

2025 C-PASS UPDATE

SMITH COLLEGE

School for Social Work

The Committee for Program Affordability and Student Support (C-PASS) was created to continue the work of the student-led Pay for Placement (P4P) movement.

The School's 2024 Strategic Plan includes goals of addressing affordability and access challenges across all degree programs.

Integrating this work into the School's formal structure is one of the key ways we are advancing this work.

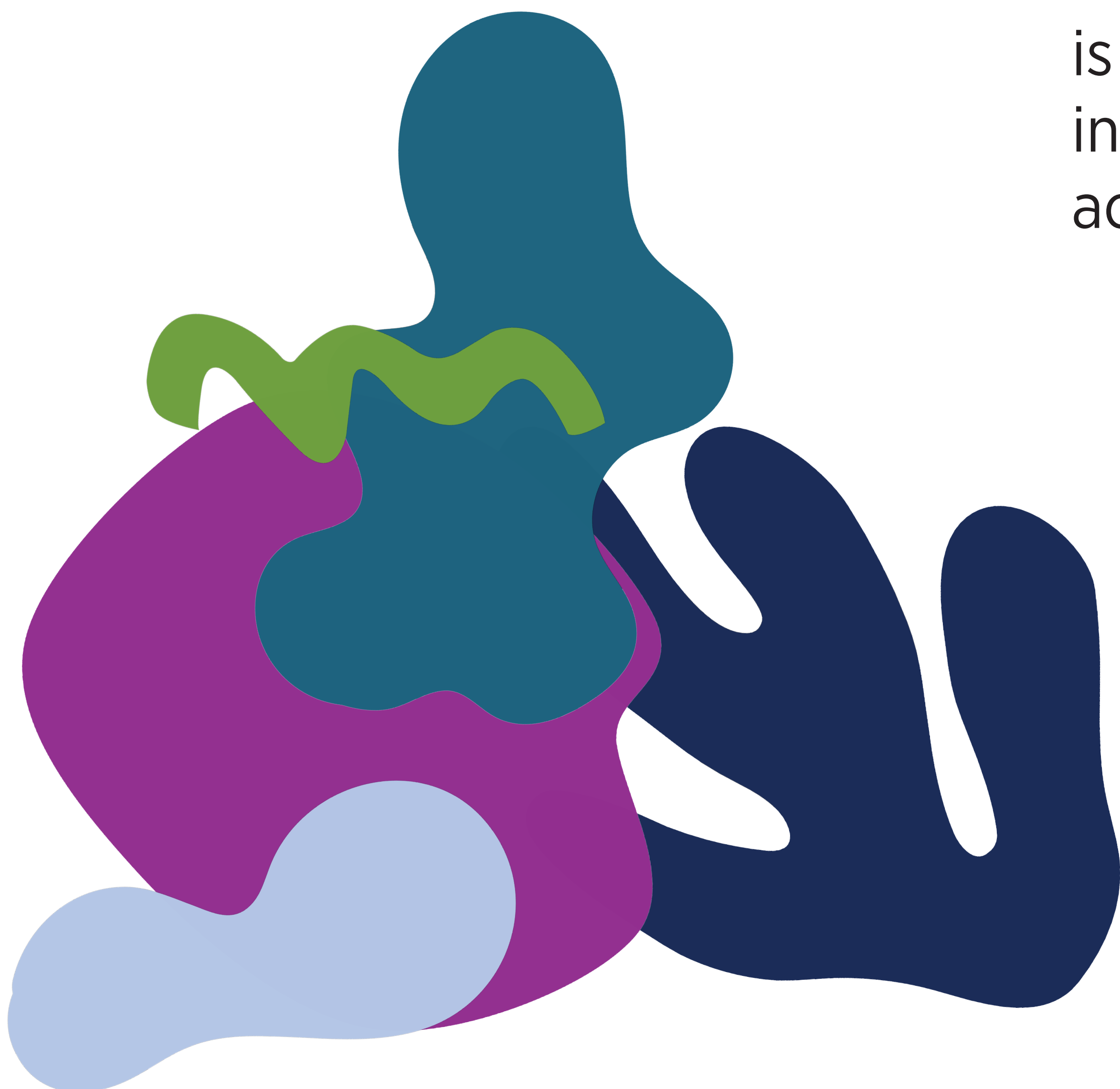
The committee includes leadership from the deans' office, practicum, admissions and financial aid, student support, and P4P student representatives.

