



Technical Assistance for Your State

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE POLICY

WHAT WE OFFER

The Council of State Governments, with financial support from the U.S. Department of Labor, can provide technical assistance for states interested in improving occupational licensing policy in their state. As a non-partisan organization representing all three branches of state government, CSG has experienced staff available to help states assess their licensure framework, research policy options and facilitate interbranch discussions.

For the past three years, CSG has helped participating states become familiar with and discuss their existing licensing policies, identify current policies that create unnecessary barriers, and create and maintain an action plan that focuses on removing barriers to labor market entry and improves portability and reciprocity for select occupations. The project has resulted in several publications and other resources for states including an occupational licensure database, policy reports on topics like interstate compacts, and analysis of state reform efforts.

OPPORTUNITIES

Learn about other state reform efforts.

Occupational licensing reform has emerged as a policy priority for many states, and the resulting policy innovations and regulatory strategies can serve both as a blueprint and as a learning opportunity. CSG regularly tracks and analyzes legislative and regulatory initiatives from across the nation to provide as policy examples.

Promote interstate collaboration.

Navigating the various state licensing requirements, rules, regulations and fee structures can present significant challenges for workers. To address these challenges, states and professions have turned to occupational licensure interstate compacts. These compacts create reciprocal professional licensing practices between states, while ensuring the quality and safety of services and safeguarding state sovereignty. With more than 80 years of experience in assisting states develop interstate compacts, CSG can provide the technical expertise states need when considering their involvement.

Connect with subject matter experts and peer states. Where learning opportunities exist, CSG can provide states connection to our state partners, interstate compact commissions and other subject matter experts to facilitate further learning and information sharing opportunities.

Start a conversation in your state. Discussions on occupational licensing policy impacts a wide variety of stakeholders. CSG can facilitate interbranch discussions that promote collaborative and action-oriented steps.

Receive legislative testimony. CSG is available to provide non-partisan testimony on occupational licensing legislation, including comments on data findings, policy considerations and similar policies from other states.

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact travel, The Council of State Governments is equipped to provide our members technical assistance remotely.

CSG continues to track how states are responding to increased health care workforce demands and impacts to licensing requirements through legislation, executive orders, emergency proclamations and interstate compacts. CSG technical assistance will also include the opportunity to review our findings and analysis of occupational licensing state actions relative to COVID-19.

For more information about CSG occupational licensing policy resources, contact csims@cs.org or visit: licensing.csg.org.

HOW SERVICES ARE DELIVERED

Through in-state convenings, CSG presents trends in occupational licensure, such as interstate compacts, facilitates action planning workshops to coordinate reform efforts, and offers occupational licensing board training on topics like avoiding anti-trust litigation and best practices for licensing boards.

CSG staff also offer general technical assistance and research services to provide answers that inform public policy conversations. Common questions include, “How does my state compare to others in licensing regulations?” and “What are the current policy trends that my state can consider?”

BACKGROUND ON OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING POLICY

Over the last 60 years, the number of jobs requiring an occupational license has grown from about 1 in 20 to nearly 1 in 4. When implemented properly, occupational licensing can help protect the health and safety of consumers by requiring practitioners to undergo a designated amount of training and education in their field. However, overly burdensome and disparate occupational licensing laws across states can create barriers for those looking to enter the labor market, making it harder for workers to relocate across state lines.

Occupational licensing policy is a bipartisan issue. Reform efforts are being undertaken by states across the nation regardless of political or geographical representation.

Occupational licensing policy is trending issue among states. States are taking a renewed look at how both new and retooled policy innovations, such as interstate compacts, universal recognition laws and sunrise/sunset processes, can help promote a competitive state workforce while still maintaining protections of public health and safety interests.

Occupational licensing policy impacts other state priorities. States have used conversations and policy actions on occupational licensing to address related issues such as regulatory reform, workforce shortages, worker mobility and public safety. Reform efforts also commonly seek to improve outcomes for populations disproportionately affected by licensing regulations, including military members, veterans and their spouses, individuals with criminal records, immigrants with work authorization, dislocated workers and the long-term unemployed.



For more information about CSG occupational licensing policy resources, contact csims@csg.org or visit: licensing.csg.org.