

Redbook

LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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LBO Redbook

Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board

Quick look...

- The Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board has a staff of 13 and currently licenses roughly 38,000 professionals.
- The Board is governed by 15 members appointed by the Governor with daily operations overseen by an executive director.
- The Board receives no money from the GRF; it is entirely supported by fees.
- Executive budget recommendations total approximately \$3.6 million over the biennium.
- Increase in the proposed budget will be used for increased operating costs, including costs for the eLicensing system, rent, and other board expenses.

FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Estimate	FY 2020 Introduced	FY 2021 Introduced
Fund 4K90 ALI 899609, Operating Expenses					
\$1,320,821	\$1,332,963	\$1,343,987	\$1,625,312	\$1,739,538	\$1,854,848
% change	0.9%	0.8%	20.9%	7.0%	6.6%

Agency overview

The Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board was established in 1984. Originally responsible for licensing counselors and social workers, the Board's responsibility was expanded in 2004 to include licensing marriage and family therapists. About 38,000 licenses issued by the Board are currently active.

The Board's governing authority consists of 15 members appointed by the Governor, including four licensed professional clinical counselors or professional counselors, four licensed independent marriage and family therapists or licensed marriage and family therapists, two independent social workers, two licensed social workers, and three members representing the public. Members are appointed for three-year terms and may be reappointed. The Board is divided into three separate professional standards committees representing counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists. The full Board meets six times a year to discuss issues such as finances, personnel issues, election of officers, the laws and rules, and other board issues. The committees also meet six times a year to discuss concerns of their respective professions. In addition to travel reimbursement, board members received about \$1,700 in compensation on average (or a total of about \$27,000) for performing official board business.

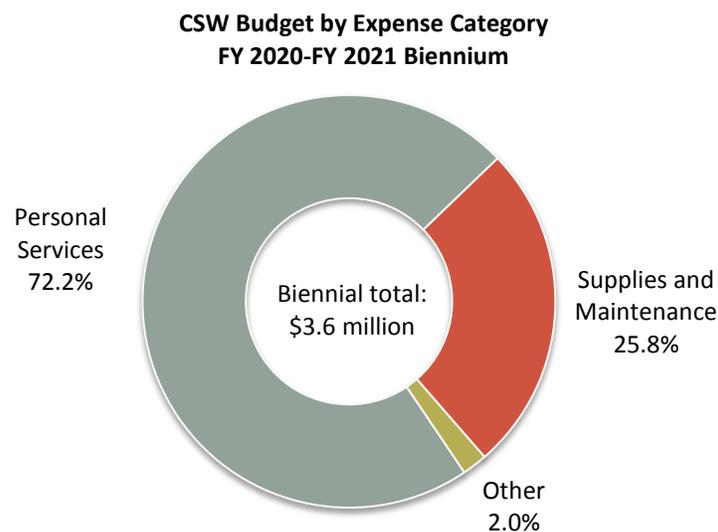
The Board's daily operations are the responsibility of an executive director who is appointed by the 15-member governing authority. Including the Executive Director, the Board has 13 full-time staff members. The Board receives no GRF moneys; it is entirely supported by fees.

Analysis of FY 2020-FY 2021 budget proposal

The Board's operations are funded by a single appropriation item within Fund 4K90 – item 899609. The executive budget proposes funding of about \$1.7 million in FY 2020, an increase of 7.0% over FY 2019 estimated expenditures and about \$1.9 million in FY 2021, an increase of 6.6% from FY 2020. The increases will primarily be used to fund an expected increase in operating costs, which include costs for rent, payroll, the eLicensing system, and other board-related expenses. In addition, the Board may hire an additional investigator.

Executive recommendations by expense category

As a regulatory agency, personal services is the largest expense category of the Board. As seen from the chart below, 72.2% of the executive budget recommendations for the FY 2020-FY 2021 biennium are for personal services, 25.8% are for supplies and maintenance, and the remaining 2.0% the other category, which includes purchased personal services and transfers and nonexpense.



Operating revenues and expenses

All the Board's revenue comes from fees. Fee revenues collected by the Board are deposited into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90). Many occupational licensing and regulatory boards and commissions, including the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board, use Fund 4K90 as an operating account into which receipts are deposited and from which expenses are paid. Each licensing board or commission is generally expected to be self-sufficient, i.e., generate enough revenues to cover its expenses. The Board's annual revenues and expenditures from FY 2013 through FY 2018 are shown in Table 1.

	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Revenue	\$1,332,596	\$1,392,554	\$1,393,341	\$1,492,384	\$1,518,980	\$1,950,589
Expenses	\$1,187,541	\$1,204,616	\$1,229,490	\$1,320,821	\$1,332,963	\$1,343,987
Net	\$145,055	\$187,938	\$163,851	\$171,563	\$186,017	\$606,602

The Board issues several different types of licenses. Licenses issued by the Board are required to be renewed on a biennial basis. In addition to the regular licenses listed in Table 2, the Board also issues temporary licenses for a fee of \$20 each. Temporary licenses may be issued in certain instances. For example, they may be issued to students who are waiting for official transcripts to be sent to complete licensure or licensees who have applied for licensure and are waiting to take a scheduled examination.

License Type	Fee
Independent Social Worker	\$100
Social Worker	\$80
Social Worker Assistant	\$60
Professional Counselor	\$80
Professional Clinical Counselor	\$100
Marriage and Family Therapist	\$80
Independent Marriage and Family Therapist	\$100

Licensure

To carry out its regulatory responsibility, the Board establishes standards of practice and licenses qualified practitioners of social work, counseling, and marriage and family therapy. As shown in Table 3 below, from FY 2017 to FY 2018, the total number of active licenses issued by the Board increased by 2.4%.

Table 3. Active Licenses by Type, FY 2016-FY 2018

License Type	FY 2016	FY 2017	Percent Change	FY 2018	Percent Change
Social Worker	15,414	17,104	11.0%	17,903	4.7%
Independent Social Worker	7,746	8,790	13.5%	8,460	-3.8%
Social Worker Assistant	471	511	8.5%	484	-5.3%
Professional Counselor	4,663	4,353	-6.6%	4,802	10.3%
Professional Clinical Counselor	5,092	5,782	13.6%	5,760	-0.4%
Marriage and Family Therapist	155	175	12.9%	197	12.6%
Independent Marriage and Family Therapist	202	244	20.8%	253	3.7%
Total	33,743	36,959	9.5%	37,859	2.4%

The Board currently utilizes the eLicensing system, which is administered through the Central Service Agency (CSA). Each board that participates in the eLicensing system shares in the cost of the system. The Board expended \$16,885 in FY 2018 for utilizing the eLicensing system. It anticipates expending \$103,742 in FY 2019, \$111,900 in FY 2020, and \$119,500 in FY 2021. The FY 2018 costs are much lower because they were based on costs associated with the old licensing system.

Investigation and enforcement

The Board's regulatory obligations also include investigating complaints about issues of incompetent, unethical, and impaired practitioners. In FY 2018, the Board opened 400 investigations. This is an increase of 100 cases from FY 2017. Access to the web-based complaint form on the eLicense portal may explain part of the increase in complaints. In FY 2018 the Board entered into 34 consent agreements with licensees who were found to be in violation of the Board's laws or rules, and the Board revoked 14 licenses.

Continuing education

Each licensee must complete 30 continuing education hours during the two-year license cycle. Of the 30 hours, three hours of ethics training are required. Counselors and independent social workers holding supervising designation must complete three hours of supervisory training. The Board randomly audits a percentage of licensees to ensure that they have fulfilled the requirements. In FY 2018, the Board conducted 2,174 audits.