) invites you to participate in a focus group to discuss replication and sustainability of the NASW Supervisory Leaders in Aging (SLA) initiative. This virtual meeting will take place on **October 12, 2017**, from **2:00 to 3:00 p.m. EDT**. Social workers, employers, and organizations representing employers are welcome to participate.

As you may know, SLA is a 10-module, five-day signature professional development program for master's-level social workers (MSWs) who supervise staff providing direct social services to older adults in health care or social services settings. The program enhances participants' gerontological, supervisory, and leadership skills, thereby enhancing service delivery. A list of workshop titles appears at the end of this invitation.

With generous support from the John A. Hartford Foundation, eight cohorts of SLA participants (between 15 and 20 in each cohort) have participated in face-to-face SLA training since 2015 in four NASW chapters: Florida, Illinois, Maryland, and New York City. Thanks to extensive evaluation measures built into these SLA pilots, NASW has learned a great deal that will inform SLA sustainability and replication following completion of the Hartford grant. Participants overwhelmingly agree on the value of SLA in enhancing their knowledge and skills.

It should be noted that payment of the SLA tuition has varied during the pilot phase. Some employers have been willing to pay the tuition, whereas in other instances participants have been able to pay tuition out of pocket. In some cases, social workers needed scholarship funding to participate; these scholarships have been covered by the Hartford grant during the pilot. Some external funders, such as foundations and local governments, may be willing to help fund SLA in a specific geographical area in the future.

As the Hartford grant draws to a close, NASW is considering ways to sustain SLA in the four pilot chapters and to expand SLA to additional chapters. Your feedback will help to inform our efforts. During the October 12 focus group meeting, we will seek your input on the following questions:

1. What kind of demand exists in your community for training along the lines of SLA?
2. Which service delivery settings can benefit from such a professional development opportunity?
3. NASW chapters seek partners to help implement SLA. Which entities might be appropriate partners in your community?
4. Would the current SLA workshop structure (five days of face-to-face training over a 10-week period) work for you or in your community? If not, how do you suggest the structure be modified?

We hope you can join us for this important meeting. **If you wish to participate, please respond to NASW Foundation staff Kerri Criswell, kcriswell.nasw@socialworkers.org or 202.336.8276, by COB Friday, October 6.** (Meeting access information will be forwarded following RSVP.) Should you not be available for the October 12 focus group, Kerri welcomes your input by e-mail or by phone.

SLA workshop titles:

Advancing Skills in Individual Supervision
Advancing Skills in Group Supervision
Strengthening Social Work Leadership in Interdisciplinary Practice
Promoting Culturally Competent Gerontological Practice / Supporting Staff in Ethical Practice
Expanding Knowledge of Mental Health in Late Life
Heightening Awareness of Older Adult Self-Neglect and Mistreatment
Supervising Social Service Staff in Their Work with Families
Teaching Gerontological Social Work Assessment Skills
Measuring Outcomes of Gerontological Social Work Practice
Translating Research Evidence into Gerontological Social Work Practice