



Look to
Michigan
Social Work

CASE FOR SUPPORT



Action is at Our Core

For over a century, the University of Michigan School of Social Work has been a national leader in social work education, research, and community engagement.

Our Michigan Social Work Community — including students, faculty, staff, field instructors and alumni — solves problems, fights injustice and creates change that improves lives. **As social workers, action is at the core of our identity.** We invite you to join us as we reach out, raise hope and change society.

Now is our time to take action in support of individuals, families and communities.

- For educating the next generation of social work leaders
- For innovative solutions to the world's most complex social problems
- For community-engaged transformations
- For a better life for children and families
- For challenging injustice and leading social change
- For advocates and providers of quality mental health care for all
- For fierce advocates of the most vulnerable people in society
- For a better, brighter future for individuals, communities and society

Look to Michigan Social Work

About the School of Social Work

Since 1921, the University of Michigan has been a beacon of excellence for social work education, research, innovation, collaboration and service. For more than a decade, we've been honored to be ranked as the number one school of social work in the country.

The School of Social Work is home to innovative educational programs that have prepared generations of students to become social work practitioners, educators, researchers and leaders. Our MSW program includes eight curricular pathways, allowing students to focus on specific interests. The School offers two doctoral programs — the trailblazing Joint PhD program in Social Work and Social Sciences and a new PhD in Social Work and Social Welfare — and an undergraduate minor in Community Action and Social Change, which provides Michigan undergraduates with an introduction to social work.

Our faculty are leaders in social work education who provide our students with top-tier instruction — both in the classroom and in their experiential learning. As researchers, they are actively developing new solutions and innovations to address the most complex social issues of our time.

The last century of commitment, action and innovation has created an incredible impact. Our alumni can be found around the world creating change, fighting for social justice and improving lives in the communities they serve. Wherever you look, you'll find the Michigan Social Work community making a difference.



“The pressing challenges of our time demand our collective attention and action. As social workers, we are guided by a strong commitment to fostering positive change, and we stand ready to collaborate with you to shape a better, more just world.”

Beth Angell

DEAN AND PHILLIP FELLIN COLLEGIATE
PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Look to Michigan Social Work



As part of the Look to Michigan campaign, you can help create a brighter future for individuals, communities and society.

Together, we will:

Provide transformative educational experiences for our students.

Establish a Hub for Community and Policy Impact to translate research into action and create meaningful community change.

Pioneer solutions to urgent social issues through new approaches.

Create a better future for children, families, and older adults.

Transform mental health care and create hope for individuals and communities.



Life-Changing Education

Supporting the Next Generation of Social Workers

The School has a long-standing commitment to making social work education more affordable and accessible to attract the best and brightest social work leaders of the future. As the cost of higher education rises, there is also a growing shortage of social workers — causing a crisis in many communities in key fields such as child welfare, juvenile justice, health, mental health, education and gerontology. MSW students are required to complete more than 900 hours as part of their field education, which makes it impossible for most students to hold a full-time job during the program, and hinders many aspiring social workers from pursuing an MSW degree.

Together, we will support the next generation of social workers by developing a flourishing, diverse workforce prepared to respond to society's pressing needs. By supporting students, you will:

- Help us train social work leaders who will work to solve important crises facing our society. Your scholarship support will enable more students to attend and benefit from a Michigan education.
- Offer field internship stipends, helping students cover the cost of basic needs at a time when holding a full-time job is not possible.
- Enrich our curriculum with life-changing learning opportunities, as well as national and global experiences.
- Spark new innovations in graduate and undergraduate education rooted in social work values.



Community and Policy Impact

Transforming Knowledge into Action

At the School of Social Work, we transform knowledge into action **with and for** the communities we serve. Our vision is to create a Hub for Community and Policy Impact. The hub will offer funding to inspire new and innovative community engagement projects aimed at building capacity within the communities we serve.

The hub will also provide comprehensive infrastructure support to faculty and a range of dissemination and communication tools, which will enable us to expand the impact of our research outcomes.

You can help us put knowledge into action. By supporting the Hub for Community and Policy Impact, you will help us:

- Pilot initiatives that bring faculty in collaboration with community organizations to adapt proven solutions to on-the-ground problems and issues, such as fostering intergroup dialogue, driving local capacity building, engaging high school students to support youth mental health, and supporting the adoption of mobile mental health treatment technology.
- Position the School to become the leading resource on critical social issues by bringing together faculty, community and academic colleagues in national convenings related to timely policy and practice issues.
- Boost the impact of our faculty's research by supporting the dissemination of knowledge through resource toolkits, opinion pieces, policy briefs and various communication channels.



