Board biennial budget planning is underway, including a comprehensive budget analysis to create a sound, fiscally responsible budget proposal for fiscal years 2020-2021 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021). The Board is committed to ensure transparency and easy access to public budget data.

How is the Board funded? The Board is entirely fee supported and receives no General Fund tax dollars. Fees paid to the Board fund core public protection services to keep Minnesotans safe through licensing qualified social workers, investigating and resolving complaints, educating stakeholders, and providing day-to-day services to all customers.

How does budget planning impact you? In the 2019 legislative session, the Board will seek a fee increase. Both the Governor and the Legislature approved a fee increase which was vetted and proposed in the last budget, but it was not enacted due to a legislative drafting omission in the 2017 session, and the Governor’s veto of the State Omnibus bill at the end of the 2018 legislative session.

Why support the budget and the fee increase? The last fee increase was in 2000. Fees were also reduced by 30% as of 2009. The fee increase proposed but not enacted in the last budget would have required licensees to pay an additional $1.00-$3.00 per month for license and renewal fees, based on license type. After almost 19 years, a fee increase is necessary to maintain the Board’s core public safety services, accomplish strategic priorities, maintain a balanced budget, and avoid adverse effects on citizens, professionals, and the workforce.

How can you stay informed? To provide easy access and transparency with the budget and budget planning, a new Budget Reports page is featured on the Board’s website. Click here to manage your subscription preferences and subscribe to email updates about the budget process, or consider attending a public Board meeting.

Budget Data Classification: Proposed budget data are classified as protected nonpublic data under Minnesota Statutes section 13.605. Therefore, written proposed budget materials cannot be provided to the public. However, the Board and relevant committees can and will discuss the protected nonpublic budget data in meetings which are open to the public. When the Governor presents the State budget to the legislature prior to the 2019 legislative session, the proposed budget data become public.