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Board of Marriage and Family Therapy

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<https://mn.gov/boards/marriage-and-family/>

AT A GLANCE

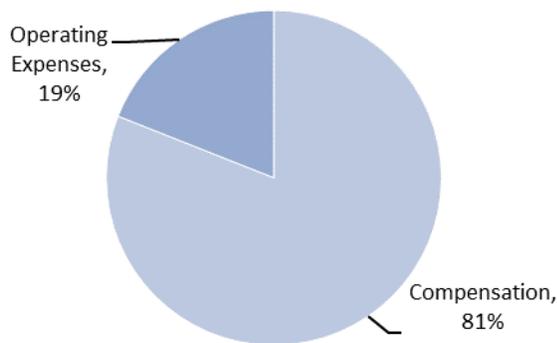
- Regulates 3,370 licensees & license applicants: 2,800 licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT); 279 licensed associate marriage and family therapists (LAMFT); and 291 license applicants
- Issues an average of 320-340 new licensees annually (approximately 170-180 LMFT and 150-160 LAMFT)
- Processes an average of 485 license-related applications annually (initial/education, LAMFT, LMFT, reciprocity)
- Receives and investigates an average of 70-75 complaints annually
- 100% fee-supported

PURPOSE

The Board of Marriage and Family Therapy’s mission is to protect the public and ensure a standard of competent and ethical care through effective licensure and enforcement of the statutes and rules governing the practice of marriage and family therapy. The Board’s priorities include timely and consistent processing of applications, thorough and effective investigation of complaints, equal access to all Board disciplinary and corrective action license orders, and a customer service-driven model that emphasizes timely response to stakeholder requests.

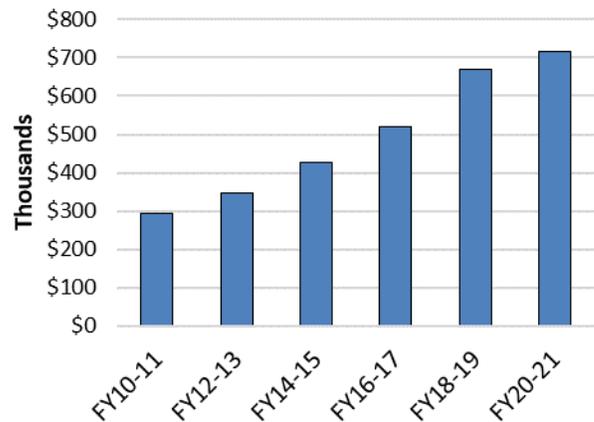
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 2021 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Board is funded by licensure fees collected from applicants, licensees, and continuing education sponsors; the Board receives no general fund dollars. Minnesota Statutes section 214.06, subdivision 1(a) compels the Board to collect fees to cover direct and indirect expenditures. Funds are deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the state government special revenue fund. From this fund, the Board receives a direct appropriation to pay for agency expenses. It also pays statewide indirect costs through an open appropriation.

In addition to Board operations, fees collected fund legal services provided by the MN Office of the Attorney General and joint health licensure board entities, such as the Administrative Services Unit, including SMART services contracted with through the MN Department of Administration, the Health Professionals Services

Program, and the Criminal Background Check Office, which serve the state’s health licensure boards as part of a collaborative, cost-effective system.

Initial license and license renewal fees are over 80% of collected revenue with application filings (14%) and continuing education program applications (5%) accounting for the remainder of other revenue received.

