Harness Technology for Social Good

Grand Challenges in Social Work, using evidence to promote social justice and well-being

The Issue

The Social Work sector has a long tradition of addressing the most vexing social problems and collecting rich data to serve marginalized and vulnerable people. Emerging technologies offer opportunities to accomplish this work in new ways. In a high-tech future, the social work profession needs to move away from low-tech solutions and create tech-responsive policies, leverage analytic techniques developed for big data, and engage in technology-mediated practice.

Societal Goal

Information and communication technology (ICT) can be deployed to improve the efficacy of social programs, accelerate the pace of social discovery, and transform the social work profession to respond in ways that ensure technology is ethically used to reduce the inequalities that exist today.

A Decade of Work

- Expand internet connectivity for underserved households.
- Develop cross-state practice parameters that would facilitate the growing trend of telehealth and online service delivery in order to reach isolated populations.
- Create policy that employs linkage of government data to allow cross-system data sharing and mining for research, program evaluations, and policy analysis.
- Attract, train, and retain a generation of social workers who will apply big data for social good and integrate ICT into social work practice.
- Develop, test, and refine new interventions that use technology such as mobile apps, gamification, big data, and the internet in social work practice.
- Initiate and foster stronger interdisciplinary partnerships and collaborations with technologists, computer scientists, software engineers, and business management.
- Create a new set of standards in curricula and pedagogy that support technology inclusion in learning and practice across all social work schools.
- Expand data access and use through investment in systematizing and standardizing technological policies and practices.
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Resources


Network Leadership

Stephanie Cosner Berzin, PhD
Associate Professor and Assistant Dean, Doctoral Program
Boston College, School of Social Work
stephanie.berzin@bc.edu

Claudia J. Coulton, PhD
Distinguished University Professor and Lillian F. Harris Professor of Urban Social Research
Case Western Reserve University, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences
claudia.coulton@case.edu

Rowena Fong, EdD
Ruby Lee Pieter Centennial Professor in Services to Children and Families
University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work
rfong@austin.utexas.edu

Melanie Sage, PhD
Assistant Professor
University of North Dakota, School of Social Work
Melanie.sage@UND.edu

Jonathan B. Singer, PhD
Associate Professor
Loyola University Chicago, School of Social Work
jsinger1@luc.edu

Get involved!

Sign up to the Grand Challenges mailing list: http://aaswsw.org/grand-challenges-initiative/join/
Participate in this grand challenge network: https://goo.gl/forms/wth5CfjkzSnWgHI3

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