C-PASS met regularly from October to April and established both Year 1 and Year 2 goals. What follows is a report on our progress to date.



GOAL Identify Additional Financial Resources for Students

TASK	STATUS
Review current opportunities for financial support and establish annual review process	Available in September 2025
Define the role of the Office of Alumni Engagement with C-PASS and P4P	Ongoing – addressed in updates to alumni; follow-up planned for August 2025
Seek external funding and write grant proposals to raise funds	Secured \$216,000 from MA Behavioral Health Trust Fund and distributed to eligible students by April 1, 2025; A second appropriation, through the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Workforce Scholarship Program, is available only through individual student applications; actively monitoring RFPs



GOAL

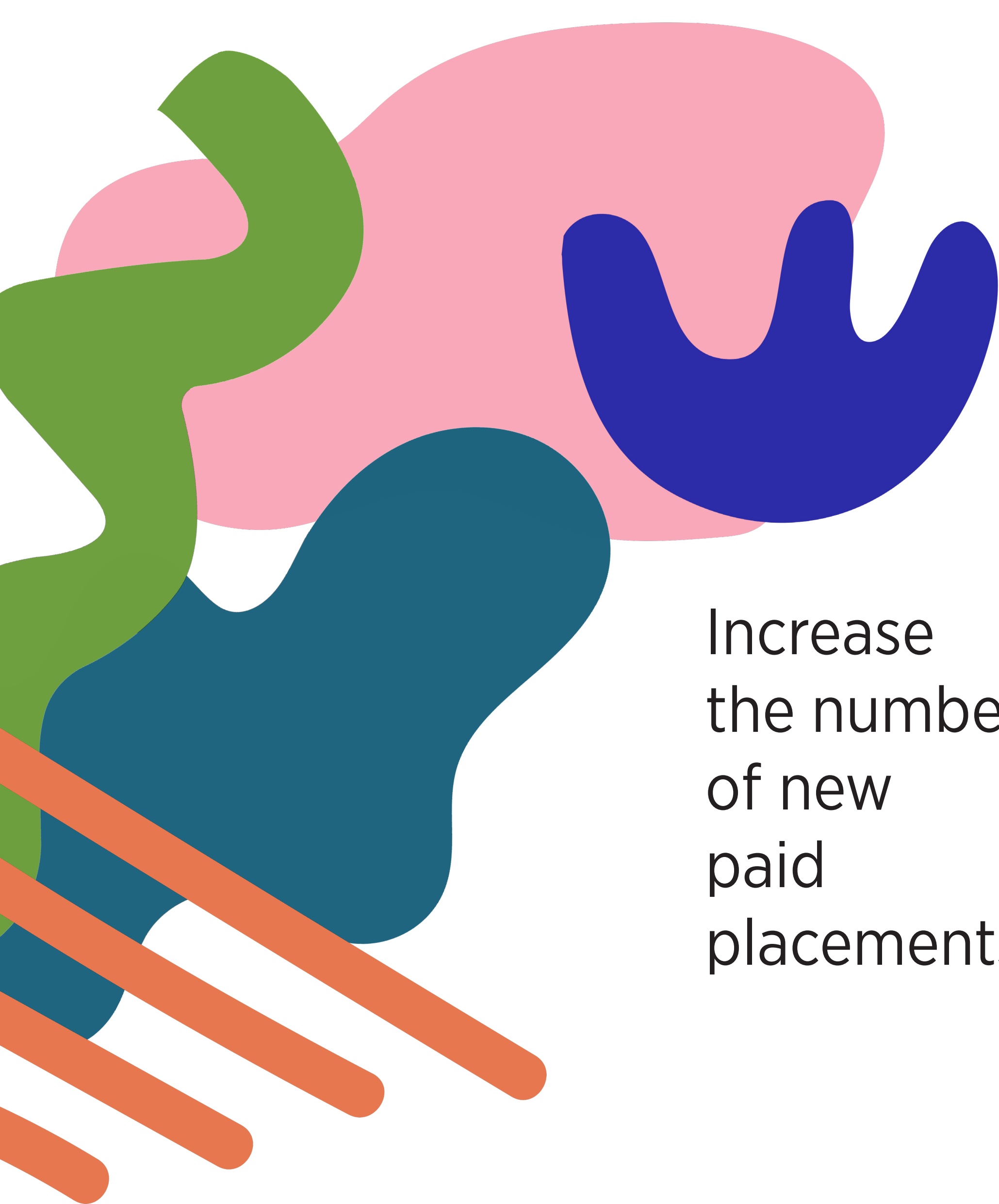
Increase Transparency Around Student Funding