STRATEGIES

To accomplish the Board’s mission, we:

- Set standards for initial licensure, including a review of each applicant’s education and training.
- Administer an examination of each applicant’s knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of marriage and family therapy in Minnesota prior to issuing marriage and family therapy license.
- Annually review qualifications and renew licenses of current, qualified licensees.
- Investigate complaints made against licensees and applicants and allegations of unlicensed practice of marriage and family therapy.
- Take disciplinary or corrective action against a licensee or applicant when warranted by conduct and necessary to protect the public.
- Review and approve all continuing education programs used by licensees to meet continuing education requirements for license renewal.
- Monitor and enforce continuing education requirements for license renewal.
- Maintain mandated and educational information on a public website.
- Work collaboratively with academic institutions and national and state marriage and family therapy professional associations to identify, discuss, and address issues involving the education, licensure, and practice of marriage and family therapists.
- Provide information about licensure and standards of practice to citizens and other business entities.
- Collaborate and assist other governmental entities, including the MN Department of Human Services, MN Department of Health, Health Professional Services Program, and MN Department of Revenue, on matters involving licensed health care professionals in Minnesota.

RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity*	Number of licensees (LAMFT & LMFT)	2,793	3,041	FY19 (year-end); FY22 (year-end)
Quantity	Program Sponsor and LMFT CE program approval applications reviewed and processed	3,108 (405 CE Sponsor apps; 2,703 LMFT apps)	3,912 (371 CE sponsor apps; 3,541 LMFT apps)	Calendar year 2019; Calendar year 2021
Quality	Staff response to stakeholder inquiry received by email or telephone within 3 business days	Quality response implemented FY2019. Formal statistics not maintained.	On average 92% of emails / voicemails received an initial response from Board staff within 3 business days	Prior to FY2019; FY2019 – FY2022

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Results	Transition of MN LMFT License Examination from oral to written format due to COVID-19	182 oral license exams Oral licensure examinations ended 3/13/2020. No exams administered 3/15/20-7/15/20. Written examination procedures implemented 7/15/2020.	139 (2020) 171 (2021)	Calendar year 2019; Calendar year 2020 Calendar year 2021

*Source: ALIMS licensing database system.

The Board of Marriage and Family Therapy is authorized by M.S. 148B.29-.392 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=148B>) and operates pursuant to Administrative Rule 5300 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=5300>). The Board is also governed by provisions found in various Minnesota Statutes, including chapters 13, 13D, 14, 15 and 214.

Marriage and Family Therapy, Board of

Agency Expenditure Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
					FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25

Expenditures by Fund

1201 - Health Related Boards	334	370	357	466	410	410	443	456
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	6	6	6	9	7	7	7	7
Total	340	375	363	475	417	417	450	463
Biennial Change				122		(4)		75
Biennial % Change				17		(0)		9
Governor's Change from Base								79
Governor's % Change from Base								9

Expenditures by Program

Marriage & Family Therapy Bd	340	375	363	475	417	417	450	463
Total	340	375	363	475	417	417	450	463

Expenditures by Category

Compensation	278	303	305	316	319	323	332	349
Operating Expenses	62	72	57	159	98	94	118	114
Other Financial Transaction		0	0					
Total	340	375	363	475	417	417	450	463

Full-Time Equivalents

3.00	3.00	3.01	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
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Marriage and Family Therapy, Board of

Agency Financing by Fund

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base FY24 FY25		Governor's Recommendation FY24 FY25	
1201 - Health Related Boards								
Balance Forward In		54		56				
Direct Appropriation	384	389	413	410	410	410	443	456
Cancellations		73						
Balance Forward Out	50		56					
Expenditures	334	370	357	466	410	410	443	456
Biennial Change in Expenditures				119		(3)		76
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				17		(0)		9
Governor's Change from Base								79
Governor's % Change from Base								10
Full-Time Equivalents	3.00	3.00	3.01	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00

