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Board of Social Work

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AT A GLANCE**Licensing Services**

- 5231 Licensed Social Workers
- 3653 Licensed Graduate Social Workers
- 603 Licensed Independent Social Workers
- 9841 Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers
- 175 Provisional Licensed Social Workers
- 262 Provisional Licensed Graduate Social Workers
- 6 Provisional Licensed Independent Social Workers
- 71 Provisional Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers
- 601 temporary license applications received
- 2772 standard license applications received
- 2060 standard licenses granted
- 540 provisional license applications received
- 328 provisional licenses granted
- 7904 license renewals processed

Complaint Resolution Services

- 617 new complaints received
- 558 complaints resolved
- 66 corrective and disciplinary actions

Education Outreach Services

- 31 student presentations
- 3 conference exhibits
- 2 quarterly education presentations

PURPOSE

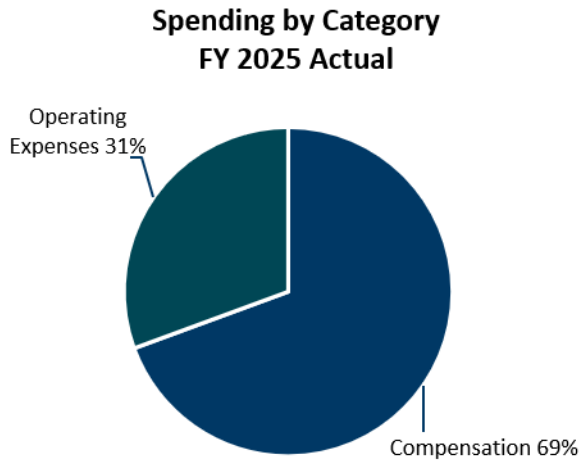
The Board's mission is to protect the public through licensing and regulation of the social work profession and ensure residents of Minnesota that licensed social workers are qualified, professional, ethical, and accountable. The public safety mission creates the foundation for the Board's work. Fifteen volunteer Board Members, including five public members, provide oversight to make certain we meet the needs of citizens. We promote a diverse and qualified workforce guided by our agency core values and are committed to actively examine and address systemic inequities in policy and practice with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) lens to reduce unnecessary licensing barriers, while maintaining standards to ensure our mission of protecting the public.

The Board keeps Minnesotans safe by 1) licensing qualified social workers; 2) investigating and resolving complaints when services do not meet standards; and 3) providing outreach and education. The demand for our services has grown in response to a significant increase in the number of applicants, licensees, and complaints.

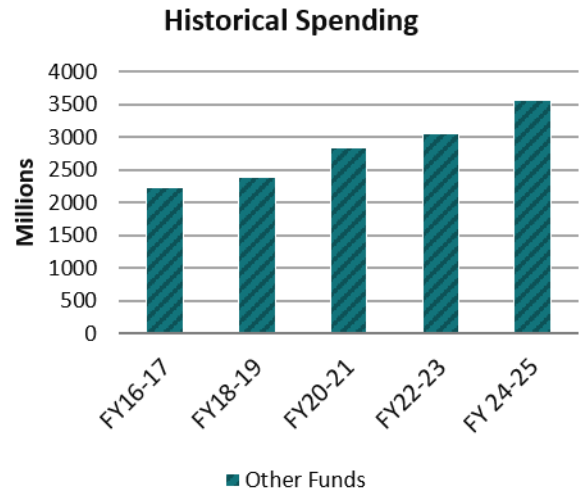
We collaborate with state and federal agencies, utilize technology to streamline business processes, provide online services, and increase transparency and access to information for citizens. The Board conducts regular

strategic planning, identifies outcome-based priorities, measures results, and engages in continuous process and service delivery improvements with the goal to be a mission-driven, efficient, and effective state agency.

BUDGET



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Board is funded by licensure fees and receives no general fund dollars. Minnesota Statutes section 214.06, subdivision 1(a) requires the Board to collect fees in the amount sufficient 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 operations and program services including licensing, complaint investigation and resolution, education and outreach, salaries, rent, and technology expenses. It also pays statewide indirect costs through an open appropriation.