TASK	STATUS
Create an annual report about SSW financial aid and the way endowments work, etc.	Dissemination set for September 2025
Create a list of specific practicum funds	Dissemination set for September 2025

GOAL

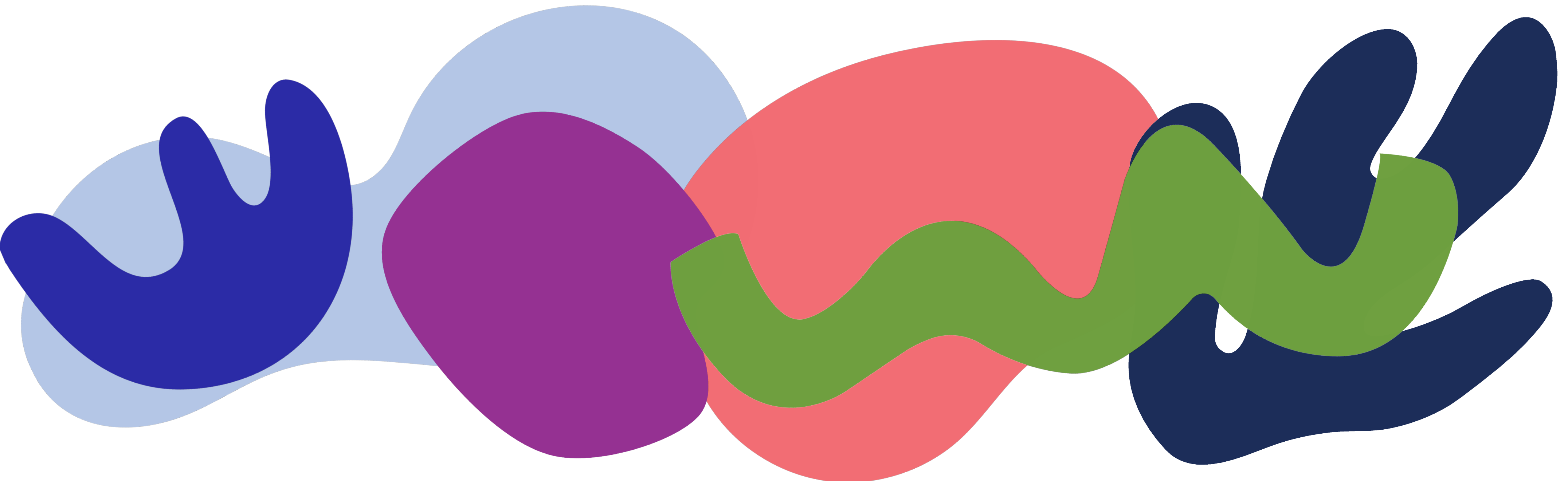
Increase OPL Capacity to Support Paid Placements

