

What's the Goal ?

To achieve state recognition of the music therapy profession and the MT-BC credential required for competent practice in order to increase access to treatment and protect the public.

The American Music Therapy Association and Certification Board for Music Therapists have collaborated on the national State Recognition Operational Plan since 2006. This plan is facilitated by the Government Relations staff from AMTA and the Regulatory Affairs staff from CBMT. Together, we collaborate with groups of student and professional music therapists to achieve state recognition of the music therapy profession and the MT-BC credential required for competent practice. Our ultimate aims are to increase consumer access to music therapy services (that is, we want music therapy to be a treatment and educational option for clients) and to protect the public by ensuring that music therapy services are provided by individuals with the necessary education and clinical training. There are currently over 45 states with task forces in various stages of research, advocacy, and legislation as it relates to promoting state recognition. The involvement of both AMTA and CBMT is designed to provide support and guidance for those working at the state level as well as legal counsel and historical context when applicable.

“State recognition” itself is a rather large term that encompasses a number of different options. These options include licensure, registration, and title protection. The type of state recognition a state pursues as well as steps to get there depends on the political culture and governance structure in that particular state, as well as the advice we receive from legislators or other agency administrators. Texas State Task Force is seeking **licensure**.