2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue

Balance Forward In	1	1	2	2				
Receipts	5	6	6	7	7	7	7	7
Balance Forward Out		2	2					
Expenditures	6	6	6	9	7	7	7	7
Biennial Change in Expenditures				3		(1)		(1)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				28		(8)		(8)
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
Direct				
Fund: 1201 - Health Related Boards				
FY2023 Appropriations	410	410	410	820
Forecast Base	410	410	410	820
Change Items				
Maintain Current Service Levels		33	46	79
Total Governor's Recommendations	410	443	456	899
Dedicated				
Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue				
Planned Spending	9	7	7	14
Forecast Base	9	7	7	14
Total Governor's Recommendations	9	7	7	14
Revenue Change Summary				
Dedicated				
Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue				
Forecast Revenues	7	7	7	14
Total Governor's Recommendations	7	7	7	14
Non-Dedicated				
Fund: 1201 - Health Related Boards				
Forecast Revenues	436	436	436	872
Change Items				
Fee Change		302	302	604
Total Governor's Recommendations	436	738	738	1,476

Board of Marriage and Family Therapy

FY 2024-25 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Maintain Current Service Levels

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Fund				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	33	46	46	46
Revenues				
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	33	46	46	46
FTEs	0	0	0	0

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional funding of \$33,000 in FY 2024 and \$46,000 in each subsequent year from the state government special revenue fund to maintain the current level of service delivery for the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy.

Rationale/Background:

Each year, the cost of doing business rises—employer-paid health care contributions, FICA and Medicare, along with other salary and compensation-related costs increase. Other operating costs, like rent and lease, fuel and utilities, and IT and legal services also grow. This cost growth puts pressure on agency operating budgets that remain flat from year to year.

Agencies face challenging decisions to manage these costs within existing budgets, while maintaining the services Minnesotans expect. From year to year, agencies find ways to become more efficient with existing resources. However, cost growth typically outstrips efficiencies, and without additional resources added to agency budgets, service delivery erodes.

For the Board, operating cost pressures exist in multiple categories—increases in compensation and insurance costs at the agency, increasing costs to maintain our current staff complement in a challenging labor market, and increasing IT costs. If an operational increase is not provided, the Board may be required to reallocate staffing funds to pay other required operational expenses, ultimately impacting the Board’s ability to fulfill its statutory mandates and mission.

Proposal:

The Governor recommends increasing agency operating budgets to support maintaining the delivery of current services. For the Board, this funding will support expected and anticipated employee compensation growth and known cost increases to lease rates and IT services.

Results:

This proposal is intended to allow the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy to continue to provide current levels of service and information to the public.

Board of Marriage and Family Therapy

FY 2024-25 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Fee Change

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Fund				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	302	302	302	302
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	(302)	(302)	(302)	(302)
FTEs	0	0	0	0

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends an increase of ten (10) application and licensure fees collected by the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy. The increased fees are required to meet ongoing, required Board operating costs. Fees collected are deposited into a special revenue fund and must be sufficient to fund all direct and shared operational costs.

Rationale/Background:

Board Mission and Funding: The mission of the MN Board of Marriage and Family Therapy (BMFT) is to protect the public through effective licensure and enforcement of the statutes and rules governing the practice of marriage and family therapists to ensure a standard of competent and ethical practice. Seven volunteer Board members, including two public members, provide oversight and assist the Board’s three staff in fulfilling its mission to protect Minnesotans.

The Board is entirely fee supported and receives no General Fund dollars to support its services. Fees must be collected to cover all direct and shared operational costs and are deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the State Government Special Revenue Fund (SGSR). The Minnesota Legislature makes a biennial appropriation from this fund to cover all expenses incurred by the Board.

Fees have not been increased since 2000. Two fees (LAMFT and LMFT license renewal late fees) were decreased in 2012. Further, the primary source of Board revenue – renewal fees paid by LMFT licensees – is significantly lower than other, similar mental health professional license renewal fees in Minnesota; the proposed increase would bring the LMFT licensure fee in line with other mental health professional:

MN Mental Health Professional License	Current Renewal Fee	Proposed Fee
LMFT	\$125/annually	\$225/annually
LICSW	\$325/2 years - \$162.50	
LPCC	\$250/annually	
LP	\$500/2 years - \$250/annually	

Proposal:

The need to increase fees is due to the increase in the cost of doing business which has resulted in depletion of the Board’s SGSR revenue. There is a growing gap between revenues and expenditures. If fee increases are not implemented, the Board will be unable to fund ongoing operations within 2-5 years.