TASK	STATUS
Revise practicum hour expectations	New 1,536-hour requirement effective Fall 2026; still exceeds accreditation standards and emerging industry norms
Increase the number of new paid placements	Increased sites offering EBFI/ stipend from 25% to 32%; 33% of students placed with stipends despite some going unfilled



GOAL Leverage the College to Advance C-PASS Goals and Objectives

TASK	STATUS
Confirm SSW’s involvement in the college’s upcoming Strategic Planning Process	We are generally involved in their strategic plan, just as they are in ours
Kick off an annual update to educate the college about SSW program and SSW students’ accomplishments for President’s Office	The dean meets with the Provost monthly; held a fall meeting with President and provides the President and Provost an end of year update in July
Complete the draft objective and agenda	Completed
Hold a C-PASS/P4P meeting with President Willie-LeBreton to present the P4P survey and discuss the SSW student experience	Meeting with President Willie-LeBreton was held with P4P representatives on April 24, 2025



Expand Support for Basic Needs

TASK

STATUS

Create a student health insurance navigator position to help students learn more about applying for Mass Health

Shifted to offer info meetings and info on online. Importantly, after extensive discussions, we revised the waiver procedure for the state-required Student Health Insurance Program (SHIP)

Create a public transportation support resource for students including (at a minimum) a list of grad student discounts for public transportation in placement cities. Move toward a system of providing low cost or free transportation passes to students who need them

Our research shows that we are not able to afford or manage a program to pre-purchase public transportation passes in multiple cities, due to the high minimum purchase requirements and the passes' expiration dates

Develop an education module or resource on student loans and managing loan repayment [clarify how formal vs informal] and discuss the SSW student experience

We can only offer anecdotal experiences because there are continuously changing federal regulations (e.g., alum panel-managing financially)

Collect information about food insecurity mitigation efforts at other higher ed institutions. [consult, research]