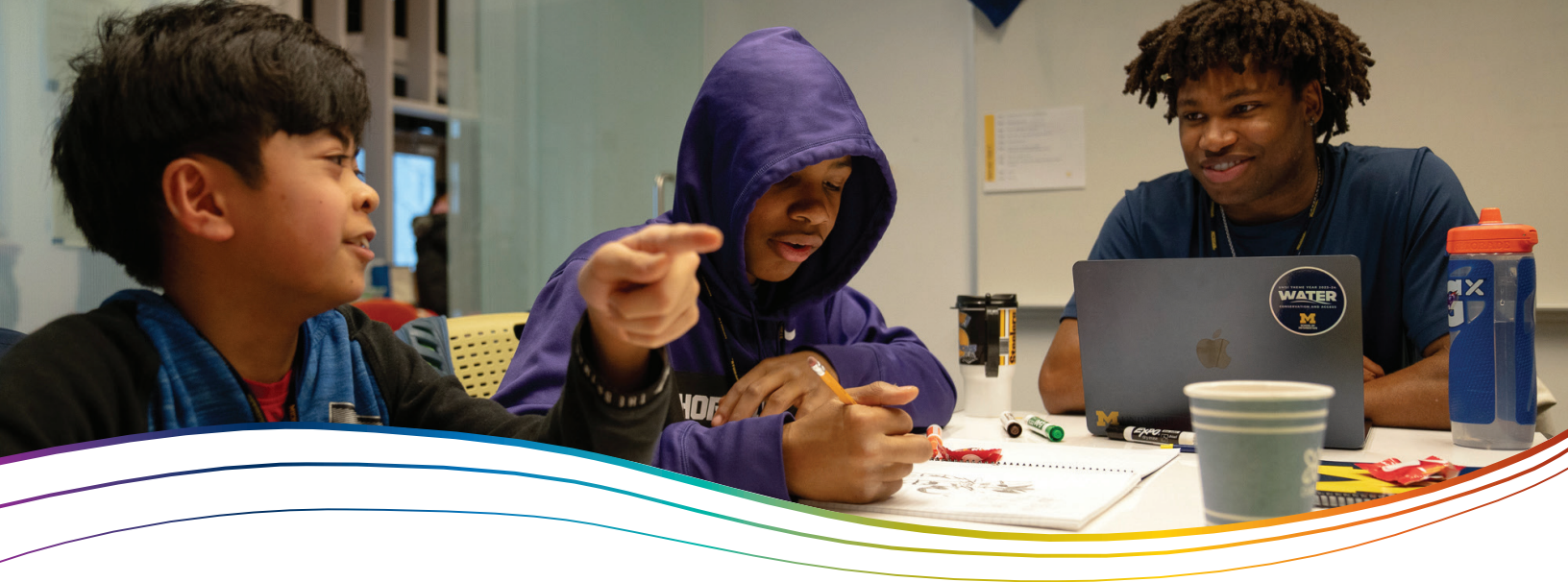
Innovative Solutions to Complex Social Problems

Social Workers *Create Solutions*

At the School of Social Work, we aim to redefine the boundaries of social work research. With your help, our faculty will be positioned to develop solutions to challenges such as the societal impact of climate change, the integration of artificial intelligence and technology in social work interventions, and harnessing the arts as a catalyst for social transformation. We initiate non-traditional partnerships, recognizing that diverse perspectives are vital for addressing complex social challenges.

With your partnership, we will work toward solutions to the world's most complex problems. Your support will help us:

- Recruit experts who will pioneer innovative collaborations between the School and other units across campus to tackle some of the world's most complex problems.
- Provide innovative grant funding to support research in new, unexplored and even unexpected spaces.
- Work with the subject matter experts across the university to explore societal problems through a social work perspective.



A Better Future for Children, Families and Older Adults

Building a World Where Individuals Can Live to Their Fullest Potential

Over half of U.S. children will experience trauma before adulthood. At the School of Social Work, we know how important it is to reverse trauma's devastating impacts on children and their families. We support children and families, from childhood through aging, to build resilience and lead prosperous lives. Our expert faculty develop innovative practice and policy solutions to reduce healthcare access barriers, address the aftermath of trauma in schools, prevent violence across the lifespan, and promote healthy aging, all with the common goal of fostering resilience through a family's life journey. As a national leader in the study of children and families, we train social workers with evidence-informed strategies to empower youth, build resilient families, support healthy aging, and prevent adverse outcomes.

With your support, we can build a better world for children, families and older adults. By supporting the School, you can help us:

- Develop a skilled workforce of social workers capable of engaging with children, families and older adults who need us most.
- Enhance and expand our faculty's leadership in child and family well-being. Supporting faculty recruitment and retention through professorships or research funding will help the School maintain its position as a national leader in developing children, youth, family and aging interventions.
- Strengthen research and programs to uplift underserved communities. By funding innovative research and programs, you will enable our faculty to develop and implement transformative interventions that address the unique challenges faced by families in these communities.



Mental Health for All

Creating a Future Where Everyone Has Access to Quality Mental Health Care

A critical shortage of mental health practitioners impacts half of the U.S. population. Social workers make up the largest group of professionally trained mental health providers in the country — making us well-positioned to lead the solution to this highly addressable challenge. Social workers also bring a unique understanding of community needs and gaps, particularly in underserved areas, and those with the fewest resources are at the greatest risk since untreated mental health conditions can lead to higher rates of suicide, violence, and victimization. The demand has never been greater to build up the mental health workforce and develop effective, accessible interventions. Social work is essential to meeting this need. The School is dedicated to building a capable behavioral health workforce, with approximately 70 percent of students pursuing careers in interpersonal practice. Furthermore, our graduates are trained by faculty who are creating transformative mental health interventions and pioneering technology-based solutions.

Together, we can tackle the mental health crisis and offer hope for a brighter future. Your support will:

- Help build a pipeline of mental health practitioners who will provide culturally competent mental health services to individuals and communities.
- Provide funding to conduct research and expand programs aimed at developing transformative mental health interventions.
- Enable us to recruit and retain top mental health experts who are pioneering transformative treatments for communities. Your support through professorships will enhance our expertise in mental health interventions and help us continue to attract, support and retain our top-tier faculty.



Now is the Time

To Achieve These Goals, We Need You

This is a unique moment for the Michigan Social Work Community. Today's pressing issues demand our immediate attention and action. With unmatched academic and research excellence, a diverse community of passionate students, a network of dedicated partners and a thriving alumni community, the School of Social Work continues its leadership in social work education, research and service. Social workers are passionate changemakers who are rooted in the belief that positive action can make the world a better place.

Together, we can make a dramatic difference in the lives of others.

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**Our team looks forward to helping you navigate
your support to the University of Michigan
School of Social Work.**

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