

# The University of Michigan Regents Communication

## Item for Action

**Subject: New undergraduate degree program in the School of Social Work**

**Action Requested: Approval to offer new Bachelor of Arts degree program in the School of Social Work**

**Effective Date: May 21, 2026**

### Background

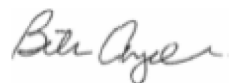
The University of Michigan School of Social Work proposes to launch a new 60-credit Bachelor of Arts Degree in Community Action and Social Change (BA-CASC). The program extends the School of Social Work's 100-plus-year history of leadership in educating social work and social impact practitioners prepared for careers in health and social services, nonprofit management, policy advocacy, and community change.

This new BA-CASC degree will build directly on the foundations of the existing Community Action and Social Change minor, which began in 2010, has since graduated over 1,200 students, and has become one of the most popular minors at UM. Conceptualized in partnership with students, faculty, and staff, the BA-CASC degree will support students in diving deeply into content focused on core skills for working in community action and social change spaces, including social theory, intergroup engagement, research and evaluation, critical analysis, and applied community-based projects, among others. The BA-CASC will be available to undergraduate students already at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and provide an admissions process for interested transfer students.

The proposed BA-CASC aligns with the University of Michigan's "Look to Michigan" vision by expanding educational opportunities and building on the existing CASC minor. It connects students with passion-driven, community-engaged coursework that leads to real-world impact. The program also addresses key workforce needs in community engagement and social services, while filling a critical gap for transfer students, who currently have few options to bring social work credits to U-M. Additionally, a "4+1" pathway offers a seamless transition into the MSW program for students interested in graduate social work study.

We request that the Regents approve the offering of the undergraduate degree, Bachelor of Arts in Community Action and Social Change. Pending approval, the first students will enter the program in September of 2027, following further approval from the Michigan Association of State Universities.

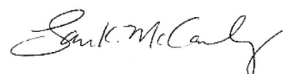
Recommended by:



**Beth Angell**

Dean and Phillip Fellin Collegiate Professor School of Social Work

Recommendation endorsed by:



**Laurie K. McCauley**

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

May 2026