Completed and available online. ssw.smith.edu/food



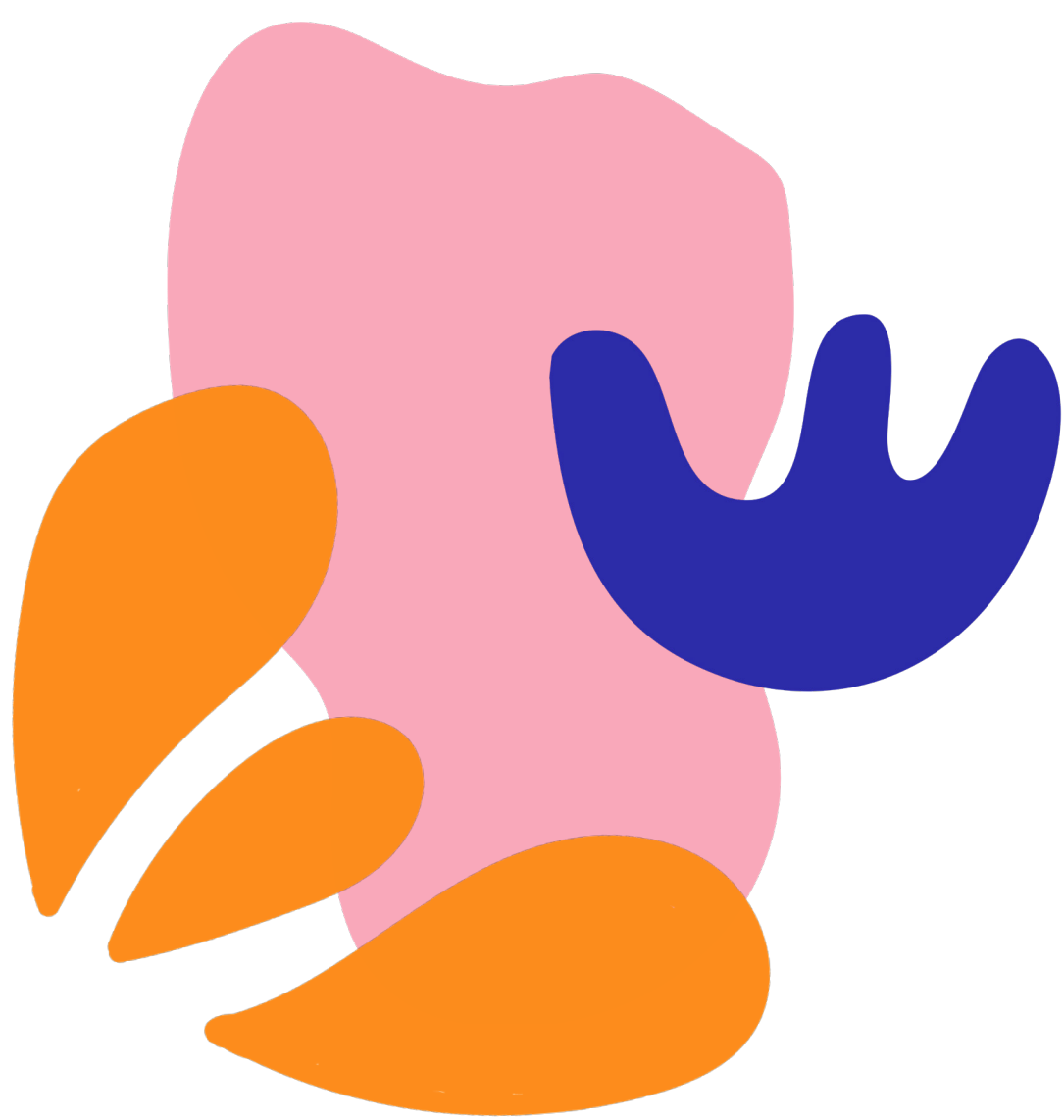
GOAL

Rebuild Student Government

TASK

STATUS

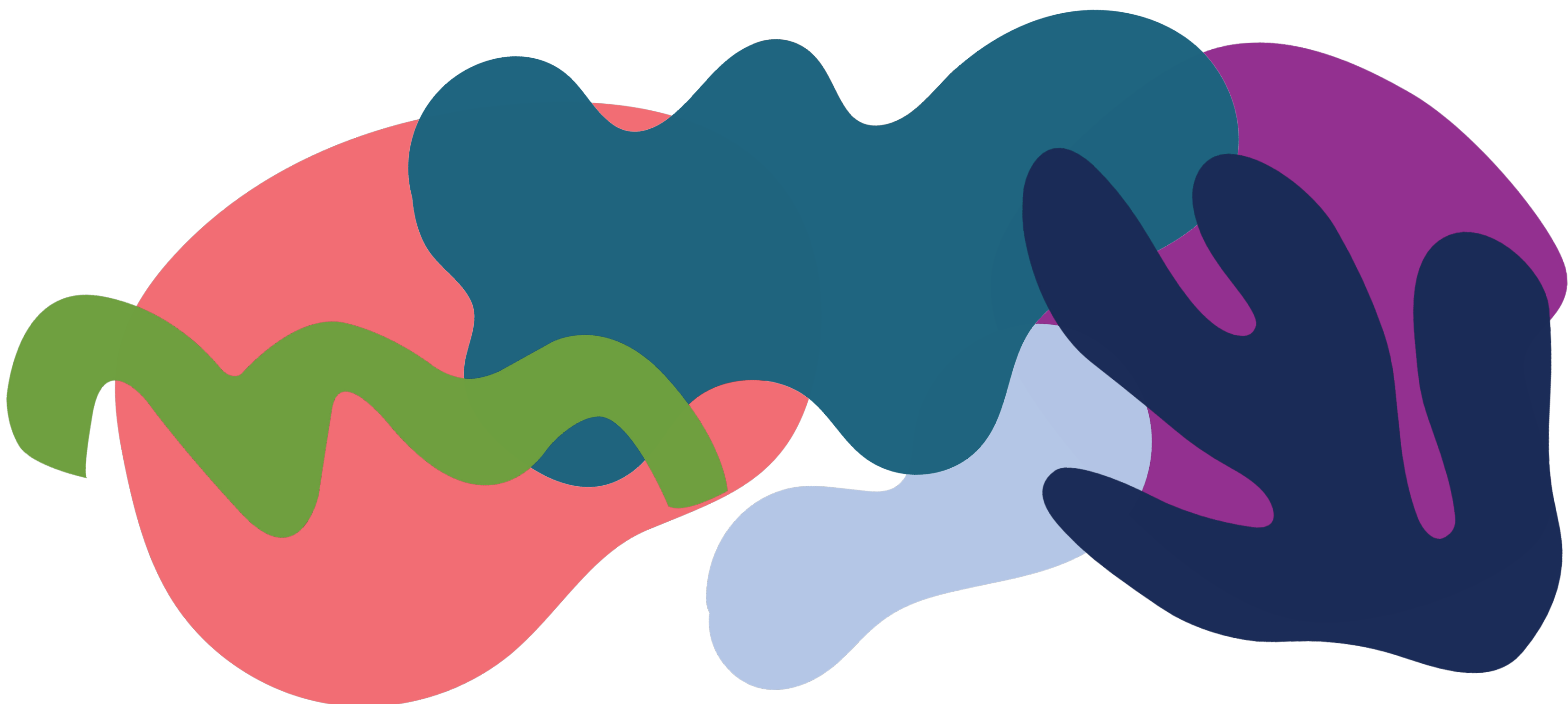
Help students to form a student government; Run Student Org elections



