

Board of Psychology FEE INCREASE DISCUSSION

The Board of Psychology has enacted statutory fee increases affecting licensees and applicants, effective January 1, 2024. The fee increases will strengthen the Board's ability to accomplish its consumer protection mandate and maintain licensing and enforcement services.

The Board will be hosting an informational webinar explaining the situation on **March 21, 2024**. Licensees will be able to claim Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit by attending.

BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY MISSION

The Board of Psychology protects consumers of psychological services by licensing psychologists, regulating the practice of psychology, and supporting the evolution of the profession.

WHY IS THIS FEE INCREASE NECESSARY?



OUTPACED BY INFLATION

The Board hasn't increased fees in statute since 1992. If our fees were adjusted for inflation in the past three decades, they would have been double the former cost.

FUNDING CRITICAL OPERATIONS

The Board's Fund is primarily sourced from licensing fees, which support core operating functions that advance our consumer protection mission, including complaint review, investigations, hearings, and probation oversight.



FINANCIAL STRAIN

With fees already at the statutory maximum, the Board's Fund was experiencing a substantial structural deficit, placing the Board at risk of becoming insolvent in 2025.

STOP-GAP MEASURES

The Board drastically eliminated unnecessary travel, limited employee overtime, and delayed filling vacancies to reduce costs.



HOW ARE THE FEES JUSTIFIED?



CALCULATE COSTS

Board staff conducted an analysis to calculate the full direct and indirect costs of the services it provides.

COST RECOVERY POLICY

The Board determined a fair and equitable method of allocating expenses, such as enforcement oversight, to the licenses and registrations issued. This allowed us to arrive at the full cost of service for each license, registration, or renewal.



WILL THERE BE FEE INCREASES IN THE FUTURE?

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATION

The lack of fee increases over a substantial period is the cause of the current situation. The California Legislature allows for potential future increases via the regulatory process, which allows for public input and discussion.

The Board's decision to increase fees for the first time in three decades was not taken lightly, and only took place after several years of discussions between the Board and our stakeholders. We look forward to continuing a dialogue with our licensees on how we can be responsible with our funds, accountable to stakeholders, and a customer service leader.

WHY WERE THE FEES INCREASED ALL AT ONE TIME?

The Board was informed by the Legislature and our control agencies that a fee increase could only be sought once the level of the fund had dropped so low that insolvency was imminent. This is why fees are not raised in small increments over many years. The statutory increase needs to be justified by immediate concern for the viability of the fund.

WHAT ARE THE NEW FEES?

The 2024 Fee Schedule is available here:
www.psychology.ca.gov/applicants/feeschedule_2024.shtml