

Redbook

LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board

Suveksha Bhujel, Economist

February 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Quick look.....	1
Agency overview	1
Analysis of FY 2024-FY 2025 budget proposal.....	2
Executive recommendations by expense category	2
Operating revenues and expenses	2
Licensure	3
Investigation and enforcement	4
Continuing education.....	4
FY 2022-FY 2023 updates.....	4

LBO Redbook

Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board

Quick look...

- The Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board (CSW) has a staff of 14 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 \$4.0 million over the biennium.

FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Estimate	FY 2024 Introduced	FY 2025 Introduced
Fund 4K90 ALI 899609, Operating Expenses					
\$1,644,418	\$1,604,186	\$1,814,585	\$1,956,571	\$1,967,897	\$2,039,897
% change	-2.4%	13.1%	7.8%	0.6%	3.7%

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.

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. The Revised Code outlines additional membership requirements. 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 must hold a regular meeting every three months to discuss issues such as finances, personnel issues, administration, and other board issues. Additional meetings may also be held. The committees also meet as necessary to discuss concerns of their respective professions. Board members receive a per diem for each day employed in their official duties and are reimbursed for necessary and actual expenses.

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 14 full-time staff members and one master's level college intern. The Board is seeking to increase the number of full-time staff by one to deal with an increase in the number of

investigative cases. The recommended appropriations should allow for the additional staff member. The Board receives no GRF moneys; it is entirely supported by fees.

Analysis of FY 2024-FY 2025 budget proposal

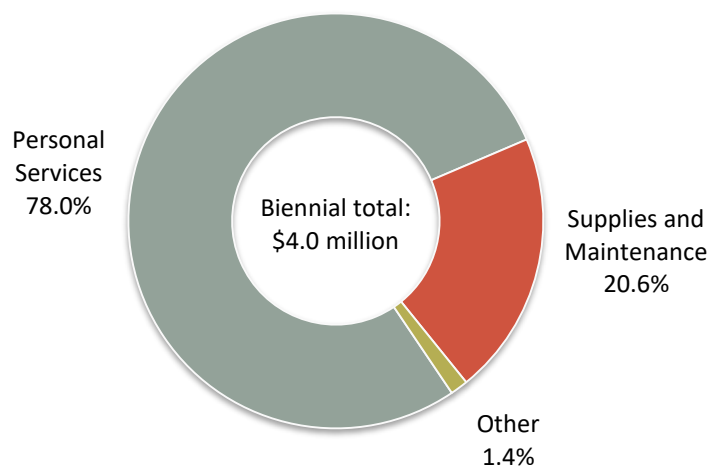
The Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board's operations are funded by a single appropriation item within Fund 4K90 – item 899609, Operating Expenses. The executive budget proposes funding of about \$1.97 million in FY 2024, an increase of 0.6% from FY 2023 estimated expenditures and about \$2.04 million in FY 2025, an increase of 3.7% over FY 2024.

The executive proposal also has language that changes board membership. The proposal requires four members of the Board to be licensed as either independent social workers or social workers, provided that at least one member is a licensed social worker at the time the member is appointed to the Board. Currently, two members must be licensed independent social workers and two members must be licensed social workers. In addition, the proposal also eliminates a requirement that no more than eight board members be the same sex.

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, 78.0% of the executive budget recommendations for the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium are for personal services, 20.6% are for supplies and maintenance, and the remaining 1.4% are for the other category, which includes purchased personal services and equipment.

CSW Budget by Expense Category
FY 2024-FY 2025 Biennium



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 2017 through FY 2022 are shown in Table 1.

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Revenue	\$1,518,980	\$1,950,589	\$2,100,909	\$1,886,880	\$2,189,470	\$2,344,603
Expenses	\$1,332,963	\$1,343,987	\$1,475,360	\$1,644,418	\$1,604,186	\$1,814,585
Net	\$186,017	\$606,602	\$625,549	\$242,462	\$585,284	\$530,018

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 have completed the educational requirements for licensure but are awaiting the actual awarding of the degree or licensees who have applied for licensure and are waiting to take a scheduled examination. H.B. 509 of the 134th General Assembly, which is effective April 6, 2023, eliminates the Board's authority to issue the following temporary licenses: independent social workers, professional clinical counselors, and independent marriage and family therapists. However, the Board will continue to issue these temporary licenses: social workers, professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists.

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.

Table 3. Active Licenses by Type, FY 2020-FY 2022

License Type	FY 2020	FY 2021	Percent Change	FY 2022	Percent Change
Social Worker	17,354	16,248	-6.4%	16,409	1.0%
Independent Social Worker	9,490	9,580	0.9%	9,705	1.3%
Social Worker Assistant	422	348	-17.5%	298	-14.4%
Professional Counselor	4,634	4,355	-6.0%	4,127	-5.2%
Professional Clinical Counselor	6,784	6,884	1.5%	7,073	2.7%
Marriage and Family Therapist	196	203	3.6%	174	-14.3%
Independent Marriage and Family Therapist	324	365	12.7%	338	-7.4%
Total	39,204	37,983	-3.1%	38,124	0.4%

The Board utilizes the online eLicensing system, which is administered by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Currently, the boards are assessed a charge for eLicensing operational costs. This charge is deposited into the Professionals Licensing System Fund (Fund 5JQ0), administered by DAS and expended through line item 100658, Professionals Licensing System. In the proposed budget, funding for eLicensing will instead come from new Fund 4K90 line item 100673, Professionals Licensing System, which will also be under DAS. Thus, eLicensing operational costs will not be reflected directly in the board budgets, but will instead be directly billed out of this new line item. However, a board may still be directly assessed a charge for any unanticipated licensing upgrades or enhancements.

Investigation and enforcement

The Board's regulatory obligations also include investigating complaints about issues of incompetent, unethical, and impaired practitioners. In FY 2022, the Board opened 544 new investigations. In FY 2022, the Board entered into 44 consent agreements with licensees who were found to be in violation of the Board's laws or rules.

Continuing education

Each licensee must complete 30 continuing education hours during the two-year license cycle. However, H.B. 509 reduced the number of hours of continuing education a social worker assistant must complete to 15.

FY 2022-FY 2023 updates

S.B. 204 of the 134th General Assembly entered Ohio into the Counseling Compact, which facilitates the interstate practice of licensed professional counselors. The Compact requires member states to allow individuals to practice if they hold valid, unencumbered professional

counselor licenses in another member state. The Compact expects to open the applications for Counseling Compact privileges to practice in late 2023 or early 2024.