SSW needs more structured student representation for us to partner with the student body more effectively, get information and relay information. Please participate. We are hindered without a student government. To be organized summer 2025

Identify what support Student Org will need from the new Office of Community Engagement and Student Support

Shift this to the Year 2 goals, since Student Org elections won't take place until the end of summer 2025



GOAL

Engage State/National Organizations to Advance Goals

TASK

STATUS

Engage National Association of Deans and Directors (NADD) to identify key advocacy efforts across the country

Co-chaired NADD Pay for Placement (P4P) Workgroup; produced report on how social work programs are responding to P4P; Organized conference session drawing 50 deans and directors. Final report will be shared with NADD in September 2025

Engage New England Consortium of Graduate Field Education Directors to identify key advocacy efforts

Ongoing monthly discussions for information and strategy sharing

Engage State or National Organizations that may be able to partner on C-PASS/P4P goals

NADD P4P Workgroup met with NASW to discuss and share information. At this time, NASW is not serving as a resource on this issue

Other

In March 2025 arranged for 4 SSW students to participate in NASW-MA’s Legislative Education + Advocacy Day (LEAD); students met and lobbied legislators to discuss key issues of importance



Developing Goals for Year 2

TASK

STATUS

Identify More Financial Resources

Respond to RFPs to raise funds

Increase Student Funding Transparency

Annual update about financial aid, how endowments work, practicum specific funds

Leverage the College

Educate about student accomplishments, experiences and SSW programs overall

Revise hourly practicum requirement

Completed, launches fall 2026

Collaborate with state and New England Practicum Directors

Ongoing monthly discussions

Support students' basic needs

Develop cost transparency in the admission process; focus on addressing food insecurity