In addition to Board direct operational and program service expenses, fees collected must be sufficient to pay statewide indirect costs to other state agencies and programs providing services, including the Office of the Attorney General for legal and investigative services, and inter-board programs including the Administrative Services Unit, Department of Administration Small Agency Resource Team (SmART), Health Professionals Services Program, and the Criminal Background Check Program.

STRATEGIES

The Minnesota Board of Social Work (BOSW) strives to provide efficient and accountable services and maintain excellent and timely customer service. Our primary services include:

1. License and regulate qualified social work professionals:

- Establish and enforce requirements for initial and continued licensure, including ethical practice standards, education, national examination, criminal background checks, supervised practice experience, and continuing education.
- Issue and renew bachelor and graduate degree licenses via examination and licensure by endorsement: Licensed Social Worker (LSW); Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW); Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW); and Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW).
- Issue temporary licenses to expedite employment of new graduates, military personnel, license mobility, and licensees relocating to Minnesota from other states.
- Issue bachelor and graduate provisional licenses to Provisional Licensed Social Worker (P-LSW), Provisional Licensed Graduate Social Worker (P-LGSW), Provisional Licensed Independent Social

Worker (P-LISW), and Provisional Licensed Clinical Social Worker (P-LICSW) to applicants who choose to pursue licensure without taking the national examination.

- Provide online services for license application, license renewal, and supervision plan and verification submission, 24/7 license verification service, including public license data, adverse license actions, and licensing supervisor information.
- Collaborate with other Health Licensing Boards and MNIT to develop, maintain, and enhance a common platform licensing database system and online services for enhanced data security, improved customer access and services, and greater business efficiencies.

2. Investigate and resolve complaints against licensed social workers in a fair and timely manner:

- Ensure that licensed social workers meet professional standards, practice safely and competently, and are accountable to the people they serve.
- Collaborate with the Office of the Attorney General to investigate, resolve complaints, and act when appropriate.
- Utilize and partner with the Health Professionals Services Program, for impaired licensed professionals, to assist with monitoring and remediation of licensees to ensure safe practice.
- Offer guidance to the public, employers, supervisors, applicants, and licensees about ethical practice standards, licensing requirements, complaint resolution process, and the Social Work Practice Act.

3. Provide education, outreach, strategic communications, and build collaborative partnerships:

- Educate the public, social work students and faculty, licensed professionals, applicants, and organizations about professional licensing responsibilities, ethical practice standards, and the complaint resolution process through in-person and virtual, web-based methods.
- Publish an annual quantitative and qualitative Customer Satisfaction Survey to 1) assess the performance of and satisfaction with “customer-facing” services, 2) better understand customer needs, and 3) utilize survey results to make improvements as needed.
- Partner with local, state, and national organizations to improve public safety policies, regulatory practices, and mental health workforce issues, including social work licensing mobility and portability.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Number of new licenses granted	Quantity	ALIMS Licensing Database	18.57% Increase from FY 2024	2388 licenses granted in FY 2026
Number of license renewals	Quantity	ALIMS Licensing Database	12.03% Increase from FY 2024	7904 licenses renewed in FY 2026
Number of Education Outreach to Schools	Quantity	Utilize a spreadsheet to track the number of presentations	3.33% Increase from FY 2024	31 Education Outreach Services in FY 2026
Number of New Complaints	Quantity	ALIMS Licensing Database	23% Increase from FY 2024	617 New Complaints in FY 2026
Number of Complaints Resolved	Quantity	ALIMS Licensing Database	3% Increase from FY 2024	558 Complaints Resolved in FY 2026
Number of Corrective and Disciplinary actions	Quantity	ALIMS Licensing Database system and spreadsheet to track the corrective and disciplinary orders	6% Increase from FY 2024	66 Corrective and Disciplinary Actions issued in FY 2026

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

The Board delivers services that have not yet been evaluated using randomized controlled trials or quasi-experimental methods. While the public protection functions of professional licensing boards are not typically subject to randomized controlled trials, substantial evidence supports the underlying theory that regulatory oversight reduces the risk of harm by establishing minimum qualifications, requiring continuing education, investigating complaints, and imposing corrective action when licensees fail to meet professional minimum standards.

Board of Social Work Legal Authority:

Minnesota Social Work Practice Act (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/148E>)

Minnesota Social Work Practice Act Additional Provisions (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/148D>)

Examining and Licensing Boards (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/214>)