

# 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

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### Quick look...

- The Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board has a staff of 13 and currently licenses roughly 40,000 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 \$3.8 million over the biennium.
- The proposed budget should allow the Board to maintain current operations.

FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Estimate	FY 2022 Introduced	FY 2023 Introduced
<b>Fund 4K90 ALI 899609, Operating Expenses</b>					
\$1,343,987	\$1,475,360	\$1,644,418	\$1,854,848	\$1,845,658	\$1,907,553
% change	9.8%	11.5%	12.8%	-0.5%	3.4%

### 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 40,000 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. 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, election of officers, the laws and rules, 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.

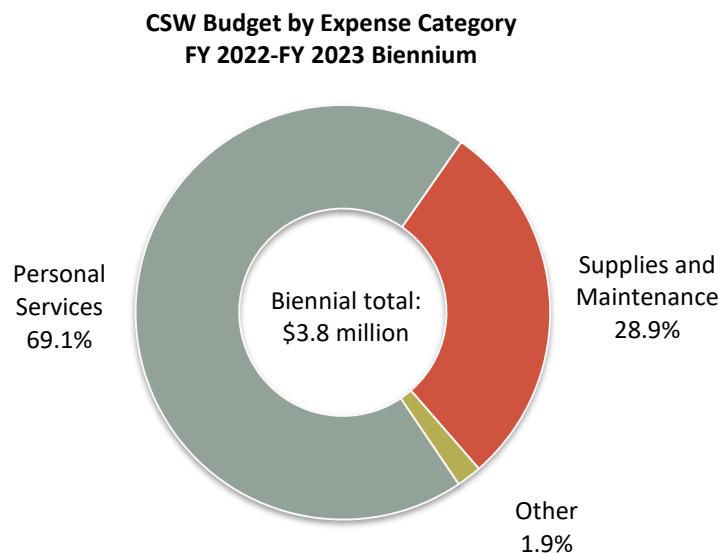
The Board's daily operations are the responsibility of an executive director who is appointed by the 15-member governing authority. Including the Executive Director, the Board has 13 full-time staff members. According to the Board, there is one current vacant position. The Board receives no GRF moneys;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

## Analysis of FY 2022-FY 2023 budget proposal

The Board's operations are funded by a single appropriation item within Fund 4K90 – item 899609, Operating Expenses. The executive budget proposes funding of about \$1.8 million in FY 2022, a decrease of 0.5% from FY 2021 estimated expenditures and about \$1.9 million in FY 2023, an increase of 3.4% over FY 2022.

### 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, 69.1% of the executive budget recommendations for the FY 2022-FY 2023 biennium are for personal services, 28.9% are for supplies and maintenance, and the remaining 1.9% the other category, which includes purchased personal services, equipment, 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 2015 through FY 2020 are shown in Table 1.

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Revenue	\$1,393,341	\$1,492,384	\$1,518,980	\$1,950,589	\$2,100,909	\$1,886,880
Expenses	\$1,229,490	\$1,320,821	\$1,332,963	\$1,343,987	\$1,475,360	\$1,644,418
Net	\$163,851	\$171,563	\$186,017	\$606,602	\$625,549	\$242,462

H.B. 197 and H.B. 404 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly allowed for license extensions for many occupational licensees in Ohio due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, H.B. 197 allows a license that would otherwise expire during the COVID-19 emergency to remain valid until the earlier of 90 days after the emergency ends or December 1, 2020. According to the Board, revenues in FY 2020 were impacted due to this provision. H.B. 404 prolongs this temporary extension so that licenses otherwise expiring between March 9, 2020, and April 1, 2021, remain valid until July 1, 2021. The Board anticipates that any revenues not collected in FY 2020 will instead be collected in FY 2021. Thus, overall, the Board expects the impact of both to be revenue neutral.

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.

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 2019 to FY 2020, the total number of active licenses issued by the Board increased by 2.7%.

Table 3. Active Licenses by Type, FY 2018-FY 2020

License Type	FY 2018	FY 2019	Percent Change	FY 2020	Percent Change
Social Worker	17,903	17,091	-4.5%	17,354	1.5%
Independent Social Worker	8,460	9,191	8.6%	9,490	3.3%
Social Worker Assistant	484	415	-14.3%	422	1.7%
Professional Counselor	4,802	4,659	-3.0%	4,634	-0.5%
Professional Clinical Counselor	5,760	6,333	9.9%	6,784	7.1%
Marriage and Family Therapist	197	192	-2.5%	196	2.1%
Independent Marriage and Family Therapist	253	309	22.1%	324	4.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,859</b>	<b>38,190</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>39,204</b>	<b>2.7%</b>

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 was charged \$91,209 for basic maintenance costs associated with utilizing the eLicensing system.

## Investigation and enforcement

The Board's regulatory obligations also include investigating complaints about issues of incompetent, unethical, and impaired practitioners. In FY 2020, the Board opened 476 investigations. In FY 2020 the Board entered into 56 consent agreements with licensees who were found to be in violation of the Board's laws or rules and issued over 200 nonpublic cautions.

## Continuing education

Each licensee must complete 30 continuing education hours during the two-year license cycle. The Board randomly audits a percentage of licensees to ensure that they have fulfilled the requirements. In FY 2020, the Board conducted 1,100 audits.