Work with the new Student Government

Form a strong working relationship; re-administer the P4P student survey

Student Health Insurance

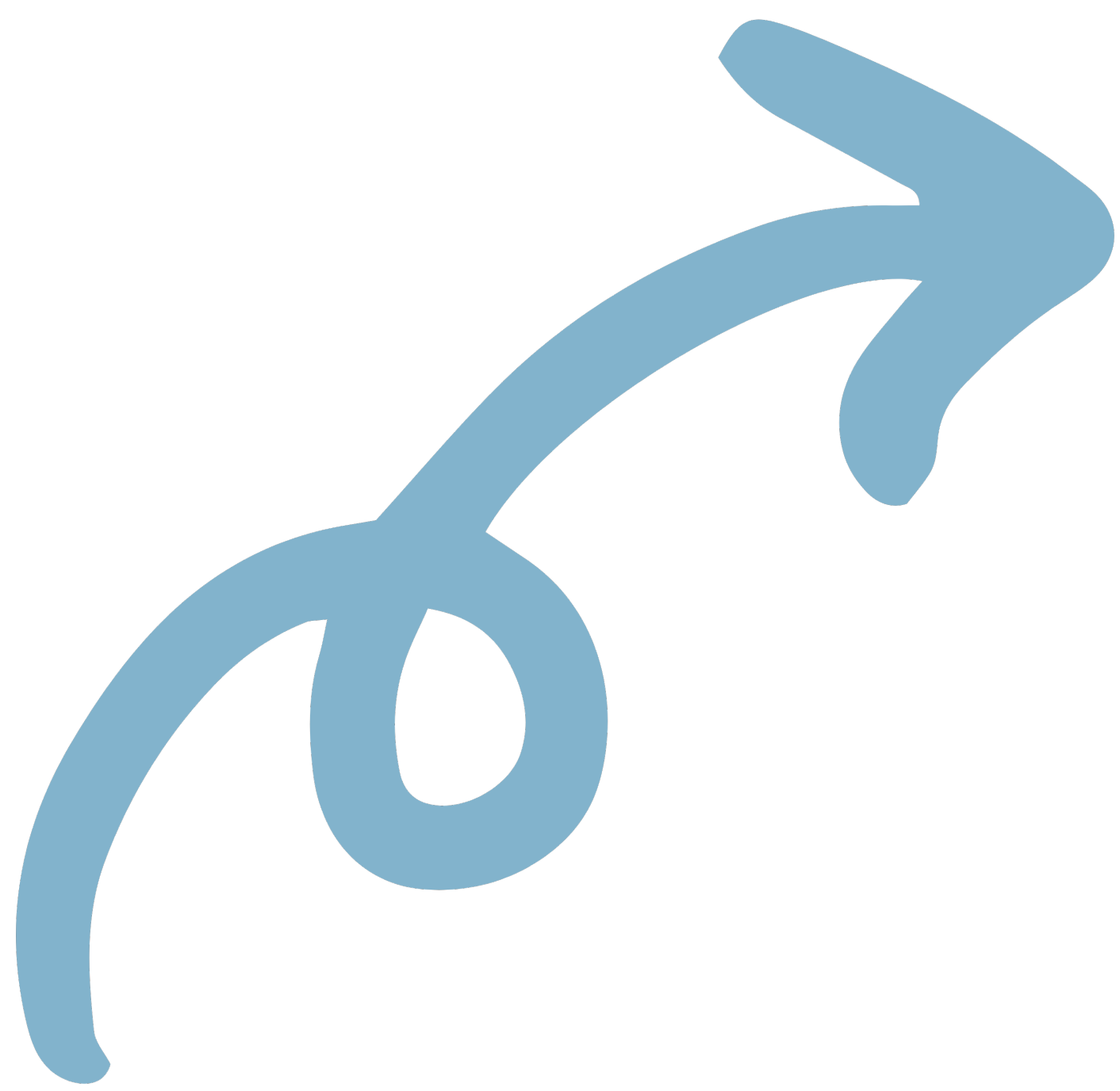
Assess new waiver procedure, develop information on navigating SHIP/waivers

Engage State/National Organizations as partners on CPASS/P4P goal

NADD P4P Workgroup enters 2nd year; Dean Yoshioka to continue discussions with NASW-MA

SUGGESTIONS?

Do you have suggestions for other realistic goals? We would love to hear them!



***SCAN TO
SUBMIT
FEEDBACK!***

