

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation: 1GE - Counseling Operations

Funding Sources: NEC - Cash in Treasury

The Board of Examiners in Counseling is established under Arkansas Code Annotated § 17-27-201 and consists of eight (8) members appointed by the Governor. The Board is authorized to adopt rules, regulations and procedures to carry out the duties authorized; is required to adopt the Code of Ethics of the American Counseling Association and any revisions or additions deemed appropriate by the Board to govern appropriate practice or behavior relative to counseling services; is required to adopt the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy to govern licensed marriage and family therapists and licensed associate marriage and family therapists; and is required to charge an application fee determined by the Board. Additionally, the Board is authorized to accept grants from foundations and institutions to carry out its functions and hire assistants as are necessary to perform its activities. The Board has purview over Professional Counselors, Associate Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, Associate Marriage and Family Therapists. Arkansas Code Annotated §17-27-313 requires that each first-time applicant for a license issued by the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling apply to the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police for a state and national criminal background check to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This appropriation authorizes expenditures for all operations of the Board to include the administration of examinations and licensure. The Board processes its operations and payroll through the State Treasury. Fees are collected from initial licensure and biannual renewal of licenses.

Base Level positions were changed from unclassified to classified to reflect the recommendations of the Pay Plan Study and salaries were adjusted accordingly. A 2.3% Cost of Living Allowance is reflected in the second year of the biennium. The Base Level request for Regular Salaries may include board member Stipend payments and Career Service payments for eligible employees. Personal Services Matching includes a \$75 increase in the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match per budgeted employee of \$425.

The Agency's Change Level requests total \$10,600 each year and reflect the following:

- Operating Expenses increase of \$11,624 each year due to increases in postage, gasoline expenses, food and lodging expenses for Board members, and the cost of rent, and to send two voting delegates to one regulatory meeting of Marriage and Family Therapists and one meeting for Counseling Boards.
- Professional Fees decrease of \$1,024 each year to offset a portion of the increases in Operating Expenses.

The Executive Recommendation provides for the Agency Request. Expenditure of appropriation is contingent upon available funding.

The Legislative Recommendation concurs with the Executive Recommendation.

Appropriation Summary

Appropriation: 1GE - Counseling Operations

Funding Sources: NEC - Cash in Treasury

Commitment Item		2007-2008	2008-2009	2008-2009	2009-2010			2010-2011		
		Actual	Budget	Authorized	Agency	Executive	Legislative	Agency	Executive	Legislative
Regular Salaries	5010000	88,218	92,189	90,689	94,979	94,979	94,979	97,727	97,727	97,727
#Positions		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Extra Help	5010001	825	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
#Extra Help		1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Personal Services Matching	5010003	31,352	30,185	36,106	33,465	33,465	33,465	33,981	33,981	33,981
Operating Expenses	5020002	59,881	70,338	70,338	81,962	81,962	81,962	81,962	81,962	81,962
Conference & Travel Expenses	5050009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional Fees	5060010	2,195	10,000	10,000	8,976	8,976	8,976	8,976	8,976	8,976
Data Processing	5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	5120011	10,367	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Testing Fees	5900046	0	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Total		192,838	207,762	212,183	224,432	224,432	224,432	227,696	227,696	227,696
Funding Sources										
Fund Balance	4000005	250,192	294,940		335,228	335,228	335,228	358,846	358,846	358,846
Cash Fund	4000045	237,586	248,050		248,050	248,050	248,050	248,050	248,050	248,050
Total Funding		487,778	542,990		583,278	583,278	583,278	606,896	606,896	606,896
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(294,940)	(335,228)		(358,846)	(358,846)	(358,846)	(379,200)	(379,200)	(379,200)
Grand Total		192,838	207,762		224,432	224,432	224,432	227,696	227,696	227,696

The FY09 Budget amount in Regular Salaries exceeds the authorized amount due to salary adjustments during the 2007-2009 biennium.

The FY08 Actual amount in Capital Outlay was for a one time purchase of computer equipment as authorized in Act 114 of 2007.