Fee Change Descriptions: The table, below, identifies the ten fees for which a fee increase is requested and include: (1) Type of Fee; (2) Current fee amount; and (3) Requested new fee amount; (4) Quantity/Number of those paying fee in FY2021; and (5) Projected additional revenue from fee increase.

Fees for the Board’s two license types are identified:

- Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist (LAMFT)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)

APPLICATION FEES				
Type of Fee	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee	FY2021 – Number Paying Fee	Projected Additional Revenue (Based on FY2021 Data)
Initial Application (Application for National Examination in MFT)	\$110.00	\$150.00	160	\$6,400.00
Application for LAMFT Licensure	\$75.00	\$100.00	126	\$3,150.00
Application for LMFT Licensure	\$110.00	\$150.00	138	\$5,520.00
Application for LMFT Licensure by Reciprocity	\$220.00	\$300.00	22	\$1,760.00
TOTAL – APPLICATION FEES				\$16,830.00

LICENSE RENEWAL FEES				
Type of Fee	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee	FY2021 – Number Paying Fee	Projected Additional Revenue (Based on FY2021 Data)
LAMFT Renewal Fee	\$75.00	\$100.00	193	\$4,825.00
LAMFT – Late Renewal Fee	\$25.00	\$50.00	20	\$500.00
Initial LMFT License Fee	Prorated based on month of issuance; not to exceed \$125.00	Prorated based on month of issuance; not to exceed \$225.00	162	\$16,200.00
LMFT Renewal Fee	\$125.00	\$225.00	2,600	\$260,000.00
LMFT – Late Renewal Fee	\$50.00	\$100.00	76	\$3,800.00
Emeritus License Fee	\$125.00	\$225.00	5	\$500.00
TOTAL – LICENSE FEES				\$285,825.00
APPLICATION + LICENSE FEES				\$302,655.00

The Board’s current fee statute (Minn. Stat. 148B.392) includes “shall not exceed” language. The Board notes that maximum new fees may not all be implemented for FY2024, but this request will allow the Board the flexibility to manage, in a timely manner, a financial environment that may require an adjustment up or down in certain fees.

Impact on Children and Families:

Increased fees should not impact access to mental health care for Minnesota children and families. Instead, the Board seeks to maintain its efficient and effective licensure and regulation of marriage and family therapists as a public protection measure for Minnesotans.

Equity and Inclusion:

The Board recognizes that any increased cost has the potential to negatively impact any person, including people of color, Native Americans, people with disabilities, people in the LGBTQ community, other protected classes, or Veterans. The Board believes the past twenty years during which Board fees remained unchanged or were decreased lessens and/or negates such negative impact.

IT Costs

The fee increase proposal, if granted, would result in minimal IT-related costs to update such fees in the Board's licensure database. The cost of these updates will be absorbed by the Board within its current appropriation request; no additional appropriation is requested.

Results:

With these fee changes, and increased revenue, the Board can achieve the following results:

1. Maintain core public safety responsibilities, including timely and efficient licensure of mental health professionals to serve Minnesotans.
2. Manage complex and numerous complaint investigations and licensing-related issues to avoid adverse effects on citizens, professionals, and the workforce.
3. Maintain necessary staffing to conduct its business in a timely manner.
4. Afford necessary and increased technology costs.
5. Afford increased legal costs necessary for complaint investigation and resolution.
6. Continue to efficiently conduct the Board's business to ensure fulfillment of its public protection mission.
7. Avoid deficit spending and maintain a balanced budget as required by State law.

Statutory Change(s):

The proposed fee changes would be codified in the Board's current fees statute - Minnesota Statutes 148B.392.